

WINTER
2010

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Human Rights Quilt developed by Graphic Design classes.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights Presentation

On the 62nd Anniversary of Human Rights Day, Dec. 10, 2010, Mandela High together with the REX Foundation, hosted *The World as it Could Be*. The multimedia performance was based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Mandela's was Oakland's first show of this kind. The original work was developed since September.

To learn curriculum for *The World as it Could Be*, The Human Rights Education Project, three Mandela teachers attended a REX summer institute in collaboration with USF's International and Multicultural Education Dept. With other Mandela teachers, John Nepomuceno and Anita Smiley spearheaded the effort to bring Human Rights Education into Mandela's classes. The goal: to create Mandela's version of *The World as it Could Be*. The presentation employed original poetry performed by student authors Lucias Potter, Noemi Gonzalez, Jeanette Vargas, Nixon Callejas, Calvin Fritz, and Taytiana Brown. Emcees Calvin Fritz and Stephanie Zambrano kept things moving. The video, "Through Our Voices" by Smiley's Graphic Design classes included student interviews about UDHR. Posters, a Human Rights Quilt by the Advanced Graphic Design class and U.N. flags decorated the auditorium. Singers Naja Herron and Breana Ford, solo dancers Alex Broughton, Chaiquis Stephens, Thai Vo and numerous other dancers and actors performed.

this issue

-UDHR

- Student Voices and Views

Students and staff were motivated by life in Mandela's greater community in Oakland. The current state of education and the students' own experiences helped them understand how the UDHR connects to them and to advocate for their own human rights. (see *Student Voices and Views on back of newsletter*). Community groups such as the Homies Empowerment Program, Urban Services YMCA, and the Ever Forward Club, among others, helped Mandela make this performance a reality. Courtesy of REX and Appleberry Pictures, the show was videotaped.



Mandela High

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Student Voices and Views

Students overwhelmingly voiced enthusiastic appreciation for Mandela's production of *The World As It Could Be*. Following is a sampling of student reflections about the performance.

Selene Nuñez: "The performance was well organized; it looked so real. There were also interesting parts that you would like more information about."

Belen Ramirez: "I will use this information to tell my friends not to laugh at other people's languages. I learned that my school has a lot of talented people."

Itima Tuione: "It showed a lot about people in the past and how they worked hard and died for us to have our rights. There were a lot of things I've never seen in a school assembly. It was different, and I loved it, especially when Mr. N started rapping. That was cool because that's my teacher."

Erica P.: "I learned that everyone has equal rights no matter what race they are. Everyone should be treated the same."

William Varner: "The show was very creative and funny. I learned everyone has the right to feel safe and to be innocent until proven guilty."

Karla Coronel: "This performance showed the hardworking, talented and bright side of Mandela. Personally I've been encouraged to learn even more about the UDHR."

Anonymous: "I learned a lot about the injustices and also about how we, Latinos and Blacks are being dehumanized and marginalized."

Saira Diaz: "I liked how well prepared they were. My favorite part was when Salvador was acting as an immigrant and police came and took him because he was cleaning somebody's backyard. I also liked that they showed the people that we have lost even though it was sad."

C'Von Dyer: "I learned a lot about human rights & that they are important. My peers did a wonderful job. I wasn't involved in this show but I hope to be in the next one. I now see how important having & keeping my human rights are."

Silivei Tomasi: "We have a chance to learn key things about our life (which is important to us) and also make it entertaining and fun. I got to see other sides of people that I've never really seen like Thai dancing."

Anonymous: "Every part of the assembly had a message for the audience."

Maria F.: "I liked when the people were reading their poems and when they showed respect to the people that passed away on their birthdays."

Jacqueline E.: "I did like it because it showed the reality."

Anonymous: "I feel that people after watching this will realize that there's a lot of problems in the world but there's solutions to it."

Prince Balogun: "I really learned a lot about the UDHR. It teaches me more about the rights that we have."

Ranisha E.: "I learned not to waste my life on stupid stuff. I liked the whole concept of the UDHR it was giving."



Dancers Thai Vo (above) and Alex Broughton (below) joined by UDHR cast



**SUPPORT
MANDELA HIGH!**

Winner of the Deloitte Award for College-Going Culture, Mandela High and the Law and Public Service Academy offer students opportunities that are not included in our regular school budget. To sustain and expand programs such as *The World As It Could Be* requires additional funds that you can help to provide.

One-time or recurring tax-deductible donations can be made online at www.smallschoolsfoundation.org (designate "Mandela High") or by sending a check to "OSSF/Mandela," P.O. Box 20238, Oakland CA 94620.



Mr. N and Ellen Sebastian-Chang from REX Fndn. at cast after-party



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