Who we are

The TahDah Foundation began its journey in 2016 with the aim of bettering the lives and opportunities of all children, with a special focus on those in under-resourced communities. We are a 501(c)(3) driven by artists, art advocates and passionate donors and volunteers who want to change the world through holistic arts education. With our focus on holistic arts education, the TahDah Foundation helps students grow their creativity, learn self-expression, and develop the ability to handle various life challenges. Through fun, engaging activities, children gain tools that support their physical and emotional well-being, and that ultimately set them up for further success throughout life. It's a plan that has long-term benefits – when we give children the tools to succeed, they become productive members of society, which makes our communities better for everyone.

Our Mission

The TahDah Foundation’s mission is to improve the hearts, the minds and lives of young people with resources that support holistic arts education and wellbeing.

Our Vision

The TahDah Foundation’s vision is to create a world where young people have access to opportunities that foster growth in encouraging, uplifting, and creative ways.
Dear Supporters, Stakeholders and Friends of TahDah Foundation,

All of us in our own ways experienced the awful ups and downs of last year. But perhaps no one felt them more acutely than the children and families caught in the stressful uncertainty of shuttling between going to school and learning from home, loss of jobs, childcare, etc. 1,300 of these children were served by the TahDah Foundation. Our grants provided holistic arts activities that combined fun, learning and movement - that lightened their days and put smiles on their faces. Art can be a respite and a tool for empowerment. It can give children a way to express themselves, learn self-control, inspire self-confidence, learn more effectively, and grow.

Because TahDah Foundation focuses on children who face challenges associated with poverty, including children enrolled in after-school programs, summer camps, living in homeless shelters, the holistic art activities we fund have an especially high impact on their well-being in these precarious times.

We are grateful that so many of you recognized the value of TahDah’s work and made it possible for us to expand to fund 19 organizations throughout the US - all of them reaching children in under-resourced schools and communities, with a diverse array of arts and culture. TahDah is truly fulfilling its mission of closing the arts access gap, in California, New York, Nashville, Philadelphia, and in the Pacific Northwest.

We look forward to igniting more bright eyes and positive energy in the children touched by the grants we make. The Board and staff join me in thanking you for all you do to bring holistic arts to kids in our diverse communities.

Happy New Year!

Claudia Viek
Board Chair
TESTIMONIALS

Puentes de Salud, Philadelphia

Using the TahDah Foundation’s generous contribution to our work, since early 2021 we have planned and shared three virtual family workshops that respond to and are based on community members’ skills and abilities, to engage in intra-familial discussion about cultural heritage, language, and knowledge. Workshop topics have focused on natural dyeing, fresco mural-making, and reading murals – the second two sessions specifically engaged children and adults together in brainstorming, learning, and interaction. In each session, community member leaders engaged participants in both instruction and interactive activities meant to introduce new artistic concepts based in traditional knowledge and foster play, interaction, and exploration between kids and families. In addition to these virtual meetings, we held two in-person family game days in June and September in which kids and families participated together in a community-based game co-designed by Mural Arts Philadelphia and Puentes de Salud. In this game, families worked together to draw pictures, tell stories, and generate ideas about what they want for their neighborhood in a hands-on and collaborative manner. Through these various activities, we engaged approximately 50 children.

The TahDah Foundation’s generous donation allowed us to continue to provide interactive arts and education programming during an extremely difficult and tragic time for the communities we serve, and to do so in a way that highlighted community skills and knowledge and engaged families together in play and exploration. These programs were unique, positive experiences for kids and families during quarantine, to connect, share knowledge, and creatively engage together.

Leah Reisman, Health and Wellness Director
www.puentesdesalud.org
Get Empowered!

Thank you for your generosity, support and encouragement TahDah Foundation! Our Get Empowered! mission is to transform lives and empower children to be their best selves. We believe in the power of multicultural and healing arts to serve as life-changing resources to support kids in their social-emotional wellbeing, while also improving their capacity to learn, foster confidence / leadership skills, deepen connections with others, improve physical wellness, elevate happiness, encourage kindness and develop life skills.

The TahDah Foundation has allowed Get Empowered’s team of Teaching Artists to expand our K-12 outreach programs into several under-resourced and diversely populated schools in NYC and California. The grant funding provided to the schools has helped create seed funding for us to bring music, dance, fitness, art, storytelling, Capoeira, beatboxing, global virtual field trips and other highly interactive, participatory school-wide empowerment activities to over 1,000 children. The impact is felt well beyond the 4 walls of the schools.

With all the isolation and trauma caused by Covid, it is an urgent and essential need for kids to have these kinds of opportunities and for generous donors to make this possible and be their advocates. We see first-hand how empowered kids create a ripple affect around them of a more loving, positive, healthy, inclusive and creative world.

Emi Gittleman, Co-Founder and Executive Director and Sabia Pinheiro, Director and Lead Principal Artist
www.getempoweredall.com

The Roots & Wings Project

Support from the extraordinary TahDah Foundation has allowed The Roots and Wings Project to continue our ROOTS TO SKY Creative Writing Program. This program cultivates the highest creative capacity of our participants with powerful writing exercises, exploring the work of amazing artists, deeply engaged discussions, extraordinary guest artist visits and a culminating book containing a collection of the writing work created throughout the workshops.

TahDah’s mission aligns with our mission to create stage and space for voices of the unnamed, unknown and misunderstood. The youth we serve are BIPOC and come from challenging socio-economic backgrounds. We offer this program free to our participants due to the generous support of TahDah. Participants also receive notebooks and writing tools to support their process. This offers a life-altering experience where participants gain a deeper understanding of themselves, their community and the world around them, gain the tools of a professional writer, and develop lasting friendships in a safe space where creative bonds are valued and nurtured.

TahDah’s support of our program made it possible to provide top-notch programming to our participants during a very challenging time. They all showed a deep appreciation for the program and attested to ways it greatly impacted them. We are so grateful for this incredible collaboration as it offered immeasurable gifts to our participants that empowered them to move forward with all that was gained and flourish when applying what was learned in other capacities. It impassioned them to continue the work and emboldened them to share their voices out for the world to hear. That is all we can ever hope to achieve in our work.

Jesse Bliss, Founder and Artistic Director
www.therootsandwingsproject.com
BAYFEST Youth Theatre

Our 2021 grant from TahDah allowed us to continue working (online) at Chief Sealth International High School in Seattle and offer a 12-week summer in-person engagement program with two Boys and Girls Clubs. Both programs were focused on keeping participants active (through movement, improvisation, word-play and theatre games), while building communications and ensemble skills.

The experiences were very different, especially because one was online and the other in-person. The in-person summer sessions (mostly with kids who had never been in this kind of “active arts” class) were active, fun, and productive. We built participants’ skills over the course of the program. The exit surveys we did with participants were very encouraging, with all of them saying they had fun, and quite a few reporting that it was the most enjoyable thing they did last summer.

During the Theatre Arts online high school classes, almost none, except for a few special-education participants with aides, would turn on their cameras. Our Teaching Artists had a difficult time getting students to engage with them, even verbally. During the 4 months of weekly sessions, all of us working with them tried to come up with new ways of getting students to participate—through the ‘chat’ function, with one-word answers, challenges to them to turn on their cameras for 3 seconds and make a face to show us how they were feeling—but our success seemed to us very limited. We always began and ended each session with a breathing and meditative physical activity, but we never knew how many were actually doing it. We were doubly-surprised then, when we got feedback in the last session with comments like “this class saved my life”, “This is the only thing I looked forward to every week”, “Mad Fun!”, etc. And their classroom teacher reported after that they continued to give very positive feedback – students have suffered greatly during the pandemic, but our work continues to help. BAYFEST is so appreciative of TahDah Foundation’s continuing support.

Robert Shampain, Director
www.bayfestyouththeatre.org

After-School All-Stars Puget Sound

The Tahdah Foundation’s partnership with After-School All-Stars Puget Sound has been pivotal in increasing access to holistic arts education programs for the middle school youth in our program. With the Foundation’s support, we’ve been able to offer creative arts, dance, social-emotional learning, yoga, photography, music production, and more—both virtually and in-person—to youth who need and deserve these programs the most.

We know that recovery from the pandemic will require a complex multiyear effort to mitigate the disproportionate impact that crisis in health, education, the economy, and social justice continue to have on people of color and the economically disadvantaged. After-school holistic arts education programming offers a key solution to this tremendous challenge. The arts provide a source of connection, creativity, expression, and an ever increasing need for outlets for our youth.

Holistic arts have become extremely important to address students’ social and mental needs, both of which have been heightened by the pandemic and various learning models they have had to adapt to. Our team is grateful for our continued partnership with the Tahdah Foundation. We look forward to positively impacting historically excluded youth through arts education. Our intention for the year ahead will be to instill a sense of hope, resilience, and inspiration for the young people in our program—giving them something to look forward to each day after the school bell rings.

Ranna Daud, Executive Director
www.afterschoolallstars.org
2021 FINANCIALS

**REVENUE AND SUPPORT**

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<tr>
<th>In Kind Donations: Corporate</th>
<th>2020</th>
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<td>$44,453.00</td>
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**EXPENSES**

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<th>Grants Awarded</th>
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**2021 TOTAL EXPENSES**

$104,910.85

**2021 TOTAL REVENUE**

$124,168.07

**Thank You Donors!**

- Action Air Conditioning, Heating and Solar - Mike Lapham
- AIG Corporate - Tara Laski
- Amazon Smile - Eric Leenon
- Anonymous - LIUNA #1184
- Debra Baker - Sarah Lowell
- Jay Barredo - Kevin Lynch
- Craig Beam - Bryan McMinn
- Terry Belmont - Jodie Mendelson
- Jim Blackmore - Robert Moylan
- Bill Bodenstadt - Jim Neiger
- Bill Brennan - Janet Nudelman
- Gina Campagna - Terry O'Mahoney
- Dan Catalano - Michael Olcese
- Pamela Chaloult - Pacific Southwest Administrators
- Steven Chaloult - Linda Paul
- Ted Chandler - Travis Pearson
- CMR Risk & Insurance Services Inc. - Robert Perkins
- Jason Cooke - Peg Pothier
- Carla Corona - Presidio Bay Ventures
- Kathleen Corona - Bruce Prigoff
- Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP - Paula Purcell
- CRE Transaction Experts, Inc - Scott Rabe
- Al and Kirsten Cvitan - Lauren Robin
- Edward Dong - K Cyrus Sanadaji
- Team Earnhart - Agnesse Serra
- Mark Engelhart - Jason Smith
- Essex Reality Management Inc - Southern California District Council of Laborers
- William Foulkes - Evan Spanner
- Byron Fox - Teri and Garry Spanner
- Laura Gallagher - TDA Inc.
- Ann Stephanie Gittleman - Mehul Thakker
- Emil Gittleman - Nicole Thyre
- Robert Glaza - Roger Torriero
- Amy Goldfarb - Susan Uecker
- Andy Guzierski - United Business Bank
- Renae Hardy - Urban Green Development
- Howard Construction - Claudia Viek
- Gary and Gina Jones - William Wallace
- Kenny Karen - Angie Weber
- Scott Kiere - Erik Wenstone
- Corin Korenaga - Kenneth Wan
- Victor Kwok - Bridget Wylie
- Jennifer Young

www.tahdahfoundation.org
Thank You!!

We would like to extend a special thank you to the TahDah Foundation Board Members for their commitment in ensuring all students have access to a holistic arts program.

And thanks to all of you who have supported the TahDah Foundation’s work to date—we wouldn’t be here without you.

www.tahdahfoundation.org