

PALO ALTO ART CENTER & FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017



**The Art Center served a record 120,380
people this past year!**

LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP: CELEBRATING A YEAR OF CREATIVE EXCELLENCE

What an incredible year! With a series of compelling exhibitions, public programs and finally a dazzling Sapphire Celebration fundraising event, we concluded our 45th anniversary celebrations with a blast. This special year provided a valuable opportunity to reflect upon 45 years of building a vibrant creative community and to highlight the artists, donors, members, and community members who made it all possible.

This report describes the impact we have made in the community this year. The Art Center served 120,380 people this year through high-quality, engaging programs that ranged from exhibitions, school tours, classes, and workshops in our building to offsite programs throughout the community, including our artists-in-the-schools program Cultural Kaleidoscope.

We not only showcase the important impact the Art Center has achieved over the past year, but in the process celebrate the contributions of all the donors, members, and community members who have made our work possible. We rely on your generous support to make all of this exciting work happen.

Thank you for your investment in supporting our creative community!

—*Judy David*, Co-President,
Palo Alto Art Center Foundation Board of Directors
—*Sally Glaser*, Co-President,
Palo Alto Art Center Foundation Board of Directors
—*Karen Kienzle*, Director, Palo Alto Art Center



PALO ALTO
ART
CENTER
1313 Newell Road
Palo Alto CA 94303



PALO ALTO
ART
CENTER
FOUNDATION
www.paacf.org
650.617.3138

EXHIBITIONS



Responses to the FY2016-2017 exhibitions:

“Wonderfully curated!”

—Visitor to *The Butterfly Effect* exhibition

“Wonderfully curated, as usual!...Fantastic!”

—Visitor to the *Fired Up* exhibition



FY2016-2017 exhibitions

- *Fired Up: Monumental Clay*
- Creative Ecology—Jenny Odell:
The Bureau of Suspended Objects
- *The Butterfly Effect: Art in 1970s California*
- Patrick Dougherty’s *Whiplash*
- *Spectral Hues: artists + color*
- *Cultural Kaleidoscope* and *Youth Art*
- Creative Ecology—Mari Andrews
- Michael Light: *Planetary Landscape*
- Kija Lucas: *Collections From Sundown*

• Approximately 34,000 people attended exhibitions at the Art Center during fiscal year 2016–17—an increase of 10,000 over the last year! To complement our exhibitions, the Art Center presented approximately 15 free public programs—including artist lectures, panel discussions, opening celebrations, and related presentations.

• Art Center exhibitions are inspiring and thought provoking! In surveys conducted in our exhibitions, more than 80% of visitors indicated that the Art Center exhibitions encouraged them to create their own art and that they were surprised by what they experienced. More than 85% of respondents felt inspired to talk to others about the exhibitions they visited, and 75% said they had learned something new.

• In conjunction with our exhibitions program, the Art Center created several opportunities to support artists in creating new artworks, including the incredible outdoor *Whiplash* sculpture by Patrick Dougherty, which will be enjoyed by our community for years to come. Other commissioned works included Shay Church’s monumental tree sculpture for *Fired Up* and Michael Light’s delicate, machine-eye views of Palo Alto’s Rinconada Park oak tree.

• After hosting several gifted guest curators, the Art Center now has a talented new curator on staff, Selene Foster. Selene spent her first few years at the Art Center as our Exhibitions Coordinator.



VOLUNTEERS

“I never realized that a cool art project can be tied to a community effort to protect the environment.”

—Creative Ecology participant

“Great experience! I love the opportunity to get people experiencing the intersection of art and science.”

—Creative Ecology participant



“I wanted to say a great and warm thank you for everything the Palo Alto Art Center has provided me over the past year, from reminding me that the arts are still thriving in Palo Alto to immersing me in a unique environment for community arts engagement with an intimate staff.”

—Sean Volavong, summer 2016 Exhibitions Intern

“I loved to work with all of the interns because they were always so positive and fun with the kids and it made me feel happy to watch them interact.”

—summer 2016 Counselor-in-Training

“Through this [internship] experience, I learned that I do want to pursue a career in teaching and possibly minor in visual arts. The informational interview that I had with [teaching artist] Sarah Joy Cabana played a great part in this realization because I was able to relate to her experience which helped answer my own questions.”

—Ashley Vega, summer 2016 Children’s Fine Art Studio Intern

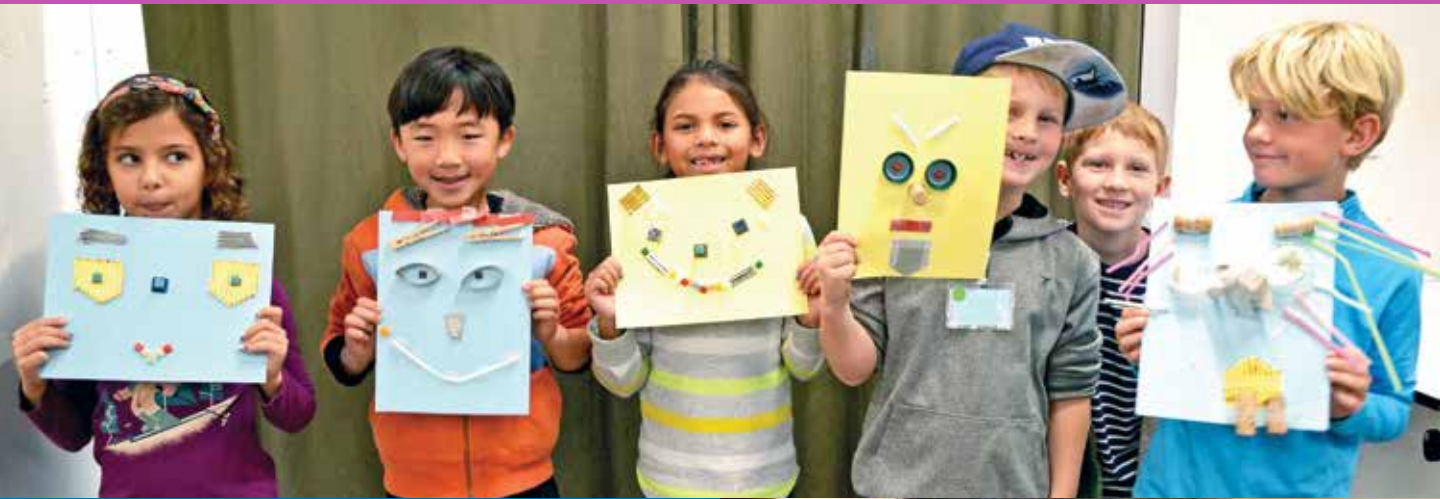


FAREWELL CREATIVE ECOLOGY

- Our Artist-in-Residence program continued to flourish as we wrapped up our art and science Creative Ecology series, which brought artists and community members of all ages together in local parks and open spaces.
- Respondents to program surveys described rich and satisfying experiences working with artists and educators, and many were left with new insights into the roles of art and artists in society.

- More than 800 active volunteers at the Art Center contributed 8,212 hours, a value of \$226,673!
- Volunteers support every department at the Art Center and make vital contributions to all of our programs.
- The Art Center runs a successful volunteer program (Counselor-in-Training and Lead-Counselor-in-Training) that serves summer camp programs and provides mentorship opportunities between participants and professional staff.
- In the past fiscal year, the Art Center hosted 10 interns from a variety of distinguished colleges, including San Jose State University, University of San Francisco, Mount Holyoke College, and Whitman College. Interns contributed 1,955 hours to the Education, Marketing, and Exhibitions departments.

PROJECT LOOK



- Project Look engaged more than 6,000 schoolchildren, teachers, and chaperones from 35 schools in the 2016-2017 academic year. This 35-year-old program combines an inquiry-based gallery tour with a hands-on art project and provides fun, educational, and memorable art experiences for participants from East Palo Alto, Foster City, Half Moon Bay, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Santa Clara, and Saratoga.
- The Art Center Education department graduated ten new docents from our training class in the fall! Project Look tours were supported by a total of 22 volunteer docents and interns.
- Creative Ecology tours—a component of the art and science partnership with Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo—were sold-out this year. 32 school groups participated in hands-on art and science activities focused on the work of artists-in-residence Jenny Odell and Mari Andrews.



“As always, these trips to the Art Center are my favorite. The creativity of the activities with the learning are always spot on!”

—Palo Alto 2nd grade teacher

“The questions that were asked to the kids allowed them to express their opinions, thoughts, and ideas.”

—Campbell 3rd grade teacher

CHILDREN'S FINE ART



"This class was wonderful. The instructor is super patient and kind and she starts each class with a project in mind but lets children explore and is ALWAYS available to help and answer any questions. We LOVED going to this class and signed up for next quarter with two of my kids!"

—parent, Ceramics program, winter 2017

"Interesting, exciting, and diverse projects. Though I'm not new to art classes, I learn something new myself almost each time."

—parent, preschooler and caregiver class, fall 2016

"Wonderful class yet again. Engaged teacher, always something new to learn and try."

—Digital Photography program, winter 2017

• Children's Fine Art engaged over 2,100 children with high-quality art classes and workshops for youth ages 18 months to 18 years. Programs include after-school classes, special one and two-day workshops, weeklong summer camps, and Scout merit badge programs. Classes were offered in digital photography, ceramics, painting, drawing, and mixed-media sculpture.



CULTURAL KALEIDOSCOPE



- Cultural Kaleidoscope, our unique artists-in-the-school program that pairs classrooms from schools in the diverse neighboring communities of Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, and Menlo Park engaged 347 student participants in 16 classrooms. In addition to experiencing 10 hours of hands-on art making, students in the buddy classrooms met three times, building friendships and community bridges through the arts.

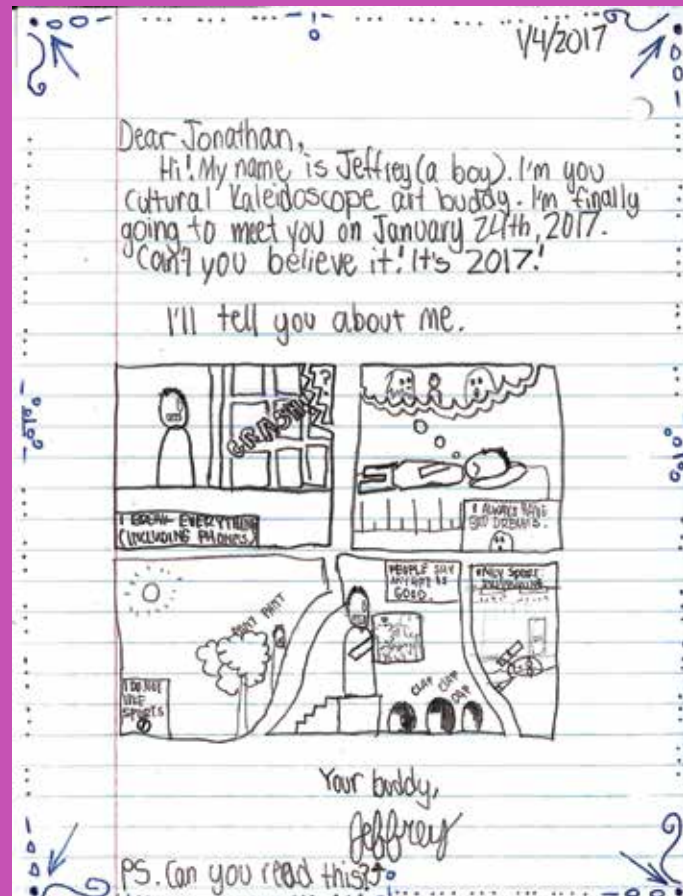
- In response to the Ravenswood City School District's identified need for equity across grade levels, all 70 second graders at Brentwood Academy in East Palo Alto received eight hours of integrated arts, math, and language arts lessons. The students visited the Palo Alto Art Center to see their work in the *Cultural Kaleidoscope* exhibition.

“My students will remember spending time with their buddy class. They loved showing each other their classrooms and writing letters to each other.”

—Brentwood Academy kindergarten teacher

“My students were so immersed in the process of making their art. They were so proud of what they had created—their excitement and energy were contagious.”

—Belle Haven School 1st grade teacher



ADULT STUDIOS



“The Palo Alto Art Center ceramics studio is a wonderful community of people that I’ve gotten to know. Everyone I have met (from staff, to instructors, to other students) is extremely friendly, supportive and helpful. Can’t think of a better place I’d rather be when it comes to learning and making ceramics!”

—ceramics student, summer 2016

“I simply enjoy being around such creative people in the Palo Alto Art Center studios. The studio is like an art gallery in and of itself. Where else can one find art of all sorts, from a large piece of ceramic with a rubber chicken sticking out to a fine porcelain vase!”

—ceramics student



- This year, the Studios program offered 187 classes and workshops serving 1,267 students and had approximately 6,350 engagements in our drop-in programs.

- This spring the Art Center opened a printmaking studio, made possible by a generous gift from the Kirkeby family in memory of Paula Kirkeby. Located at Cubberley Community Center, this well-equipped fine art printmaking studio hosts classes for all levels and a drop-in program for experienced printmakers.

- In December 2016, the Studios program, in partnership with the Foundation, held its first annual Holiday Sale featuring artists from the Ceramics and Jewelry programs. This sale was a huge success, generating more than \$12,000!

- After the success of last summer’s *45 Days of Clay* Artists-in-Residence Program, the Studios, with the support of the Foundation, launched a Visiting Artist program. The ceramics studio hosted renowned potter Michael Kline in January for activities that included a Friday night lecture and a weekend workshop. In April, Kevin Kowalksi, our second visiting artist of the year, conducted his workshop, *Mastering Mocha Diffusion*, and gave a presentation of his work. Both events were well attended and much appreciated by our studio community.



FAMILY DAYS, TEENS, AND OUTREACH

“All the happy kids making art!”

—parent, Holiday Family Day



- More than 1,300 enthusiastic participants attended four free Family Days this past year. In conjunction with our 45 Days of Clay program, we offered our first summer Family Day in nearly a decade with great success.

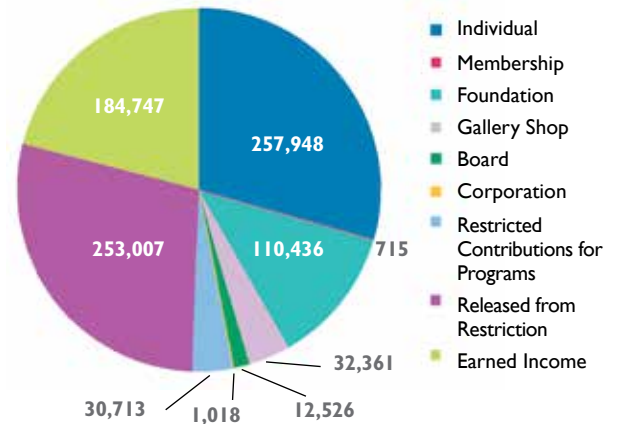
- Teen programs including Summer Ceramic drop-ins, Takeover: Teen Creativity Party, and a week-long camp (5 Days in the Art World) engaged more than 250 participants.

- The Art Cart—an activity cart filled with art supplies and activities for use inside and outside the galleries—made its debut. This yearlong project had federal support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

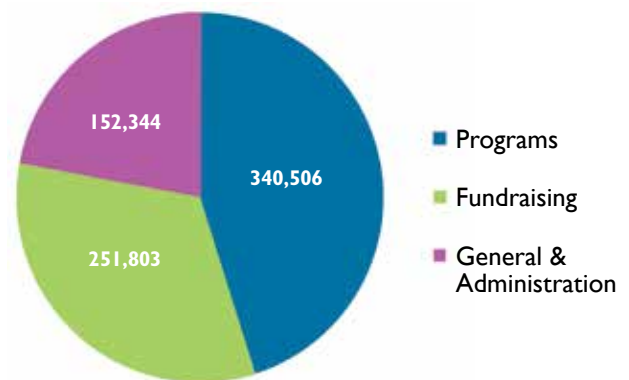
FINANCIALS

PALO ALTO ART CENTER FOUNDATION
Year ending June 30, 2017

Gross Income = \$883,472



Total Expenses = \$744,653



The FY17 budget surplus is as a result of the highly successful Sapphire Celebration fundraiser. This event was hosted relatively late in the fiscal year, with funds raised directed towards programs and operations in both FY17 and FY18.

The Palo Alto Art Center is a program of the City of Palo Alto, Community Services Department, Arts and Sciences Division. The Palo Alto Art Center operates in a public/private partnership with the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that expands the reach and impact of the Center through fundraising and advocacy.

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The Palo Alto Art Center Foundation thanks the generosity of donors and members for fiscal year 2016-17

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"Keep up the inspiring work and play! Love your community spirit!"

—Art Center visitor

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