

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



juniorplayers

SINCE 1955, JUNIOR PLAYERS HAS BEEN
EMPOWERING YOUNG VOICES BY
PROVIDING FREE, HIGH QUALITY, ARTS
PROGRAMMING TO NORTH TEXAS
CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

**AND THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT,
WE'VE ONLY JUST BEGUN.**

A Letter from our Executive Director

In 1955, Junior Players opened our doors to hundreds of youths. In 2023, we continue to welcome young change agents into an imaginative world full of innovative arts education programs and unique opportunities! We are proud of the creative impact that Junior Players has provided over our 68 -years of existence in the North Texas area.

The Junior Players fine arts enrichment footprint is cementing a legacy of vibrant young artists, community leaders, and business creatives by providing a safe space for ALL. When a child walks into our world, they are surrounded by passionate and talented individuals who understand that each child is unique, with differing socio-economic statuses, language barriers, income, school district funding, and more. They also understand that **none** of these factors should dictate the opportunities our youth receive or the dreams they can pursue. At Junior Players, we believe in the power of the arts, infusing Social Emotional Learning and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion frameworks as an all-encompassing component of our work, and offering hope when it's needed most. With a myriad of fine arts enrichment programs in partnership with a diverse group of community partners inclusive of local schools, recreation centers, libraries, social service agencies, low-income housing authorities, incarcerated detention facilities, as well as virtual landscapes, we are honored to empower young voices through storytelling, visual artwork, rhythm, and an artistic platform for growth.

Over 15,000 youth are served on an annual basis because of EVERY Junior Players stakeholder! Through a year of rebuilding and restoration, we continue to listen to our communities' needs as we redefine what success looks like within our arts education initiatives. This year we explored themes of family dynamics through our productions of *Be More Chill* and *Crowns of Power: Henry IV* and celebrated much success with our pilot program *Shakespeare with Henry*, the first-ever youth focused Shakespeare program in Texas with incarcerated youth in collaboration with The Henry Wade Juvenile Justice Center. These magical opportunities only exist through the help and support of all our community champions, like you. Year after year, I am humbled by every Junior Players' family member as they contribute their time, offer their hope, and advocate for arts education - because they believe, like we do, that every child deserves to have someone fighting for them.

Today, we ask you to create a legacy, the key to the ongoing foundation of life, that can elevate our next generation to levels of excellence we can only imagine in 2024 and beyond. Get engaged and donate your time and support.

We have an ambitious programmatic year, and we are excited to announce that this ambitious year begins with our inaugural exhibit from our Youth Art Collective making its debut! Junior Players Youth Art Collective is comprised of a different group of young artists annually who create beautiful pieces of art to be displayed during Junior Players' annual Winter Musical. We are proud to present our 2024 Exhibit: Legacy Leaders during the run of our winter musical, *Legally Blonde the Musical* (January 4 – 7, 2024). What does legacy mean to you? What does your footprint look like? Join us at the Moody Performance Hall to see this exhibit!

Building these viable career pathways through the arts is our privilege and our responsibility. **Join the Junior Players legacy and create an impact that lasts for many years to come.**



With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rosaura Cruz', written over a white background.

Rosaura Cruz

Junior Players' Executive Director and Junior Players Alumna 1999-2002



JUNIOR PLAYERS PROGRAMS

EMPOWERING YOUNG VOICES

Junior Players has provided FREE arts education (including visual, performing, media, and dance) programming to the youth of North Texas since 1955. Junior Players continually adapts programming and outreach to meet the needs in our community. Each year, Junior Players serves thousands of kids and teens throughout the North Texas area.



OF PARTICIPANTS SAY DURING THE PROGRAM, THEY FELT LIKE THERE WAS A PLACE FOR YOU, YOUR IDENTITY, AND YOUR CULTURE IN CLASS

In 2023 alone, Junior Players has provided **4,359 classroom hours** to youth across DFW, hosting programs in **98 unique locations**.

Junior Players programs teach youth to resolve conflicts using non-violent communication strategies such as reflective listening skills, identifying emotions, and pivoting to non-violent solutions. All Junior Players programs are integrated with TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) objectives for grades K-12, including 110) English Language Arts and Reading, 113) Social Studies, 116) Physical Education and 117) Art, Music and Theatre.



Junior Players provided **179 different Discover Arts classes** featuring a range of **17 different art forms!**



In 2023 alone, Junior Players contracted **64 highly qualified local artists** as Teaching Artists.

VISIT [JUNIORPLAYERS.ORG/PROGRAMS](https://www.juniorplayers.org/programs) TO LEARN MORE!



OUR YOUTH *Our Responsibility*



For every \$1 spent, the community receives \$30 worth of high-quality arts education programming!

Junior Players has served over 300,000 kids and teens since 1955.

"Without the arts, I wouldn't really know what direction I was headed in, in life" - Junior Players Participant

Junior Players' participant demographic breakdown is 60% Hispanic, 30% African American, 7% White, and 3% Asian/Other.



"Seeing the talent and dedication of these kids make me have faith that our future is in good hands." - Junior Players Audience Member

Junior Players Family

2023 Board of Directors

Liz D'Aloia, *President*
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Franceanna Campagna, *Treasurer*
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Kevin Williams
Kirsten Swanson
Liz Sankarsingh
Michael Cohen
Nicole Williams
Stacey Guillen
Stephanie Montgomery

2023 Advisory Board

Alex Singer
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Gwen Echols
Janet Smith
John Avila
Kathy Palter
Lee Dorsett
Monica Stansberry
Patricia Hammerbacher
Vanessa Salinas-Beckstrom
Vikas Adam

2023 Junior Players Staff

Rosaura Cruz, *Executive Director*
Abby Stigler, *Communications Director*
Anthony Pound, *Program Director*
Jamal Sterling, *Strategic Development Director*
Breanna Gaddis, *Program Manager*
Yadira Gonzalez, *Grants Consultant*
John Barajas, *Office Coordinator*

2023 ORGANIZATION BREAKDOWN



**\$263,000 IN
INSTITUTIONAL
GIVING ★**



**15 STUDENT
SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED**



**\$35,778 RAISED ON
NORTH TEXAS
GIVING DAY**



249 UNIQUE DONORS



**\$120,877 RAISED
AT THE FUTURE
STARS GALA**

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Junior Players Supporting Cast

<p><i>Diamond Level</i> <i>(\$100,000+)</i> City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture</p>	<p><i>Silver Level</i> <i>(\$2,500- \$4,999)</i> Liz D'Aloia Rosanne Messineo Mills and Rex Mills Texas Commission on the Arts Franceanna Campagna Isabelle Morgan Courtney Kincaid Memorial Fund Neena Wiora Andrea Winn Brenda Herring</p>	<p>Antoine Joyce-Roach Cherie and George Braaten Derwin and Michele Broughton Laurie and Eric Cedillo Kathleen Williams LeCrone Law Firm, PC Monica R. Alonzo The Stansberrys Olivia Trevino Renee and Stephen Kurtz Sherri Kelly Tara Lewis</p>
<p><i>Emerald Level</i> <i>(\$25,000-\$49,999)</i> Harold Simmons Foundation The Addy Foundation</p>	<p><i>Bronze Level</i> <i>(\$500-\$2,499)</i> Rosaura Cruz Gregory Franklin Andrew Fleming Kathy Palter Louise W. Kahn Endowment Fund at the Dallas Foundation Lauren Johnson Housh Abimbola Ogun Angie Parra Liz Sankarsingh Kevin Williams Jennifer L. Wood, Esq. Deborah and Craig Sutton Foundation Rachel Harrah Doug and Courtney Noell Melissa Morales Carol Wilson Robert and Linda Appel Katie Clark Melissa Goebel DiAnn L'Roy</p>	<p><i>Partners Level</i> <i>(\$250-\$499)</i> Amy Eckels Bill and Lori Rolley Brenton Bridges Dana and Anthony Roland Donald & Ellen Colleluori Janet Merrill Kathleen Tony Linda Kruger Mark Williams Mary Fleming Melissa Ward Michel Muylaert Michelle Quinlan Primal Wear Stephanie Montgomery Union Coffee House</p>
<p><i>Platinum Level</i> <i>(\$10,000-\$24,999)</i> Central Market The Holloway Family Foundation George Family Foundation - Next Generation Fund Fichtenbaum Charitable Trust JP Morgan Chase Rea Charitable Trust Diane and Hal Brierley Foundation Dallas Afterschool</p>	<p><i>Gold Level</i> <i>(\$5,000-\$9,999)</i> TACA Don Herring Nicole Williams and Chris George Thompson Coburn LLP Bryan Tony Emily Javadi Memorial Fund W.P. & Bulah Luse Foundation</p>	<p><i>Benefactor</i> <i>(\$100 - \$249)</i> Adam Lamont Aynsley Young Caleb Cook Cara Doil Carol and Doug Wright</p>

Junior Players Supporting Cast

Carol Chang and Edward Mao	Liz Cedillo-Pereira M and B Coomes	Arielle Rubin Dunn Arlen Miller
Cathryn and William Kelly	Margaret Savage Marilyn Medina	Augustine Jalomo Basil J Asaro
Cathy McClellan Chase Corker Chelsea Anwar	Maureen and David Ehrlicher Michael Baughman	Brenna Hill Brianna Rodriguez Carlos Cruz
Christian Sommers	Michael Cohen	Ceyla Santana
Clarence A Hollis Jr. Cynthia and Kurt Rodegast	Milfred and Patricia Hammerbacher Nalex Cordova	Charles Ladd Charles O'Neil Chris Tony
Dave Turner, III Deb Hadraba	Narcy Negrete	Christina Berish
Donna and Chris Young	Nicole & Jamal Sterling Panorama Global Fund	Christopher M Downing Christopher Piper
Eric Hightower Haley Ferrell	Pat Coomes Phillippe Falkner	Cindy A. Anderson Claudia S Hill
Heather Ventura	Randy Glenn Welch, Jr	Clayton Henry Clifton Harvey
Hon. Dominique and Shawn Williams	Randy Karl Hagens	Coy D'Ann Herrera
James Barcelo	Rebecca and Michael Massiatte	Cristal Gonzalez
Jasmine Wynton	Renee and Jeff George	David Kravetz
Jason Sutherland	Robert J Daly	DeAnna Ayel
Jeffrey Snoyer	Roman Perez	Deonna Thornton
Jen Fisher	Sabrina Louise Macias	Diane Martichuski
Jennifer Rudenick Ecklund	Sherri & William Kelly Stacey Guillen	Dominic Daniel Elizabeth Bedell
Jim and Deborah Nugent	Stephan Akin	Elizabeth L. Dorsett
John A Kufirin John Hill	Stephanie Lucero Susan L Sommers	Elizabeth Naughton Elizabeth Schmitt
Jorge Martinez	Thomas Hurt	Elva Quiroga
Joyce and Bob Trecartin	Valerie Hauss-Smith Vikas Adam	Emma Buzas Felipe Reyna
Julissa Negrete		Fred and Katherine Connally
Karen Lynn Furrh	<i>Friends</i> (\$25-\$99)	James Alford
Karen Mcfarland	Abby Stigler	James Johnson
Ken Coggin	Alexander Marshall	Janet D Samson
Khalilah R Elliott	Amy Boone	Janet Eickmeyer
Ladd Hirsch	Andrew Bautz	Jared Roberts
Laura Pratt	Angela Cherise Teague	Jay Clifford Terpstra
Linda Ortman	Ann Fink	
Lisa Milke Donley		

Junior Players Supporting Cast

Jeanna Kozak
Jennifer Williamson
Jin-Ya Huang
John Lozano
Jolisa Dobbs
Jose Cruz
Joseph Dahlstrom
Juan Perez
Julia Rogers
Junior Players Guild
Karen Robinson
Karyn Watts-Smith
Katherine Connally
Kathleen Clark
Kay Honeyman
Kelley Rowley
Kendall Quirk
Kendrick Parker
Kevin Johnson
Kirsten G Williams
Kristin McCollum
Kyle Snarski
Lauren Cadieux
Lauren York
Laurie DeBardeleben
Lindsay Dyer
Luke Mick
Macka Jones
Maeghan Whitehead
Marianne Kolar
Mario Lewis
Mary Ann White
Mason York
Melissa Balderas
Mona Gupta
Monica Parra Varela
Natalie Bueno
Nicole M. LeBlanc
Nicole Norwood
Nneka Egbuniwe

Oscar Gonzalez
Paula Andrea Hernandez
Paula Thompson
Raven Lawes
Rebecca Ray
Richard Rogers
Robert Vergona
Ryan Herington
Sarah Basu
Shari Fahey
Stephanie Clark
Stephanie Cournoyer
Stormi Demerson
Sylvia A Rodriguez
Tamara Testa
Thomas A. Taylor
TJ Harding
Tom Marcantel
Tomas Romero
Tony Caufield
Veronica Gonzalez Garcia
Wade Moran

Donations
in Honor Of:
Ani Celisa Vera
Donated By: John Lozano
Bennett Zambrano
Donated By: Jolisa Dobbs
Bryan Tony
Donated By:
Adam Lamont
Liz D'Aloia
Donated By:
Carol Wilson
Rosaura Cruz
Donated By: Antoine
Joyce-Roach

William Kelly
Donated By: Sherri &
William Kelly
Donations in
Memory of:
William Kelly
Donated By: Amy Boone
Arielle Rubin Dunn
Cathy McClellan
Claudia S Hill
Deonna Thornton
Heather Ventura
Karen Lynn Furrh
Margaret Savage
Michelle Quinlan
Sherri Kelly

John Palter
Donated By: Angie Parra
Arlen Miller
Bryan Tony
Chase Corker
Christian Sommers
Deb and Jim Hadraba
Don Herring
Dr. Sabrina Louise
Jay Terpstra
Jeff Snoyer
John A Kufrin
Katherine Connally
Ladd Hirsch
Ladd Hirsch
Liz D'Aloia
Marianne Kolar
Philip J Sommers
Randy Hagens
Robert Appel
Rosanne Messineo Mills
Stephen Akin
Tom Marcantel



JUNIOR PLAYERS

Open Door Initiative

We believe in the power of the arts. Participation in arts activities equip our youth with the skills and abilities they need to confidently express themselves at home, in school, and throughout their professional lives. Through the arts, entirely new worlds are opened, full of possibility and potential.

But what do you do when the doors to these worlds have been closed to you?

Enter our Open Door Initiative. Junior Players believes that no one should be denied access to high-quality arts education programs and arts activities due to realities outside of their control.

Where different socio-economic factors close doors to our youth, Junior Players opens them, and through this initiative, you can too.

By making a donation to our Open Door Initiative, you help create new pathways and brighter futures for our youth. **All funds raised through this initiative will go towards providing complimentary tickets to all Junior Players' productions for our youth and their families, ensuring that no one is denied access to the transformative power of the arts.**

Visit juniorplayers.org/opendoor to make a donation today!

"Exposure to art at an early age changed my life. Having the opportunity to see live theater and dance shows or getting to go to a museum changed how I viewed the world.

Finances shouldn't be a barrier to these experiences. The Junior Players Open Door Initiative aims to break-down these barriers and help make the arts accessible to everyone. Please consider donating in any amount to this worthy cause." - Jamal Sterling, Strategic Development Director

74th Annual All-America City Award

The National Civic League honored Dallas, Texas among ten 74th Annual All-America City recipients! We were incredibly honored to be a part of the team bringing this recognition to Dallas for the second time in 50 years.

As always, Junior Players is proud to represent Dallas and to be a driving factor in youth engagement! Our youth are our future, and we are continuously impressed and inspired by them. Our youth truly encompass all of the remarkable qualities that make Dallas an All America City

Photo features (from left to right): Junior Players' Intern and Alumni, Darnell Robinson, Junior Players' Executive Director, Rosaura Cruz, and Junior Players Communications Director, Abby Stigler.





junior players *Shakespeare with Henry*

Junior Players was excited to bring the first ever youth focused Shakespeare in Prison program to Texas in 2023 – making Dallas home to a groundbreaking new program. This program is a partnership between Junior Players and The Henry Wade Juvenile Justice Center where incarcerated youth will work alongside professional Junior Players teaching artists to learn, and eventually perform, excerpts from one of Shakespeare’s prolific works, *Henry V*.

Aptly titled Shakespeare with Henry, this program will draw inspiration from the dozens of pilot programs that have taken place all over the world in the last decade and have illustrated the long lasting effects of exposure to Shakespeare in incarcerated youth. These effects include self-efficacy, improved empathy, and a stronger sense of community and participation in Shakespeare in Prison programs has shown reduced recidivism rates, sometimes by more than half.

While programs like this one have proven themselves successful across the world, this is the first program of it’s kind to land in Texas and Junior Players is excited to bring Shakespeare with Henry’s debut to Dallas.

Throughout this program, Junior Players intends to develop a passion for learning within our participants, especially those who are at high risk of not completing or continuing their education, as well as develop literacy skills (reading, writing, and oral communication), including those participants who are classified as learning disabled and/or developmentally challenged. Junior Players will also support Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and grow transferrable life skills like responsible decision making, social awareness, relationship skills, self-awareness, and self-management.

In order to prepare for this program, Junior Players hired and trained 4 highly-qualified local teaching artists, who went extensive background checks and training protocols. Through these trainings, Junior Players has emphasized the importance of SEL and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) principles. Through this program, Junior Players teaching artists will be able to relate the universal human themes contained in Shakespeare’s works to our participants, including their past experiences and choices, their present situation, and their future possibility.

“The ability for a young person to see themselves as something else, and explore new ideas in ways that take them beyond the four walls they see around them is magic. The arts have a unique ability to transform worlds, build bridges, and make the impossible possible.

At Henry Wade Juvenile Justice Center, we find young men and women at a crossroads. This is truly the time for them to begin to think through new lens and imagine new realities for themselves, the communities they left, and the world they will re-enter. Finding the way to dream through Junior Players work in Shakespeare with Henry is one of the most important things we will do as arts educators.

Your support for programs like Shakespeare with Henry can help open the right doors to a whole new future.”
- Anthony Pound, Program Director



juniorplayers

TRANSFORMING KIDS' LIVES THROUGH THE ARTS



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING JUNIOR PLAYERS, THE ARTS, AND
OUR YOUTH. YOU HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF
OVER 15,000 KIDS AND TEENS.

AS THIS YEAR CLOSES OUT, WE ARE FILLED WITH APPRECIATION
FOR YOU, OUR INCREDIBLE SUPPORTERS, WITHOUT WHOM OUR
WORK WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE AN ADDITIONAL DONATION TO
SHOW YOUR SUPPORT AND TRANSFORM KIDS' LIVES THROUGH
THE ARTS, PLEASE VISIT [JUNIORPLAYERS.ORG/DONATE](https://www.juniorplayers.org/donate).