

CITY OF OAKLAND



**YOUTH
IN
ACTION**

**Celebrating Future Leaders
of the Disability Community**

Wednesday, October 23, 2013

Lake Merritt Sail Boat House

568 Bellevue Avenue

Oakland, California



Hosted by the City of Oakland

Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities



THE OAKLAND MAYORS COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (MCPD)

The Oakland Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD) represents and addresses the issues faced by people with disabilities. This 15-member commission, established by City ordinance in 1980, is an appointed group of volunteers who are committed to integrating people with disabilities into all aspects of the community.

Youth in Action occurs during the month of October to celebrate and honor youth with disabilities between the ages of 14 and 22 years old. School and organization staff members nominate young people who have made significant contributions to their schools and/or communities.

The Oakland Mayors Commission on Persons with Disabilities is proud to sponsor this ceremony to publicly recognize and congratulate these youth.

For more information about the MCPD please contact:

Stephen Beard, Chairperson at

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E-Mail Stephen@StephenBeard.net

Website OaklandMCPD.org



PROGRAM

- 4:30 Registration
- 4:45 Light Refreshments
- 5:00 Welcome
Stephen Beard, Chairperson MCPD
- 5:05 Keynote Speaker
Alva Gardner, 2006 Youth in Action Honoree
- 5:15 Awards Celebration
Lorraine Rosenblatt, Commissioner MCPD
- 5:55 Closing Remarks
Denise Jacobson, Co-Chair MCPD



HONOREES

SHAWNA "ERIKA" BARRIOS

Erika has truly been the greatest asset to our new MAPS Art Studio! We've been so impressed with her motivation and drive to becoming independent that she recently started her internship as the Art Studio's Supply Manager. Not only does Erika produce beautiful works of art on her own, she is constantly assisting other students in the class with their creations as well. Erika truly cultivates a safe and helpful environment for all the MAPS student! Wholesome in her generosity, and kind heart, Erika will surely succeed in her future and is a perfect Youth in Action Honoree.

ALISON BOSWELL

As a recent participant in CRIL's 5-week, 20 hour Community Leadership Academy, Alison Boswell engaged in an intense curriculum to learn the skills she needs to be a confident leader in her community. She already had a wealth of experience coming into the course, and shared openly her experiences in both self- and community-advocacy. She also asked questions and was eager to learn new skills. At the completion of the course, selected to be a member of a Health and Human Services Commission. On this commission she shares her experiences and expertise of being a community resident with a disability in order to make recommendations regarding city policies and ordinances.

DAMARY BUSTOS

She is a dynamic, emerging leader who has been a member of YO! Disabled and Proud's Volunteer Corp for about a year. Damary has dedicated her service time to furthering Disability History Week in Alameda County. She has not only presented on the critical often ignored topic to dozens of students and teachers, but has also found a way to reach younger disabled and non-disabled children. Damary recently developed a disability history presentation that incorporated Sesame Street characters to show and educate children about the great accomplishments of the disability right movement. Damary is an intelligent young mother and student who is working hard to change our community in a positive way.



HONOREES

JAMIE CARON

She has been involved in the youth disability community for several years. She is actively involved in disability advocacy and support and is a member of Disability Action Network 4 Youth (DANY) and YO! Disabled & Proud. Jamie also educates middle school and high school students about disability awareness. She recently came back to our medical therapy unit (she exited from the program last year) to mentor an eight-year girl who was struggling with her differences from her peers. We have referred other disabled youth in our program to Jamie when they seek similar peers. Jamie is an asset to the disability community because of her willingness to advocate for and mentor other children and young adults with disabilities.

AMANDA CHARVET

Amanda has an excitement and love of life that we have never seen before! Jumping into the program feet first, she has grown so much in the time that she has been involved in the MAPS program know her. The greatest discovery that she has made this year in the MAPS program, is that she know she want to work in service help others. A social butterfly, Amanda's compassion and exuberance add abundance to her personally, which will all contribute to her future success! An amazing you woman, she will continue to dazzle and shine no matter what she is doing, making her a great Youth in Action Honoree.

PETER CUPPLES

Peter is new to the MAPS program, but that doesn't mean a thing! He has already amazed us with his stellar analytical brain! His keen attention to detail provided him the perfect platform for exceeding expectations as his first accounting internship at the Center for Independent Living. His immediate immersion into the MAPS program, and willingness to take some risks, has made Peter the perfect candidate to be a Youth in Action Honoree. We are all very excited to see where Peter ends up next.



HONOREES

BRANDI IWAHASHI

Everyone at Skyline High School is proud of the role that Brandi has taken in school leadership. When it comes to her studies she has a stick to it attitude. When projects come up, Brandi will do it to the best of her abilities. Outside of the Skyline High School community, Brandi has worked at the Alameda County Food Bank. Brandi is a great example to her fellow students.

KIYATTA PORTER-ROBINSON

Kiyatta entered the MAPS program as a high school senior, and just graduated in the spring with honors! Enrolled in college classes, Kiyatta's powerful presence is not to be reckoned with! Her vivacious demeanor and enthusiasm for what's ahead is continually inspiring. A passion for the business world, Kiyatta has her sights set on Cal's Business School, where we know she will thrive! She's been a genuine leader since becoming enthralled in the MAPS program, giving a great example of what it means to save money, work diligently, and follow every goal plan created. A great Honoree for the Youth in Action Certificate, we know Kiyatta will greatly succeed in all her endeavors.



HONOREES

ASHLEY VEGA

As she was growing up Ashley developed the power of self-advocacy as she was the voice for her entire family. As a high school student , she volunteers in a special education classroom, where she developed her own empowered identity as a person with a disability, and advocates for herself and others to be included in school activities. She was a participant in the FAIR Education Act Regional Institute, where contributors created a plan for students, teachers, and community members to implement disability and LGBT history into mainstream high school curriculum. She also attended the CA Youth Leadership Forum, where she advocated to her local State Senator for a better IEP process, equitable education, and a reduction in school bullying. Ashley is never shy about speaking what's on her mind, and she now is using her self-advocacy skills for systems change advocacy by participating in CRIL's Disability Action Network for Youth (DANY).

ALAINA WIGGINS

She is a young woman not to miss! Grabbing life by the horns, she entered the MAPS program already independent but seeking to develop her Independent Living Skills as well as finding her creative side. Passionate about her education and future to becoming the next best medical technician, Alaina continues to impress at every turn. Her enthusiasm and positive attitude bring life to all the MAPS events she attends. We are proud of the amazing things she has accomplished so far, and the determination for her own success makes her a great role mode, and Youth in Action honoree.



SCHOOLS AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT SPONSORED THE HONOREES

CALIFORNIA CHILDREN'S SERVICES (CCS) Through this program, children up to 21 years old can get the health care and services they need. CCS will connect you with doctors and trained health care people who know how to care for your child with special health care needs.

CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CIL) is the world's first Independent Living Center, a services and advocacy organization run by and for people with disabilities. **Mentors, Advocacy, and Peer Services (MAPS)** matches trained and background checked Mentors with disabilities to eligible local high school students with disabilities!

COMMUNITY RESOURCE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING (CRIL) DISABILITY ACTION NETWORK FOR YOUTH (DANY)

The Disability Action Network for Youth (DANY), a program under the auspices part of CRIL, is a powerful youth advocacy that is a program that focusing on education and organizing advocating for disability rights. DANY members have been involved in DANY has also educated over 1,000 high school students on the disability rights movement. DANY hopes to continue leading the way for youth with disabilities for many years to come.

SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL This is a traditional, comprehensive public high school that offers a strong college preparatory curriculum to a diverse set of students. In addition to academic classes and electives, there are outstanding student clubs, a Performing Arts Department and championship athletic programs.



THE CITY OF OAKLAND AND THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)

The Bay Area is known as the birthplace of the disability rights movement. Beginning in the early 1970's, the civil rights and women's rights movements of the previous decade encouraged the growth of the disability rights movement in California, including the independent living movement.

In keeping with this legacy, the City of Oakland is a leader in Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) implementation.

Our investment in programmatic and physical access improvement programs is helping to make Oakland a world class city for residents and visitors with disabilities.

The City's ADA activities include:

- capital improvements (building and facilities upgrades, curb ramps, and audible pedestrian traffic signals)
- auxiliary aids and services programs
- equal employment opportunity programs
- inclusive recreation services
- library access services
- residential access improvement grants
- support programs for senior and people with disabilities such as the City's supplement para transit program



CITY OF OAKLAND MISSION AND GOALS

The City of Oakland is a leader in (ADA) implementation, supporting social equity and providing their communities.

The ADA Programs Division of the City of Oakland serves people with disabilities by:

- Making the Oakland government accessible to all
- Coordinating citywide compliance with disability laws and regulations, including ADA Title II: State and Local Government Activities
- Providing physical access improvements such as City building and facilities upgrades, curb ramps, and audible pedestrian traffic signals
- Providing accommodations to meetings and events hosted by the City of Oakland that fall within ADA Title II mandates

The ADA Programs Division collaborates with the Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities and our community partners to help make Oakland a world-class city for residents and visitors with disabilities!

***THE FOLLOWING POEM WAS WRITTEN BY TAMAR RAINE
(FORMER MCPD COMMISSIONER) TO CELEBRATE
ALL OF THE YOUTH IN ACTION HONOREES***

The youth we honored tonight,
I'll tell you, their candles were burning bright,
And their stories were such a delight,
They inspired me, touched me and moved me,
No, no, you never know who will inspire you.

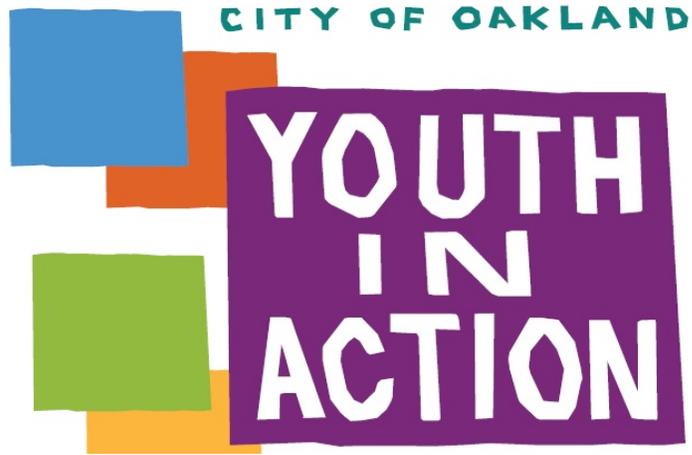
It could be the deaf woman taking orders at a coffee shop,
It could be the young man helping kids learn to read,
It could be listening to a song by a vocal savant
With an amazing voice,
It could be the ASL interpreter's hands
Matching the passion of the singer.

It could be the lady in the wheelchair,
Who travels the globe hoping to free others,
It could be the young man, who learned to be a DJ,
It could be the Paralympic gold medalist
Studying to be a doctor,
So, you just never know who can inspire you.

If that's a surprising revelation,
I've got a simple explanation,
Inspiration has nothing to do with fame,
It comes when one is just living life day to day,
Inspiration is about how we live our lives.

Yes, we all face our challenges,
Each person, every one of us,
And we have to help one another,
Each and every person has a place,
Each and every person can help another.

The youth we honored tonight,
I'll tell you, their candles were burning bright,
And their stories were such a delight,
They inspired me, touched me and moved me,
No, no, you never know who will inspire you.



SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

The Oakland Mayors Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD) would like to thank our sponsors and supporters for their donations and assistance in making the Youth in Action 2013 Celebration possible.

Cake provided by

(Cup)Cakes Galore
Ruth Rosenblatt

Coffee brewed by

Peets' Coffee & Tea , Montclair

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the help of

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Denise Jacobson and
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