



Fernando
Pullum
Community
Arts Center

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Annual Report 2024

A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Fernando Pullum Community Arts Center (“Pullum Center”) provides free performing arts classes for more than 1,225 students. In 2024, we established new partnerships with 42nd Street Elementary School and Johnnie L. Cochran Jr. Middle School while continuing our arts programming at Windsor Hills, Cowan School and Marcus Garvey.

Our students were engaged in 120 weekly classes during the school year and 148 weekly classes during the summer program. In 2024, Pullum Center presented three musicals: “The Jungle Book,” “The High School Musical,” and “The Princess & the Frog.”

Our students had the opportunity to perform alongside renowned artists such as The Bacon Brothers, Jackson Browne, Keith David, Sy Smith, Dedrick Bonner & James Tolbert during this year’s gala.

We’re grateful to our donors, partners, artists, students and parents for being a part of the Center!

With gratitude

Fernando Pullum
Executive Director

PULLUM CENTER SERVES 1,225 STUDENTS

1,225

Number of students who took classes at the Pullum Center in 2024

100%

Percentage of high school seniors in the program who have successfully graduated

121

Number of performing arts classes offered per week during the school year

5

Number of local schools that partnered with the Pullum Center in 2024

Between 2021 and 2024, student enrollment increased significantly from 350 to 1,225 students. Since the reopening of in-person programs after the COVID-19 pandemic shutdowns, there has been a strong need for quality arts programming in local schools.

Pullum Center provided 121 weekly classes, including jazz, piano, choir, music recording, guitar, drums, beginning instruments, dance, step, and tap. The summer program provided 148 weekly classes and four field trips to 242 students, increasing from 225 students the previous year.

Pullum Center staged 38 performances at exciting events such as the Paris 2024 Cultural Olympiad and the 'Then We Rise' book signing event by artist Common. These performances reached over 50,000 live audiences.

From June 21 - 23, 2024, Pullum Center presented "The High School Musical" featuring 50 students ages 5 -19. While Fernando Pullum oversaw the whole production, Director and Stage Manager Earl Williams, and Musical Director and Vocal Coach Narvel "Pooh" Mayo managed the production including students, staff, and several local creative workers and artistic consultants, technicians, and volunteers. Special thanks to the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs for supporting the musical.

MARCHING BAND MAKES A STRONG COME BACK

Pullum Center’s Marching Band made a strong comeback after shutting down during the pandemic and has grown to be one of the most visible and celebrated programs. The Marching Band now comprises 80 students, a significant increase from 50 students last year. Students attend individual classes in drums, wind instruments, and step during the week for 2-3 hours. Every Saturday, the students come together for three hours of group practice. The Marching Band participated in at least three events every year.

Special thanks to The Salah Foundation and the Water Buffalo Club for supporting the marching band.



The Pullum Center Marching Band at the 2024 MLK Jr. Parade in Los Angeles



The Pullum Center Step Team took first place at the West Coast National Youth Step Program in Las Vegas in 2024.

'THE JUNGLE BOOK' (JAN 2024)



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2024 MUSICALS



'THE PRINCESS & THE FROG'
(NOV 2024)

'THE HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL'
(JUNE 2024)





Sy Smith Performing "Now & Later"

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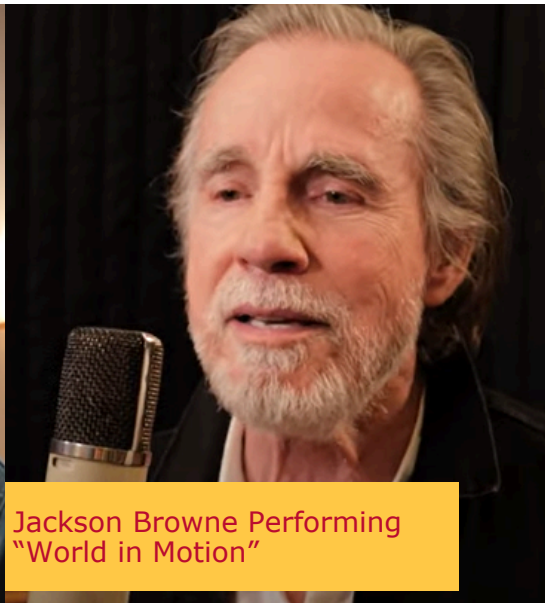
2024 GALA

Fernando Pullum Center raised \$250,000 through the 2024 virtual gala featuring the Pullum Center students, joined by The Bacon Brothers, Jackson Browne, Keith David, Sy Smith, Dedrick Bonner & James Tolbert. The event was hosted by Chris Knight and Eve Plumb, best known for their roles in *The Brady Bunch*. The event honored the Zegar/Jackson Family for their unwavering commitment to community service and the arts.

The gala raises critical funds needed to provide arts programs for children in South Los Angeles. Many thanks to the sponsors and donors for supporting the annual gala.



Kevin Bacon Performing "She-Zee-Zee"



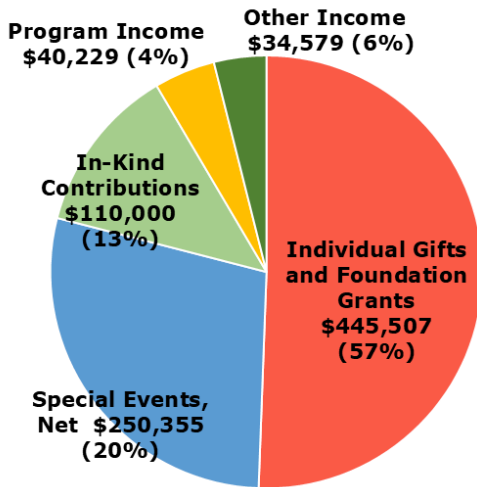
Jackson Browne Performing "World in Motion"



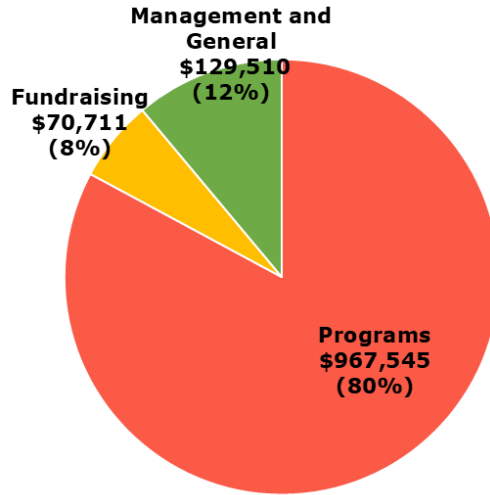
Keith David Performing "A Man Ain't Supposed to Cry"

2023-24 FINANCIALS

REVENUE



EXPENSES



SURVEY RESULTS

Pullum Center surveyed parents, students, and teachers during the 2023-24 school year. Here are some key findings:

- 100% of the surveyed teachers said their students had shown measurable growth in the performing arts after participating in the Pullum Center programs.
- 86% of the surveyed teachers said their students demonstrate more self-esteem and confidence in their work.
- 93% of the surveyed parents said Pullum Center classes help their children stay busy after school.
- 83% of surveyed parents said attending Pullum Center classes increased their child's desire to attend college.
- Of the surveyed Pullum Center students:
 - 84% have performed or spoken in front of an audience
 - 66% have met or spoke to an artist
 - 81% have seen a play or musical
 - 86% have volunteered in their community

PULLUM CENTER THANKS JIM & JUDY O'BRIEN



Jim O'Brien has recently stepped down as Board Chairman, a position he has held since our founding in 2012. Jim and his wife, Judy, have been the backbone of our organization, providing unwavering support to the Pullum Center staff and students during challenging times, including the pandemic shutdowns. Their leadership has played a crucial role in establishing the Pullum Center as a leading performing arts organization in South Los Angeles. Although Jim will continue to serve on the Board, we are deeply grateful for his service and leadership during his time as Chairman.



Pullum Center welcomes Kevin Kelly as the new Board Chairman.

"I love the family and connections I've made at the Pullum Center."

-Student

FERNANDO PULLUM RECEIVES THE FIRST 'ARTIST FOR ACTION' AWARD

On December 7, 2023, Fernando Pullum was honored with the first Artist for Action (AFA) Chapin/Kragen/Belafonte Humanitarian Award in recognition of his advocacy work. Other honorees include Bill Lavin, Founder of Where Angels Play Foundation, and Bill Ayers, Co-Founder of Why Hunger.

The award was presented at a one-of-a-kind docu-concert that tells a story through video and live performances. The concert celebrated the launch of A Father's Promise, directed by Rick Korn and produced by Sheryl Crow, the film that tells the story of professional musician Mark Barden, whose son Daniel was murdered at Sandy Hook Elementary. The inspiring film follows Barden's journey from co-founding Sandy Hook Promise, a non-profit organization, to rediscovering his passion for music. With several interviews and music by John Lennon, Bruce Springsteen, Van Morrison, Steve Winwood, David Shaw and others, the film shares an inspiring story of a father's promise to end gun violence.

The film led to the formation of Artist for Action to Prevent Gun Violence, an artist-led effort to prevent gun violence. The docu-concert, which was held at NYU Skirball, celebrated the release of the film, A Father's Promise. The unique event featured Sheryl Crow, Kevin Bacon, Peter Frampton, Bernie Williams, Rozzi, The Dumes, The Alternate Routes, Jen Chapin, and Aztec Two Step 2.0.



Kevin Bacon and Fernando Pullum at "A Father's Promise" Premiere



Fernando Pullum received the first AFA Award from Kevin Bacon



Fernando Pullum with Mark Barden

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

MAJOR SUPPORTERS (\$75,000+)

Zegar Family Foundation
Jim & Judy O'Brien

ARTISTIC DIRECTORS (\$74,999-\$20,000)

Thelma Pearl Howard
Foundation
California Community
Foundation
The Salah Foundation
The Carl & Roberta Deutsch
Foundation
Cathy Stone

CONDUCTORS (\$19,999-\$10,000)

Los Angeles Department of
Cultural Affairs
Los Angeles Unified School
District
County of Los Angeles
State of California
County of Los Angeles
Second District
UKG, Inc.
Jon Dorfman & Melissa Kaish
Makursky Family Foundation
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
Claudia & Kevin Kelly
Harriet & Herbert Seif
David and Stefanie Jackson

CONCERT MASTERS (\$9,999-\$5,000)

James & Juliana Bancroft
The Ferry Family Helping
Hand Fund
Cauze Charitable Fund
Sheila Garb
Michael & Donna Lashendock
Mehdi Mahmud
Nancy & Geoffrey Mann
Michael & Valerie McKeever
Alan & Melanie Palmer
Jim & Mary Ann Papp
Amy & John Peer
Ken Pace & Eve Plumb
Michael Petrick
Brian Reaves
Deborah & Chuck Royce
Marie & Bob Sloan
Pat Tierney
Adams Mastrovich Family
Foundation
Scott & Ary Zegar
Royce Family Fund
The Herb Alpert Foundation

PRINCIPALS (\$4,999-\$2,500)

Alma Backyard Farms
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Blodgett
Rum & Humble, Inc.
Norah & Bruce Broillet
Wynn Everett

Donald and Nan Leitch
Rana Family
Michael Ross
Susie Wilson & Paul
Vizcarrondo
Wealthspire Advisors
Julie & Frank Clementi
Melissa Grove

CHORUS (\$2,499-\$1,000)

Gerri Constant
Brett Kalesky
Paul F. Kelly
James Mackenzie
David Mudrick
Evan Odim
Dennis Pace & Anne
Grofvert
Putcha Family
Ilene Resnick
Donald Skrdlant
Kenneth Volk
Zola Family
Patterson Family Fund
St. James Episcopal Church
Damiko Coutee
Karim Saafir
Felix & Chasity Nunez
City of Gardena

*Note: The financials and
the donor list are current
as of November 2024 and
will be updated later.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Frank Clementi
Gerri Constant
Sheila Garb
David Jackson
Michael Lashendock
Jim O'Brien
Ken Pace
Alan Palmer
Fernando Pullum
Brian Reaves
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Michael Lashendock
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Ken Pace
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Fernando Pullum
Brian Reaves
Michael L. Ross
Carol Shaw
Frederick Smith, Jr.
Sy Smith
Cathy Stone
Pat Tierney
Brian Warfield

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Frank Harris
Craig Keys
Rickey Minor
Brian Rothschild
Isabella Scocozza

ARTIST COUNCIL

Jackson Browne
Ted Lange
Christian McBride
Rickey Minor
Kirk Whalum

ADMINISTRATION

Fernando Pullum
Executive Director
Kavya Velagapudi
Development Director
Tracy Williams
Office Manager
Jennifer McIntosh
Accountant

TEACHERS & STAFF

Narvel "Pooh Mayo"
Musical Director &
Piano Instructor
Earl Williams
Drama Director
Ryan Porter
Trombone Instructor
Ben Makarchuk
Instruments Instructors
& Senior Jazz Band
Assistant
Christopher Powe
Instruments Instructors
& Senior Jazz Band
Assistant
**Traydell 'Coach T'
Nelson**
Step Instructor
Vaughn Bannister
Guitar Instructor
Dorene Nelson
Tap Instructor
Micah Heard
Drum and Drumline
Instructor

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THANK YOU!