How to Change the World

Step One:
Empower the Teachers

Here’s a question: If you want to change the world, where do you start? Answer: With the teachers, of course! Once a teacher knows something new, just think of all the times it will be shared for years to come. We’ve put this theory to work with our professional development program and it’s working wonders—creating stronger teachers and more engaged students.

“Art and music programs for students are important, but it’s equally important to provide arts integration courses for teachers,” says Tracy Sawyer, Arts & Outreach Programs Manager. “These programs provide educators with dynamic ways to integrate the arts into their daily classroom teaching, which leads to deeper student understanding. A teacher empowered with these strategies will change the lives of students for years—perhaps even decades to come. Just think of the potential!”

This school year, the Center’s professional development courses provided educators with exciting methods for using drama to teach history, dance to explore math concepts, portrait study to teach biographical information, and music to study poetry. The workshops, presented by Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, are taught by nationally recognized teaching artists from the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and qualify for continuing education units. Course listings for next school year will be available in August—be sure to join us!
Music For Schools

Why music? The evidence is irrefutable: Students with access to early music training are more likely to attend four-year colleges, progress to higher education faster and get better grades. They also tend to be happier, more successful people throughout their lifetimes. At Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, we believe that every child should enjoy these benefits and this is the guiding philosophy behind the Center’s Music For Schools program. This program maintains the North Bay’s only instrument lending library for students. Each year hundreds of instruments—from trumpets to flutes and violins to cellos—are placed into the hands of students who otherwise could not afford an instrument, so they can learn to play music! The vast majority of the instruments in the lending library—now totaling more than 450 instruments and resource items—have been donated by people right here in our community, including many of our local educators. To you, we offer a heartfelt “thank you!”

If you have an instrument to donate, or want more information about the program, please contact Chrystie Prokopakis, Programming Coordinator, at cprokopakis@wellsfargocenterarts.org or 707.800.7504.

Benefits of Music Education
(to name only a few)

- Leads to higher standardized test scores
- Encourages and motivates students to stay in school
- Improves self-esteem
- Creates stronger student connections—greater camaraderie, fewer fights, less racism
- Provides a positive distraction from risky behaviors
- Improves ability to work toward common goals, strive for excellence in group settings, and have a disciplined yet creative approach to problem solving

New Song Music Camp

Monday, July 22 – Friday, July 26 • Daily, 9am – 3pm
For children entering 3rd – 6th grades
$230 for the week

Spread the word about this fun and educational camp to keep your music-lovin’ students engaged throughout the summer. Led by two professional teaching musicians, students get hands-on experience with a variety of instruments, sing together and do group activities, make a musical instrument to take home, plus form a band and record a CD of their own original music! Campers do not need to have any previous musical experience. Details and registration at wellsfargocenterarts.org; look for the “Summer Camps” menu.
Target Literacy Program

Breaking News: Big Bad Wolf Framed!

This just in: It appears the Big Bad Wolf isn’t such a bad guy after all! Third graders from Steele Lane Elementary School and Luther Burbank Elementary made the discovery recently by reading “The True Story of the Three Little Pigs” and then seeing the staged musical adaptation of the book. The opportunity was made possible by the Target Literacy Program, a partnership between Wells Fargo Center for the Arts and the Target Corporation.

“With this grant from Target, we’ve been able to provide more than 100 students with a unique opportunity to explore three books coupled with three live performances,” says Melanie Weir, Education & Family Programs Manager. “The schools were selected based on income guidelines and English language learning statistics,” she says, and “third graders were targeted because it’s a crucial time when children solidify literacy skills and a potential life-long love of reading.” In addition to “The True Story of the Three Little Pigs,” students read and saw “Clifford the Big Red Dog” and “Beauty and the Beast.” Each student received a copy of the book to keep, and enjoyed reading the stories aloud together in class with Target staff volunteers. The students then received a complimentary trip to the theater where they saw the tales come to life on stage, had the chance to interview the performers, and enjoyed a post-show milk-and-cookie party!

With this program, Target and the Center are working together to combine lessons in literacy with the magic of live theater, giving students from at-risk communities experiences that are educational, fun, and memorable.

Set the Stage

Docents from the Set the Stage program also helped prepare the children in the Target Literacy Program for their trip to the center, providing them with tips on theater etiquette and story background. But these free 15-20 minute presentations are available to all schools attending the Center’s performances! In fact, this year, docents have visited over 130 classrooms! For more information on how your class can participate, visit wellsfargocenterarts.org and look for the education menu. Or, contact Melanie Weir, Education & Family Programs Manager, at mweir@wellsfargocenterarts.org or 707.800.7520.
School Shows 2013-2014

Come have fun and learn a lot, too!
We have 19 outstanding performances planned in 2013-2014 geared to specific grade levels, with educational and entertaining experiences for students pre-kindergarten through high school. All shows meet California content standards to align with your overall teaching objectives. Here’s a preview of what’s to come!
*Program information and dates subject to change.

Coming Soon!
Look for our Education Brochure and order form available in early August. Visit wellsfargocenterarts.org later this summer to view the final schedule and download program materials, including study guides.

Sewam American Indian Dance Company
Tuesday, October 15, 2013
History and tradition come to life in the dances and customs of the Plains Indians. Formerly Four Winds American Indian Dance Company, this is a true favorite for students and teachers alike!

Complexions Contemporary Ballet
Tuesday, October 22, 2013
Their works ponder the human condition and explore the full-range of emotion as America’s original multi-cultural dance company. Their breathtaking work is inspired by social and political issues.

Golden Dragon Acrobats
Thursday, October 24, 2013
Back by popular demand, the Golden Dragon Acrobats present a show of breathtaking skill and spellbinding energy.

Story Pirates
Wednesday, November 13, 2013
Improv comedy gets an educational twist as the Story Pirates create outlandishly funny sketches and mini-musicals that leave students and teachers howling in the aisles, especially when the audience participates in making an original story.

The American Place Theatre’s Literature to Life® production of
The Giver
by Lois Lowry
December 2013
In a dystopian world, 12-year-old Jonas is selected to receive the memories of a far different life. Back by popular demand, this one-person adaptation uses verbatim portions from Lois Lowry’s acclaimed novel.
Angelina Ballerina: The Musical  
by Vital Theatre Company  
Wednesday, December 4, 2013  
Angelina and her friends are all aflutter because a special guest is coming to visit Camembert Academy! Angelina is excited to show off her dancing skills, but will she get the starring moment she hopes for? Based on the CG-animated series on PBS KIDS®.

Posada Navideña  
by Compañía Mazatlán Bellas Artes  
Friday, December 6, 2013  
Featuring traditional Mexican folkloric dance and music, this performance—back by popular demand—celebrates the wonderful folk culture of Mexico during the Christmas season.

Warriors Don’t Cry  
produced by The Bushnell Center for the Arts  
February 2014  
In 1957, the Little Rock Nine risked their lives and ended segregation at Central High School and their struggle changed the United States. Melba Pattillo Beals was there. One actress embodies Beals’ words, playing many roles as she leads the audience on an educational, emotional, and inspiring journey. Based on the multi-award-winning memoir by Dr. Melba Pattillo Beals. Mature material.

Happily Ever After: A Cinderella Tale  
by the Pushcart Players  
February 2014  
This musical adaptation of the classic tale takes us on a magical journey that showcases how inner beauty, courage, and kindness triumphs over greed, arrogance, and bully behavior.

Hangin’ with the Giants  
by JazzReach  
Tuesday, February 4, 2014  
Meet Jazz music’s greatest personalities in this multimedia journey through time and culture. From the tunes of Louis Armstrong to Duke Ellington to Dizzy Gillespie, no one can help but tap their feet and clap their hands along with this show-stopper, back by popular demand!

Stuart Little  
by Dallas Children’s Theatre  
Friday, February 21, 2014  
All the charm, wisdom, and joy of E.B. White’s classic novel are brought to life with a variety of colorful characters as the mild-mannered Stuart discovers the true meaning of family, loyalty and friendship.
School Shows

Jim Henson’s Sid the Science Kid – Live! by Mills Entertainment
Wednesday, March 12, 2014
Sid, an “inquisitive youngster” uses comedy to tackle questions about basic scientific principles and why things work the way they do. Join Sid, May, Gabriela, and Gerald as they discover the excitement and curiosities of the world with your students!

Ailey II
Thursday, March 6, 2014
Join us as one of the most beloved dance companies in the country returns to our stage. Ailey II is universally renowned for merging the spirit and energy of young dance talent with the creative vision of today’s most outstanding choreographers.

ArtsPower’s production of Four Score and Seven Years Ago
Monday, March 3, 2014
In this exciting and suspenseful musical—back by popular demand—two men of different races and on different sides of the Civil War learn they actually have plenty in common.

Ladysmith Black Mambazo
Tuesday, March 4, 2014
For over 30 years, this group has married the intricate rhythms and harmonies of their native South African music traditions to the sounds and sentiments of gospel music. Don’t miss their return to our stage!

Wizard of Oz
by American Family Theater
Tuesday, March 25, 2014
Explore the enchanting land over the rainbow where dreams really do come true! Based on the classic novel from the 1900s The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum. Back by popular demand!

Ellis Island: Gateway to a Dream by American Family Theater
Tuesday, April 29, 2014
Back by popular demand, this high-spirited musical celebrates the multicultural foundations of our nation with courage, hope, and a window into the challenges of the immigrant experience.

Peter Pan by TheatreworksUSA
Friday, March 28, 2014
Based on J.M. Barrie’s classic tale about the “boy who never grew up.” When Peter, Wendy, John, and Michael face the villainous pirate Captain Hook, who’ll stop at nothing to defeat Peter and his crew of Lost Boys, it will take faith, hope, and a pinch of fairy dust to bring everyone safely home.

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Tuesday, March 4, 2014
For over 30 years, this group has married the intricate rhythms and harmonies of their native South African music traditions to the sounds and sentiments of gospel music. Don’t miss their return to our stage!

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Two Beans Productions
Friday, May 2, 2014
Based on the classic books by Judith Viorst, you’ll laugh and sing along with Alexander’s misadventures in this hilarious musical because at some point each of us has our own very bad day.
Grid art by students...A+!

Math is the key to an impressive student art exhibit on display now in our balcony lobby. Following a grid diagram, 3rd through 7th grade students from Biella Elementary School and Santa Rosa Charter School crafted individual squares, which were combined to complete the finished work. From Martin Luther King Jr.’s face to Vincent van Gogh’s “Iris,” the exhibit is truly outstanding!

Professional Artists

The next time you bring your class to a performance, think about taking a self-guided campus tour to see student artwork updated quarterly, plus works by more than a dozen regional sculptors and painters, including five new pieces by late Bay Area sculptor Dennis Leon.

Please call ahead if you’d like a member of our staff to assist you with a tour. Contact Tracy Sawyer, Arts & Outreach Programs Manager, at 707.800.7529.

Draw It! Paint It! Sculpt It! Art Camp

**Monday, July 8 - Friday, July 12 • Daily, 1pm – 5pm**

For students entering 4th – 7th grades
$150 per student

Registration is open for this fun summer camp, so pass the word! Students will experience life in the studio. They’ll explore creativity and express their inner artist by working with 2D and 3D media, including painting, drawing, printmaking, and sculpture. Details and registration at wellsfargocenterarts.org; look for the “Summer Camps” menu.

Thank You!

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Education Through the Arts for Students and Teachers

The non-profit Wells Fargo Center for the Arts is your Education Through the Arts resource.

A Special Publication for Educators
Spring 2013