Letter from our "Vuela Sin Parar" Executive Director

Dear Jamestown supporters,

I am happy to report this year has been one of growth and development for our organization. Despite dire news for low income and immigrant families coming from our nation's capital, our Jamestown community continues to thrive and grow, supporting families as their youth mature to become the leaders of tomorrow. With your support and that of our neighbors and partners, we served more youth and families last year than ever.

While we expanded programming at three sites, we also merged with our sister organization, Loco Bloco, to achieve more robust programming while developing a more stable and sustainable organization, rooted in the Mission District’s rich cultural heritage. After two years of hard work, on July 1st, both organizations joined together into one, combining our staff, Board and programming. The result is a fabulous, rich partnership of community, learning and art now easily accessible to our families. Notably, Loco Bloco won 1st Place in Carnaval! Over 200 youth (and parents) participated in our parade contingent whose theme was “Vuela Sin Parar” (Flying Forever), celebrating our Afro-Latino traditions and the strength and resiliency of youth. It is also this Annual Report’s theme!

- Myrna Melgar
**Jamestown programs FLYING FOREVER to meet the needs of our families**

Three of Jamestown’s enrichment programs grew as a result of the SF Department of Children, Youth and Families’ Beacon Initiative expansion. The initiative seeks to create the framework for comprehensive community schools, where families and youth feel safe and have multiple needs met through engagement with community partners. As the Beacon lead agency at Buena Vista Horace Mann K-8 school, Cesar Chavez Elementary School, and James Lick Middle School, Jamestown has created multiple partnerships and programming to extend the learning and skill building for students and their families. We expanded our summer programming to include a new site in the Excelsior neighborhood, at Longfellow Elementary – the 4th largest elementary school in the SFUSD, in a neighborhood that has a shortage of summer child enrichment activities. With generous support from the Caerus Foundation, our new summer site served an additional 200 youth with high quality summer programming, helping stem summer learning loss in the community. Our Parent Organizing Program is busy collaborating with school staff to develop the skills of parents, and provide needed family supports. Our new Family Strengthening Program provides a cohort of families of preteens with family strengthening skills, as the children enter the tough years of middle school. Our staff is trained in the protective factors methodology through a new partnership with Safe & Sound. Our Youth Apprentice Program (YAP) saw 100% of its participants once again graduate from High School and enroll in college. All YAP graduates received a scholarship from the Paul Nixon Memorial Scholarship Fund, presented by Patricia Garcia de Nixon and Molly Nixon.

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**THE FACTS**

- **Participants**
  - English Learners - 57%
  - Special Education - 166
  - Free lunch eligible - 93%
  - Housing insecure* - 177

- **Summer physical activity hours**
  - 12,000

- **Parent organizers engaged**
  - 300

- **Jamestown staff connections**
  - Staff who are former participants or Youth Workforce participants - 73%
  - Leadership staff who are part of the community, are past participants or parent of participants - 100%

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*number of homeless participants or at risk of homelessness
Thank you to our family of donors

**Government**
SF Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), SF Department of Public Health, SF Mayor’s Office of Housing, SF Unified School District (SFUSD), US Department of Education (MPN)

**Foundations/Corporations**

**Individuals**
$1,000,000+ Anonymous
$500,000+ Anonymous
$100,000+ Lisa Bransten & John Rumsey, Shannon & Doug Cogen
$50,000+ Allison Bhusri, Tomoko & Doug Fortune, Kimberly & John Harding, Meaghan Hardy, Sarina & Owen Kennerly, Steven Simon, Jessica & Eric Spaly, Elizabeth & Jeffrey Spaulding, Geoffrey Squires
Jamestown Annual Spring Council Event, March 2018

Keynote speaker
Sheryl Davis, Executive Director
SF Human Rights Commission

Jamestown youth speaker
EJ West

Youth speaker: EJ West

Courtney and Bryan Giraudo hosted a successful Jamestown Council annual fundraiser. Their lovely home was filled with supporters who enjoyed the warm hospitality and the chance to meet Jamestown staff and youth. Sheryl Davis, executive director of the SF Human Rights Commission, was the keynote speaker and inspired all in the room to continue taking leadership to improve the lives of the communities we serve. Guests were also able to hear from EJ West, our Jamestown youth who spoke at the event. EJ is 15 and for a long time was raised by her mother who is wheelchair-bound with MS. Her father left when she was younger because he was unable to take care of her mother. EJ spent so much time taking care of her, that she didn’t have time for friends, suffered from depression, and was often bullied. She wanted to play soccer, but couldn’t afford to. In comes Jamestown, who gave her a community to belong to, friends, confidence, adults who believe in her and the chance to play soccer. She spoke bravely telling her story and showing how strong she has become. EJ is a high school junior and last year participated in Youth In Charge, helping others in our community with her leadership. After the inspiring stories and conversations, donors contributed $140,387 thanks in great part to the stewardship of the Council.

Jamestown Council:
Eric and Jessica Spaly, Lisa Bransten, Amy Carr, Shannon Cogen, Lamisse Droubi, Tomoko Fortune, Anthony Grumbach, Theresa Kolish, Martin Romo, Jeff Spaulding, and Sara Witt

FLYING FOREVER with our community partners

Jamestown’s programs involve key partnerships with other community agencies that provide specialized programming and services. These partners include 826 Valencia, Reading Partners, Tree Frog Treks, CA Academy of Sciences, Mission Bit, Google, Good Samaritan, Peer Resources, Instituto Familiar de la Raza, PODER, Root Division, MEDA, Safe & Sound, CARECEN, Mujeres Unidas y Activas, Parents for Public Schools, First Graduate, MLVS, Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts, Community Music Center, Crissy Field Center, and Faith In Action.

Jamestown Community Center
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