

CITY OF OAKLAND

**YOUTH
IN
ACTION**

**Celebrating future leaders
of the disability community**

**Wednesday, October 28, 2009
Lake Merritt Sailboat House
Oakland, California**

**Hosted by the City of Oakland
Mayor's Commission on
Persons with Disabilities and
the ADA Programs Division**

**MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
(MCPD)**

The MCPD promotes the total integration of all persons with disabilities into every aspect of life. Established in 1980 to represent and address the issues of people with disabilities, this 15-member volunteer commission is the City's designated advisory body for ADA compliance and advocates for full inclusion of people with disabilities in City programs and services.

CITY OF OAKLAND ADA PROGRAMS DIVISION

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Programs Division coordinates citywide compliance with disability laws and regulations. They provide information, referral and accommodations for customers, and technical assistance and training for City staff and contractors. ADA Programs develop and put into practices disability policies, coordinate ADA building physical access improvement programs, provide oversight for all City capital projects, and investigate and mediate complaints of disability discrimination. ADA Programs collaborates with the MCPD and community partners in striving to meet the goal of making Oakland a world class city for residents and visitors with disabilities.

City of Oakland ADA Programs Division
City Administrator's Office
One Frank Ogawa Plaza, 3rd Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
Voice: 510-238-5219 • TTY: 510-238-2007
adaprograms@oaklandnet.com

PROGRAM

- 6:00 PM Dinner
- 6:30 PM Performance: "Black Diamond" by
Afi Tiombe Kambon
- 6:45 PM Official City Welcome
Oakland City Councilwoman Jean Quan
- 6:55 PM Keynote Speaker: Cristina Rubke
- 7:05 PM Awards Celebration
Petrina Alexander, *MCPD Vice Chair*

7:55 PM Vocal Arrangement by the Oakland
Interfaith Youth Gospel Choir

8:10 PM Information Fair

8:25 PM Closing Remarks

HONOREES

Emad Abdullah

Community Immersion Program

Emad boasts advanced technological knowledge and skill. He uses a speech generating device from DynaVox to communicate. Emad is extremely proficient in programming the device and uses it within the community to teach and reinforce to others that Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) can be a functional way to communicate, as well as a naturally accepted and heard voice. Emad volunteers at the Dimond Library and works in his family store in West Oakland.

Emma Anthony

Holy Names High School

Emma is an exceptional student. Maintaining an "A" average and perfect attendance, Emma has been actively involved in Student Council Leadership at Holy Names High School for years. She assists with leading the school with social justice activities, such as Think Pink Breast Cancer Awareness Month and World AIDS Day. Emma is also a talented artist, regularly volunteers her time, and maintains strong leadership with poise.

Xian-Xii Bowie

Oakland High School

Xian-Xii is an assertive and confident young woman. Pronounced "see.ahn-see," she is currently a senior at Oakland High School and plans to attend college after graduation in June 2010. Xian-Xii exhibits leadership in her role as a special assistant to a teacher, helps to maintain a professional environment in the school's learning center, and tutors other students. She is also a member of the varsity swim team and is known as the OHS "catfish." Xian-Xii holds a part-time job at a San Francisco retail company.

Lisa Boyakins

EXCEL High School

Lisa demonstrates leadership through her involvement in after school programs, assisting in the school library when needed. She routinely takes initiative to ask where and how she can be supportive. Recently, Lisa submitted an application to join the E-Team to help manage after school programs and go through leadership development.

Olivia Davis

California Children's Services

Olivia is a first year student at Las Positas College where she is an excellent student. She has been a CCS Youth Leader for one year, actively participating in monthly meetings and balancing a busy schedule as a student and employee. One of her strong attributes is Olivia's determination to work hard and support herself. She currently works in the box office of a movie theatre.

Ebany Depron

College Preparatory & Architecture Academy

Ebany is a courteous and positive spirit and provides a solid foundation for learning and supporting her peers. She seeks opportunities to contribute to improvements on her school campus, such as planting and maintaining a garden, volunteers to help where needed, and sets a stellar example of good character, diligence, and responsibility. Ebany is also a gifted singer.

LaDonna Johnson

Hillside Academy School

LaDonna attends school with an eagerness to learn, work hard, and do her best. She earns straight "A's" and has not missed a single assignment. LaDonna sets a tremendous example by supporting and encouraging her peers. She is always willing to help them with their assignments, cheer them on through difficult tasks, and remind them

to stay positive and be respectful. LaDonna works at the Berkeley Animal Shelter.

Oscar Matias

Oakland High School

Oscar has overcome many challenges and has maintained his “can-do” attitude toward becoming successful. In addition to being a conscientious student, he is an active member of the Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (BORP). He has participated in major athletic events and marathons. Oscar and his family have been featured in several newspaper articles.

Silvino (“Vini”) Pena-Gonzalez

Oakland High School

Vini has been a diligent student, and is characterized by his teachers as both “resilient” and a “promising youth.” Like his peers, Vini deals with the stressors of school work, social activities, and adulthood. But unlike most other teenagers, Vini has also dealt with extreme challenges in his home life including family separation due to deportations, including his own mother’s deportation. Despite these challenges, Vini has maintained a sense of humor and takes a proactive approach through his transition to adulthood.

Eric Posey

Stepping Stones Growth Center

Eric is a maturing young man that demonstrates growth every year in his independent living skills. At the beginning of the school year, Eric’s transportation between school and Stepping Stones was not in place so he had to use AC Transit. Eric was responsible and focused, calling staff when he left school and again at a half-way marker. His independence encouraged other youth in the Stepping Stones program. Eric also works directly with younger students in the program, creating games during recreational time and looking after their safety.

Katherine Quinn

California Children's Services

Katherine is in her second year at Cal State East Bay and has been a CCS Youth Leader for two years. She represents the interests of CCS youth at the Alameda County Developmental Disability Council meetings, acting as a liaison for the CCS program. Katherine shares her experience of applying to and attending a four-year public university with middle and high school youth, and is an excellent role model and advocate for aspiring students. She has visited legislator offices to advocate for programs for youth with disabilities. Having an interest in law, Katherine spends time with an attorney with a disability who works with a community advocacy program.

Arthur Renowitzky

Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (BORP)

After a bullet paralyzed Arthur in 2007, he rose from a coma and months of rehabilitation with a desire to raise awareness of gun violence amongst youth and to find a cure for paralyzing spinal cord injuries. That year, he founded the Life Goes On Foundation. Arthur travels as a motivational speaker at high schools and juvenile hall facilities to advocate against gun violence. He continues his dream to become a professional basketball player as an athlete for the BORP All Stars wheelchair basketball team, and hopes to play with the Road Warriors and one day compete in the Paralympics.

Lorena Rivas

Community Immersion Program

Lorena has been selected to be the CIP valedictorian because of her accomplishments with the program and outside of school. She began volunteering to gain job skills through the Oakland Unified Workability Program before she found a job. Lorena has successfully held a direct hire job for over two years, working as an extended care assistant at a Montessori school everyday after her school day ends.

Through her position Lorena learns and practices leadership skills, and she has become certified in CPR and first aid.

Adisa Sefic

California Children's Services

Adisa is attending Chabot College in preparation for transfer to a four-year university. As a CCS Youth Leader, Adisa has outreached to other youth with disabilities, encouraging them to join the Youth Leadership Program. Adisa has presented to middle and high school students about the resources available to assist youth with disabilities starting their college career. She has written articles for a newsletter and also assisted at the 2009 Alameda County Transition Faire. Adisa is a generous and outgoing individual that is both eager and willing to volunteer her time to agencies that support persons with disabilities. Adisa is bilingual in Bosnian and English.

Emmanuel Tril

Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (BORP)

California Children's Services

A high school senior, Emmanuel has been an active participant at BORP in Youth Wheelchair Basketball and Adaptive Cycling for over ten years and is a member of the CCS Youth Leadership Program, where he proactively engages in outreach to youth with disabilities. Emmanuel is also a talented and dedicated student. He has passed the high school exit exam, takes courses at community college, and has tutored elementary school students at Ascend Academy's after-school program. In addition to his school work and community program commitments, Emmanuel works part-time as an intern in Oakland City Hall.

Aaron Wynn

Family Resource Network

Aaron has been attending the FRN Teen/Young Adult Group for quite some time. His arrival at the Group's monthly activities always

signals the moment when the evening turns into a party! Aaron's positive energy and great personality seem to pull people together and get them laughing and dancing with him. Being around Aaron makes others feel the same way and encourages their continued participation with the Teen/Young Adult Group.

HONOREE SPONSORS

Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program

Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (BORP) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization working to improve the health, independence and social integration of people with physical disabilities through sports, fitness and recreation programs. BORP believes that sports and recreation provide a path to greater achievement to which all people should have access, and BORP continually strives to make this a reality.

California Children's Services

California Children's Services (CCS) provides physical and occupational therapy for children and youth with physical disabilities. CCS strives to improve access to health care and life or career opportunities by empowering CCS youth to reach their highest level of functional potential and to be their own self-advocate.

College Preparatory & Architecture Academy

The College Preparatory & Architecture Academy is a small learning community on the Fremont Federation of High School campus. The CPAA is part of the Oakland Unified School District and is located at the intersection of Foothill and High Streets. The CPAA Special Education and GATE programs for exceptional children are run by Moss Hahn, Education Specialist, and David Sansom, Instructional Assistant.

Community Immersion Program

The Community Immersion Program (CIP) is a transition program for young adults, 18 – 21 years old, with significant disabilities. The goal of the program is to assist students in becoming independent adults as they grow to be part of the community. Students' interests, preferences, choices, gifts, talents, capabilities and dreams drive their individual programs.

EXCEL High School

EXCEL High School is a small college preparatory high school founded in 2005. EXCEL maintains high expectations, provides rigorous learning experiences and requires content mastery. EXCEL has created a college-going culture where students believe that a college education is their next step.

Family Resource Network

The Family Resource Network (FRN) offers resource referral and support to families in Alameda County raising a child with a disability. One of FRN's popular activities is a Teen/Young Adult Group for youth ages 12 – 25 with a disability, which meets monthly for dinner, dancing and fun.

Hillside Academy School

Hillside Academy School is a special education facility designed for counseling enriched classrooms. Students at Hillside Academy experience a broad range of disabilities and receive mental health services and support.

Holy Names High School

Holy Names High School, founded in 1868, is a small Catholic school for young women that provides an academically challenging college preparatory education in a vibrant learning environment. The diverse community nurtures spirituality, encourages artistic expression, and promotes justice, preparing the next generation for leadership and service.

Oakland High School

Oakland High School is a comprehensive public high school founded in 1869. The goal of Oakland High School is to provide an excellent education for all students in a safe environment so that each student has a foundation for pursuing personal success, social growth, and high academic achievement.

Stepping Stones Growth Center

First Steps of Stepping Stones, formerly known as Stepping Stones Youth Program, is an after-school program that provides services for youth and young adults with disabilities aged 5 – 22 years. The purpose of First Steps of Stepping Stones is to aid youth development in vocational and life skills through hands-on activities in the following curriculum areas: grooming and hygiene, cooking and nutrition, community integration, money management, and social skills.

ABOUT OUR GUESTS

Susan Harlow

Ms. Harlow has been a professional entertainer since the 1980's and has worked with many local musicians and bands in the San Francisco Bay Area. She is a DJ (Disc Jockey) for all styles or age of music, KJ (Karaoke Jockey) with over 6,000 quality songs to choose from of all styles and ages, and lead vocalist for "The Diehards," a local six-piece classic rock band. Ms. Harlow owns and operates Susan Harlow Blended (SHB) Enterprises.

Afi Tiombe Kambon

Ms. Kambon has developed one-woman productions based on twenty years of research into her cultural heritage and slave history. Her pieces are both historical and contemporary. Ms. Kambon has

chosen to keep her technical requirements to a minimum to dramatize the importance of the words and sounds of her performance.

Oakland Interfaith Youth Gospel Choir

Founded in August 1997 and currently under the direction of Terrance Kelly, the Oakland Interfaith Youth Gospel Choir (OIYGC) welcomes youth ages 13 – 18 of all ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds. Its mission is to bring a message of faith, hope, love and joy; exemplify the principals of equality, justice, peace, unity and cooperation; and to serve as a model for what is possible among all peoples. OIYGC participates in many youth-oriented conferences and gatherings, self-produced annual events such as the Spring N2 Praize concert, and diverse community events.

Councilwoman Jean Quan

The first Asian American woman to be elected to the Oakland City Council, Councilwoman Quan represents Oakland's District 4. She helped re-establish the City Education Partnership Committee and has been a member for most of the last ten years, improving City-Schools collaborations. She was one of the first Asian Americans elected to the Oakland Unified School District Board of Education and was past president. As a Board member, she led many education reform efforts and youth issues continue to be a primary focus of her work.

Cristina Rubke

Ms. Rubke is an associate at Shartsis Friese LLP in San Francisco, where she focuses on business litigation. She is part of the Bar Association of San Francisco's delegation to the Conference of Delegates of California Bar Associations, where she is an active member of the Executive Committee and Disability Rights Committee. Ms. Rubke is a current board member of Disability Rights Advocates (DRA) and the Bay Area Association of Disabled

Sailors. Ms. Rubke graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 2001 with a degree in English and received her law degree from Santa Clara University in 2004.

INFORMATION FAIR GUESTS

Cal State East Bay – Student Disability Resource Center

College Track

Department of Rehabilitation – Oakland

Peralta Colleges – Disabled Students Programs and Services

University of California, Berkeley – Disabled Students Program

The Oakland Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities and the ADA Programs Division would like to thank our sponsors for their donations and our supporters for their assistance in making the Youth In Action 2009 Ceremony possible.

SPONSORS

Institute for Applied Behavior Analysis (IABA-North)
U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Lee
Oakland City Councilwoman Jean Quan



SUPPORTERS

Center for Independent Living (CIL)
City of Oakland Department of Parks and Recreation

Graphic Design:
Carla Radosta, *City of Oakland Cultural Arts & Marketing*