

Furthering a Tradition of Grassroots Giving

2008 Annual Report

“Get on board the Rex Caravan!” has been our rallying cry for several years. Many more have taken this to heart in 2008; the buses are rolling down the road. Donations to the Rex Community Caravan are on the

increase, as the Rex community of supporters at large has grown. The Rex Musical Caravan of musicians, bands and festivals, who support Rex’s work with their benefit performances and other initiatives has also

expanded. And coming into more focus has been the Human Rights Framework, an overarching context for Rex mission areas, with *The World As It Could Be Human Rights Education Project* gathering momentum.

RALPH J. GLEASON AWARD

In memory of music journalist Ralph J. Gleason, a major figure in the advancement of music in America in the 1960s, whose openness to new music and ideas transcended differences between generations and styles.



Ali Akbar College of Music

The mission of the Ali Akbar College of Music is to teach, perform and preserve the classical music of North India, specifically the Seni Baba Al-laudin Gharana (tradition), and to offer this great musical legacy to all who wish to learn. The Rex grant will go to support the Library and Archive Project, which will house the ongoing collection of Ali Akbar Khan and his college in order to make it accessible to students, scholars, and music lovers.

215 West End Avenue, San Rafael, CA 94901
www.aacm.org

BILL GRAHAM AWARD

In memory of pioneering producer and founding Rex board member Bill Graham, himself a refugee, this award is for those working to assist children who are victims of political oppression and human rights violations.



The Beat Within

The Beat Within provides incarcerated youth the means for self-expression and positive connection with their community through weekly writing and conversation workshops and weekly publication of their writing and art. The Beat is committed to providing aftercare services for ex-detained and at-risk youth including job training, mentoring, peer-support, psycho-social support services, individual and group mental health counseling.

275 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103
www.thebeatwithin.org

JERRY GARCIA AWARD

In memory of Grateful Dead guitarist and founding Rex board member Jerry Garcia, this award is designed to honor and support individuals and groups that work to encourage creativity in young people.



All Stars Project (ASP)

The All Stars Project, San Francisco, brings the All Stars “performatory” approach to inner-city youth development to California’s Bay Area. ASP creates outside-of-school educational and performing arts activities for low-income young people, and is at the forefront of a new trend in education, known as supplemental education, which recognizes outside of school learning opportunities as critical to urban children’s success in school and in life.

870 Market Street, Ste 561, San Francisco, CA 94102
www.allstars.org/bayarea.html



Furthering a Tradition of
Grassroots Giving

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Bill Graham (1984 – d.1991)
Jerry Garcia (1984 – d.1995)
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The Rex Foundation is
named after Rex Jackson,
a Grateful Dead roadie
and later road manager until
his untimely death in 1976

HOW REX WORKS

The Rex Foundation has no
paid board members. Virtually
all of our grant recipients are
selected through the personal
knowledge and outreach of our
decision makers – as a result,
grant requests are not solicited.
We have no application forms
and no published guidelines.
Grants are made once or
twice a year, and our report
is published annually.

REX FOUNDATION
P.O. Box 29608
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From The Executive Director

This is the eighth Rex Foundation Annual Report I've had the privilege of preparing. What makes this one particularly special for me is to note that in 2008 we crossed a major milestone of having distributed just over \$1 million in grants since December 2001, when we launched our renewal efforts, for a total of \$8.4 million in grants to more than 1,000 programs over the 25 year history of Rex. This, along with other accomplishments described both here and in previous years' reports, reflect the sentiment that we frequently communicated during 2008:

Founded by the Grateful Dead, Furthered by You!

In each of the last eight years, we have put forward initiatives to raise the funds that enable the Rex Foundation to continue to provide vital seed grants to grassroots programs doing essential work across many different areas, from promoting a healthy environment in Alaska to providing healing drum circles in Iraq. As we carry out these initiatives, we have endeavored to be a vehicle for the musical community, and all others who share our *Guiding Principles and Values*, in order to enjoy kindred connections and the satisfaction of making a positive difference.

In 2008, our 25th anniversary, with the surge in Rex Musical Caravan events that showcased the desire of so many members of the musical community to carry on what the Grateful Dead started, along with the generous support of many contributors, the wheels of the Rex Foundation Caravan bus covered a lot more ground. As you read this message and all that follows, I hope you enjoy seeing yourself as a key part of all that we have accomplished so far and all that we continue to strive for going forward.

Sandy Sohcot

The World As It Could Be continued from page 3

We are now continuing to work with the same high schools to more fully develop curriculum materials for widespread distribution. Our goal is to have materials that not only integrate the creative arts in the teaching of the UDHR, but also include a right-of-passage component to celebrate what the students learn and how they will be involved as members of the global community to manifest the words of the UDHR. We are hopeful that because of this work, a growing number of people will be actively engaged members of their communities, and that the value of the creative arts as a vital part of education will gain greater recognition and renewed public funding.

Mission Statement

The Rex Foundation continues to embody the spirit of generosity and concern that evolved in the culture of the Deadheads and the Grateful Dead, aiming to help secure a healthy environment, promote individuality in the arts, provide support to critical and necessary social services, assist others less fortunate than ourselves, protect the rights of indigenous people and ensure their cultural survival, build a stronger community, and educate children and adults everywhere.

Guiding Principles and Values

- We respect traditional wisdom cultures.
- We respect individual rights and differences.
- We are willing to take risks and trust people.
- We help people who are helping others and are trying to make a difference.
- We help people develop bold new solutions to problems.
- We benefit the broader community and the broader good.
- We practice inclusiveness and open-mindedness.
- We support organizations committed to grassroots action.
- We seek to identify entities doing good work that might otherwise be overlooked.
- Our support helps beyond direct funding by boosting the visibility of the recipient's work.
- We want to be an agent of change, to help leverage greater impact.
- We are non-partisan.
- We promote an active, informed citizenry.
- The Foundation is an efficient conduit for supporting the community.
- Being part of the Rex Foundation is enjoyable.
- We carry on the best of the spirit of the 60's to create a more harmonious world.

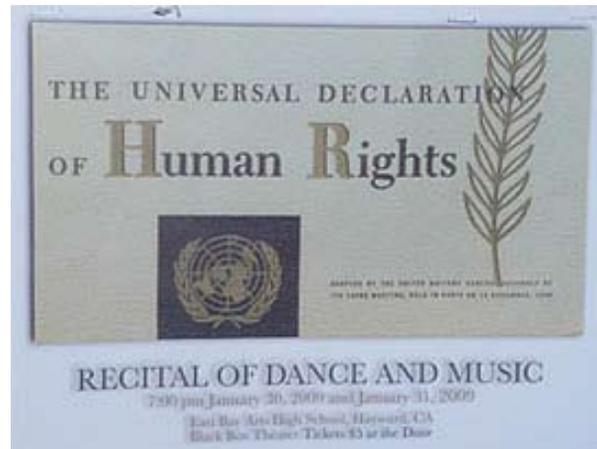
The World As It Could Be – A Rex Foundation Program Takes Hold

What began in 2006 as an effort to raise awareness about the human rights framework, took hold in 2008 as a full-fledged innovative educational program that we now call *The World As It Could Be Human Rights Education Project*, all made possible by the generous contributions of project sponsors.

The focus in 2008 was to develop a pilot public school curriculum to integrate the creative arts with the teaching of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR). The main ideas behind this effort are:

- The UDHR provides an essential framework for actively engaging in local and global efforts toward the achievement of human dignity for all people, and was unanimously agreed to when signed on December 10, 1948 by all members of the UN;
- While the UDHR has been part of standard high school curriculum, it is still unknown to most people;
- The creative arts provide a powerful mechanism for teaching the UDHR, as students have the opportunity to think through and then express their learning and interpretation of such concepts as Freedom from Fear or the Right to an Education, through writing, spoken word, song, dance and visual arts.

At Balboa High School, where we initiated this project in 2006, the creative arts experts of our project team worked with Balboa teachers as they taught the UDHR and



East Bay Arts High School Recital



Balboa High School Singers

subsequently worked with what the students created. On December 10th, the 60th Anniversary of the signing of UDHR, Balboa students presented a compilation of original songs, poems, video animations, spoken word and musical performance at a full school assembly, to convey their ideas about human rights and UDHR.

Two additional high schools in the Bay Area decided to use our materials as a basis for their own initiatives to integrate the creative arts in the teaching of the UDHR:

- At Arroyo High School, in Alameda County, the freshman English students within the learning community called *Future Leaders of Social Justice*, studied the UDHR and utilized the visual arts to express their ideas about human rights.
- At East Bay Arts High School, also in Alameda County, the UDHR was studied as a theme project across different classes in the school. In January 2009, local middle school students were invited to a presentation of visual arts displays, as well as musical, dance and spoken word performances about human rights and the UDHR. In April 2009, the school presented a weekend of public performances of vignettes about stopping violence, written by students as a result of studying the UDHR.

In January 2009, as a result of our project curriculum submitted in April 2008, the San Francisco Unified School District included a learning service project on the UDHR as part of their Ethnic Studies pilot.

Continued on page 2

Statement of Revenue and Disbursements and Changes in Net Assets for Year Ending 12/31/08

OPERATING REVENUES	
<i>Special Events</i>	
Revenue	\$ 210,300
Less: Cost of direct benefit to donors	(122,547)
Net Revenue from Special Events	87,753
Contributions	46,665
Merchandise Income	3,246
Interest & other income	6,054
Net assets released from restrictions	21,705
Total Operating Revenues	\$ 235,423
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Grants	\$ 135,409
Program-related expenses	86,862
Management & General Supporting Services	109,851
Fundraising	1,730
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 333,852
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$ 396,891
Change in unrestricted net assets:	
Operating revenues in excess of operating expenses	(98,429)
Net change in unrealized gains or losses on investments	10
Change in unrestricted net assets	(98,419)
Increase (decrease) in temporarily restricted assets	(51,955)
Net Assets, end of year	\$246,517

REX MUSICAL EVENTS IN 2008



Photos: Susana Millman

Rex 25th Anniversary Concert: L to R, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Peter Rowan Bluegrass Band, Jackie Greene

The events of 2008 showcased the broad support that the Rex Foundation continues to enjoy from the music community. Seventeen different bands participated in the Rex Musical Caravan, performed at Black Tie-Dye Balls and supported Rex Jams at summer festivals. These different initiatives are ways for the musical community to provide Rex with resources to support music and arts in education and other grass-roots programs throughout the country.

REX MUSICAL CARAVAN

The Rex Musical Caravan had its second successful year. Caravan contributions, whether in the form of designated proceeds from musical endeavors or from \$1 per ticket sold at concerts, add up quickly to enable the Rex Foundation to carry out its mission, and showcase the generosity and talents of the performers.

Dark Star Orchestra

Rex Caravan Tour, Boston to Philadelphia, November 8 – December 7

Blue Turtle Seduction

Human Rights Awareness Tour.

Tea Leaf Green

Paradise Rock Club, Boston, November 12 & 13

New Riders of the Purple Sage

Blue Nile nightclub New Orleans, September 30.

Donna Jean & The Tricksters

Knitting Factory, New York City, February 23 & September 20

RatDog, Gov't Mule, and Allman Brothers Band

Opportunity to offer premium tickets for shows in California, New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Colorado from June to August.

New Monsoon and ALBINO!

Great American Music Hall, San Francisco, May 31.

Keller Williams

Grateful Grass featuring Williams, Keith Moseley, & Jeff Austin, Fillmore, San Francisco, April 29.

Tea Leaf Green with Moonalice, Blue Turtle Seduction, and

Hot Buttered Rum in various combinations, March 1, Fillmore, San Francisco; April 18 & 19, Highline Ballroom, New York.

BLACK TIE-DYE BALLS

“Black Tie-Dye Ball” is the name for Rex benefits produced in different cities in connection with the concerts of supporting musicians. At each Ball, the Rex support-

ers enjoy a unique musical experience, and celebrate each community’s special qualities. The Balls bring together local host committees who connect with area resources to help support the event, and to help identify grass-roots programs in the community as potential grantees.

Dark Star Orchestra performed at Black Tie-Dye Balls at the Nokia Theatre in New York on November 29, with special guest Donna Jean Godchaux- MacKay, and at the Henry Fonda Theatre in Los Angeles on September 27. Proceeds from the September 27th Ball supported three outstanding programs in the Los Angeles area.

REX FOUNDATION AT SUMMER FESTIVALS

The Caravan went on Festival Tour May through August, with *Rex Jams* at five of the festivals, Mountain Jam, High Sierra, All Good, 10,000 Lakes and Gathering of the Vibes Festivals, generating proceeds totaling \$10,709! The *Rex Jam*, initiated in 2007, is a specific performance where monies collected during the performance are contributed to local area music and arts programs.

Las Tortugas Music Festival. The 3rd Annual *Las Tortugas Dance of the Dead Music Festival*, Evergreen Lodge, Groveland, Calif. Halloween weekend, October 30 – November 2. Many artists performed at this event, including ALO, Tea Leaf Green, Blue Turtle Seduction, Melvin Seals’ JGB, and many others.

Hardly Strictly Bluegrass Festival in early October, generously offered the Rex Foundation a visible presence.

REX’S 25TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT – SWEET MUSIC EVERYWHERE

This celebratory occasion was held at the Grand Ballroom of the Regency Center in San Francisco on December 13. Peter Rowan brought together family and friends including the Rowan Brothers, Ramblin’ Jack Elliott, Crucial Reggae with Fully Fullwood & Tony Chin, David Gans, and the Peter Rowan Bluegrass Band; Michael Kang with Panjea, Jackie Greene, and the Brass Mafia also were on the bill.

THE REX FOUNDATION'S 2008 GRANT BENEFICIARIES

Hearts of Gold (HoG)

The mission of Hearts of Gold is to enhance the lives of New York City's homeless mothers and their children. HoG is expanding its involvement with various New York City shelters, supporting existing programs and creating new ones based on the needs of each individual shelter. HoG dollars go directly to those in need, helping them get through the day and beyond. Once families move out of shelters and are on their own, HoG continues to provide them with essentials needed to sustain productive lives. Funds from the Rex grant will be used to support the Homework Help Program that supports an academic after school environment in the shelter and provides a hot meal for the families.

19 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010
212-229-1115 • www.heartsogold.org

Nextcourse

Nextcourse improves the health of individuals and communities by designing innovative and collaborative educational programs that inspire people to purchase, cook and eat healthier, locally produced foods. Nextcourse's strategy is threefold: to serve youth and low-income communities so as to have nutritious foods available to these areas; to strengthen meaningful and lasting partnerships with like-minded organizations, and to inspire and motivate people to action to become stewards for a better local food system.

1 Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123
415-640-3762 • www.nextcourse.org

Rhythmix Cultural Works (RCW)

Rhythmix Cultural Works is committed to offering a wide range of high quality arts experiences in dance, music, theater, new media, education and cultural exchange opportunities for youth, families and adults in Alameda and the surrounding East Bay region of California. Through performances, classes and exhibits, RCW seeks to encourage participation in the arts, support artists in the creation and presentation

of new work and establish itself as a community venue for local artists, events and gatherings.

2513 Blanding Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501
510-865-506 • www.rhythmix.org

Family of Woodstock

Family of Woodstock provides all emergency shelter and food programs in Ulster County, NY for individuals and families. Family of Woodstock assists those seeking shelter by providing confidential and fully accessible crisis intervention, prevention and support services to help address long-standing issues which have led to their homelessness. The Rex grant reflects the proceeds from the Rex Jam at Mt. Jam and is to be used to establish an art and music program to support the youth in Family of Woodstock's homeless shelters.

PO Box 3516, Kingston, NY 12402
www.familyofwoodstockinc.org

Music & Mentorship

The Music & Mentorship Program provides unique opportunities for community youth and families of diverse cultural groups to explore and develop their musical creativity, self-expression, and self-esteem through musical appreciation and

instruction. M & M has created real and substantial change in Philadelphia communities by providing creative outlets for children and youth, strengthening diverse communities through cooperative arts education and helping to connect families to the resources they need.

4225 Chestnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19104
www.myspace.com/musicmentorshipprogram

HeadCount

HeadCount's mission is to encourage participation in democracy among music fans through organized voter registration efforts, education and activities that point young people on a path toward activism. The organization has three objectives: register voters; spread the message about the importance of voting and the issues voting impacts; provide the activists of tomorrow with an organized structure through which they can easily make a difference.

336 W 49th Street, 1RW, New York, NY 10019
www.headcount.org

KindTree Productions

The mission of KindTree is to serve and celebrate the autism community through art, recreation and education. The program sponsors summer camps and retreats, promoting problem solving through networking



HeadCount



and support groups. Autism Rocks Art Program has evolved from displaying art by people with autism in public and art galleries with the goal to grow the program to provide significant income to artists while developing a sense of accomplishment and community connection and awareness.

2096 12 Arthur Street, Eugene, OR 97405
www.kindtree.org

Plumas County Save our Schools Program (SOS)

Plumas S.O.S. is a group of parents, business owners and concerned citizens dedicated to maintaining and improving the quality of education within the Plumas Unified School District by securing long-term funding sources for quality public education. The Rex grant reflects the proceeds from the Rex Jam at High Sierra Music Festival and is to support existing arts and music programs.

67 Rheinfelder, Portola, CA 96122

Morgantown High School Music Department

Music programs at Morgantown High include choir, jazz ensemble, marching band, orchestra and wind ensemble. Although the music department is funded by the Monongalia County School District, concerts and performances are supplemented by a parent run booster club. The Rex grant reflects the proceeds from the Rex Jam at the All Good Festival and is to be used to further support the music department at Morgantown High.

109 Wilson Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26501
304-291-9266

University High School Music Department

Music programs at University High School include jazz ensemble, marching band and wind ensemble. Although the music department is funded by the Monongalia County School District, concerts and perfor-

mances are supplemented by fundraisers sponsored by a parent run booster club. The Rex grant reflects the proceeds from the Rex Jam at the All Good Festival and is to be used to further support the music department at University High.

991 Price Street, Morgantown, WV 26505
304-291-9275 • www.uhsband.net

American Musical Heritage Foundation

The American Musical Heritage Foundation is dedicated to collecting and archiving records and related historical documents and artifacts in order to preserve our rich musical heritage. The AMHF recognizes that records are a vital and endangered component of our cultural history, and that they have captured important moments and trends in culture like no other medium. The AMHF believes that it is important to create an international archive of original analog recordings which can be accessed by everyone.

PO Box 66493, Santa Cruz, CA 95067
www.amusher.org

Burlington City Arts

The Seven Below Arts Initiative is a partnership between Burlington City Arts and musician Trey Anastasio to foster artistic development and support arts education in the state of Vermont. Seven Below offers artistic residency sessions, to allow artists both the time and the space needed for them to focus on their work. Seven Below also offers an educational outreach program, in which each resident artist leads an educational activity involving local community members.

149 Church St, Burlington, VT 05401
www.burlingtoncityarts.com

Children’s Book Project

The mission of the Children’s Book Project is to help economically disadvantaged children learn to read by providing the children and the facilities that serve them with books and other resources. Since their beginning in January of 1992, the Children’s Book Project has given over one million books to hundreds of

facilities serving thousands of children in the San Francisco Bay Area.
 45 Holly Park Circle, San Francisco, CA 94110
www.childrensbookproject.org

UpBeat Drum Circles

UpBeat Drum Circles was begun to help rebuild the spirits of the people in northern Iraq. The Kurdistan Save the Children program is a section of this program that works to ensure a better future for children in Kurdistan through improving their family, economic, social, psychological, health, education, and housing conditions. The Rex grant will support the establishment of ongoing drum circles at all seven Kurdistan Save the Children Youth Activity Centers in northern Iraq, including Sulymania, Koya, Rania, Kalar, Darbar-dikahan, Khanaqem, and Kirkuk.
 PO Box 55245, Stevenson Ranch, CA 91385-0245
www.ubdrumcircles.com



Bridgeport School District Music Programs

Concepts4Charity

The mission of Concepts4Charity is to engage youth in philanthropy and/or the resolutions to community issues through sports and the arts. Their goals are to increase volunteering and philanthropic activities, provide and promote opportunities for civic engagement, and to collaborate with community nonprofits to promote their mission.
 PO Box 3084, Worcester, MA 01613
www.concepts4charity.org

Sweet Home New Orleans (SHNO)

Sweet Home New Orleans is a collective of non-profit agencies serving New Orleans musicians, Mardi Gras Indians and Social Aid & Pleasure Club members. SHNO is an umbrella organization that integrates the efforts of service providers and music institutions, to connect musicians to an array of services and provide direct assistance for housing.
 1201 Saint Phillip St., New Orleans, LA 70116
www.sweethomeneworleans.org

Eyak Preservation Council (EPC)

The foundation of the Eyak Preservation Council's work is the preservation of Copper River Wild Salmon. EPC's goal is to protect wild salmon habitat permanently by envisioning and creating sustainable communities in which society, economics, and education all reinforce the wild salmon way of life. EPC is not trying to stop progress, but rather, to shape it for maximum community health over centuries.
 PO Box 460, Cordova, AK 99574
www.redzone.org

International Accountability Project

The International Accountability Project (IAP) challenges destructive development projects that uproot and impoverish millions of people across the Global South. Working with grassroots and international partners, IAP advocates for international policies that respect the rights and livelihoods of people threatened by unjust development and supports communities to hold their ground and defend their homes, environment and human rights.
 221 Pine St, 6th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104
www.accountabilityproject.org



Voices Together

Restoring Eden

Restoring Eden is a network of young people working to become a grassroots movement for environmental stewardship in the U.S. and abroad. As a parachurch ministry, Restoring Eden is dedicated to encouraging faithful stewardship of the natural world as a biblical, moral, and wise value. Their work is divided into three categories: nature appreciation, environmental stewardship, and public advocacy.

PO Box 877, La Center, WA 98629
www.restoringeden.org

Voices Together

Voices Together is a non-profit organization that serves nearly 400 individuals with developmental disabilities in the Research Triangle area of North Carolina. Voices Together has developed an innovative approach that combines the proven therapeutic qualities of music, essential speech and communication and social integration training in the structure of a chorus for the purpose of bridging the gap between people with disabilities, their peers, families and communities.

PO Box 16721, Chapel Hill, NC 27516
www.voicestogether.net

Detroit Lakes Public Schools

The grant was made specifically to support the instrumental band program in Detroit Lakes Public Schools and was funded through direct contributions from fans collected at the Rex Jam at 10K Lakes Festival.

PO Box 766, Detroit Lakes, MN 56502
218-847-9271

Theatre of Hearts/Youth First

Theatre Of Hearts provides fine arts programming to under-served, at-risk youth throughout Los Angeles County, and strives to empower local communities through education in the arts. The Youth First/Artist-In-Residence Program addresses the diverse needs of youth ages 4-18 through customized, long-term, quality, multidisciplinary, standards based workshops in visual and performing arts. Every program is a model of inclusion, crossing lines



Theatre of Hearts/Youth First

of race and cultural difference. Programs reach children everywhere - in the heart of their neighborhood, schools, churches, community centers and libraries.

672 S. Lafayette Park Place, Suite 47, Los Angeles, CA 90057 • www.theatreofhearts.org

Seeing Peace Richard Kamler, Artist

Seeing Peace is a visionary international initiative that seeks to bring the imagination - proactively, through the presence of the artist - to the table of the General Assembly of the United Nations. The Rex grant is specifically for the Seeing Peace Billboard Project that is an exhibition/community event. The intent is to engage artists from South Africa, Iran, Burma, Cuba, US, Iraq, Palestine, Israel and Portugal to create one piece of art reflecting their unique cultural perspective as to what peace looks like on 12 x 25 billboards in San Francisco. The public installation of these culturally distinct images on centrally located billboards in San Francisco will press members of the community to reflect on what peace looks like and to challenge their own vision of peace.

www.richardkamler.org

The Virginia Avenue Project

The Virginia Avenue Project is a free, afterschool program that uses the performing arts in conjunction with long-term, one-on-one mentoring to help kids discover their full potential. Through a sequence of writing and performing programs, Virginia Avenue Project participants develop life skills and give voice to their cre-

ativity. The program offers year-long classes, workshops, and academic enrichment and tutoring that gives youth the experience of success and the self-confidence it inspires.

3000 Olympic Boulevard, Santa Monica, CA 90404
www.virginiaavenueproject.org

Bridgeport School District Music Programs

The grant was made specifically to support the Bridgeport School District Music Programs and was funded through direct contributions from fans collected at the Rex Jam at the Gathering of the Vibes.

45 Lyon Terrace, Room 320
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Hands for Hope

Hands for Hope is dedicated to broadening horizons, developing talents, promoting self-esteem and instilling life-preparation skills by giving a hand of hope to youth and their families. Programs under the Hands for Hope umbrella are designed to simultaneously uplift the spirit and provide opportunities for enriching all children. Hands for Hope programs include exposure to professions and experiences that may not otherwise be known about by the participating youth. Hands for Hope also provides a support network to strengthen the single parent family and allow children of single parents to thrive. All programs feature original teaching methods by skilled professionals, emphasizing creativity and self-expression. Individualized attention will make each encounter rewarding and fun.

P.O. Box 812198, Los Angeles, CA 90081
www.hands4hope.org