

YOUTH IN ACTION

Celebrating Future Leaders of the Disability Community

Wednesday, October 29, 2008 Lake Merritt Sailboat House Oakland, California



Hosted by the City of Oakland Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities and Office of Parks and Recreation Inclusive Recreation Program

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.

MCPD, c/o ADA Programs Division
One Frank Ogawa Plaza, 3rd Floor, Oakland, CA 94612
Voice: 510-238-6919 • TTY: 510-238-2007

THE OAKLAND PARKS AND RECREATION INCLUSIVE RECREATION PROGRAM

The Oakland Parks and Recreation Inclusive Recreation Program provides inclusive recreational programs, classes, and activities for individuals of all ages. The Inclusive Recreation Program is committed to serving the Oakland community by providing recreational experiences, promoting health and wellness, fostering human development, and encouraging the growth of our City parks.

Scott Means, Recreation Supervisor Inclusion Services
7701 Krause Avenue, Oakland, CA 94605
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PROGRAM

Davin A. Thompson, Master of Ceremonies

6:00 PM	Welcome Lorraine Rosenblatt, MCPD Commissioner
6:05 PM	Dinner
6:30 PM	Vocal Arrangement by Jenny Hillebert
6:40 PM	Remarks by Cheri Blauwet
6:50 PM	Awards Celebration Petrina Alexander, MCPD Vice Chair
7:40 PM	Vocal Arrangement by Jenny Hillebert
7:50 PM	Closing Remarks Christine Calabrese, City ADA Coordinator



Oliver Albert, Oakland Technical High School

Oliver is a 12th grader volunteering for a second year in a row at Emerson Elementary to help 2nd grade students improve their reading and comprehension skills. He has also worked in their highly regarded after-school program for six months.

Americo Alejandre, College Preparatory & Architecture Academy

Americo has demonstrated leadership ability at the CPAA in the area of social justice through civil rights work. He is a tireless advocate for fair and humane legal policy for undocumented immigrants, and has collaborated with students at the Fremont Federation of High Schools, By Any Means Necessary (BAMN), and Youth Together. Americo previously traveled with OUSD teachers and others to Arizona where he helped stop an unjust and discriminatory proposal from becoming law. After his success in Arizona, Americo traveled through several other states, learning and lending a hand everywhere he went.

Helen Askew, Community Immersion Program

Helen has received a Certificate of Completion in Vocational Living Skills from the College of Alameda. She continues to pursue athletics at the College of Alameda and has worked to maintain a 3.6 GPA. She currently works as an assistant clerk.

Alyssa Finn Estrella, Oakland Aviation High School

Alyssa is recognized as an honest, outspoken, and respectful young woman. She exhibits leadership qualities through efficient methods and hard work. Alyssa also demonstrates a positive outlook on life.

Mary Glass, Community Immersion Program

Mary has received a Certificate of Completion in Vocational Living Skills from the College of Alameda, with a 3.0 GPA. She draws, dances, and is interested in theater. Mary performed a cheerleader dance for the 2007 Young Adult Graduation.

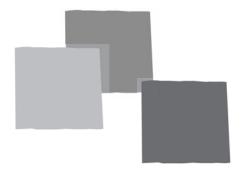


Beth Jones, Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (BORP)

Beth has participated in many sports, including track & field, wheelchair basketball, skiing, hand cycling, horseback riding and others. She shows an acute interest in participating in community events of all kinds. Going out of her way, Beth has helped coach BORP youth participants age 5-14. She plans to promote a wheelchair basketball event at her high school this year and is interested in becoming more active in disability rights issues.

Lashamane King, Community Immersion Program

Lashamane has completed courses in Vocational Living Skills from the College of Alameda. She continues to pursue dance and theater at the College of Alameda and Laney, while maintaining a 3.7 GPA. She designs costumes for theater performances and currently works as a Floor Assistant at Rainbow Clothing Co.





John Lavrentjev, California School for the Deaf

John is a student in the Career Technical Education program, working in food preparation, custodial services, and auto detailing classes. Last year, John worked at the Super Station Car Wash in Fremont and demonstrated how to work as a team with his hearing co-workers. He will help job coach another student employee at the car wash this year. John looks forward to getting his driver's license and to graduation.

Oscar Maldonado, Community Immersion Program

Oscar will be graduating from OUSD's Community Immersion Program where he was selected as this year's Young Adult Program Valedictorian. He has successfully acquired various job preparation skills and experiences by completing an intensive training course of study with Berkeley Adult School's Bread Project. He has also completed a series of job readiness workshops through Oakland's Workability Program. Oscar is bilingual and volunteers at various events in the Bay Area and at Dimond Library.



Sarah Marks, Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (BORP)

Sarah has been a standout athlete in several sports: track & field, wheelchair basketball, handcycling, and downhill skiing. She won multiple gold medals at national track meets and was chosen to be in the Paralympic Academy program which sent her to the 2006 Paralympics in Turin, Italy. Sarah also organized events at her high school in which the varsity basketball team was invited to compete against the BORP wheelchair basketball team. Sarah recently participated in Mobility International's disabled youth leadership development program in Costa Rica.

Allmon Matarrese, Skyline High School

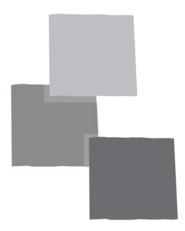
Allmon is very involved in his community: serving a monthly brunch at his family church, volunteering with Friends of Sausal Creek, and participating in Creek to Bay Day where he cleans up Oakland parks. He is also an athlete in a league of challenger baseball, sponsored by North Oakland Little League. Allmon is also a summer Counselor In Training (CIT).

Eugene McGee, Stepping Stones

Eugene has always been caring and nurturing to the younger students in the Stepping Stones program. He supports them by letting them know "it's okay" during periods of frustration. He also prepares snack for the younger students, ensuring that they are put first. Eugene is now a Junior Staff member at the program.

Latesha Royster, Hillside Academy

Latesha is an honor roll student who mentors younger students at Hillside Academy. She has held several jobs through Oakland's Workability Program and the Youth Employment Program, including working with the elderly. Latesha has also worked as a student poll worker and will once again work in the election on November 4th where she'll be voting for the first time.





Leah Shulgold-Albert, Family Resource Network

Leah is a member of the FRN Teen Group, which meets monthly for an evening of dance and activities. She has recruited a group of local student volunteers called Students Run Oakland to aid group meetings. Her voice helped the students understand the purpose of the Teen Group and the importance of volunteers in assisting with meeting activities.

Lucy Tyson, Center for Independent Living

Lucy has participated in several different CIL workshops. She has committed herself to other youth by offering job placement assistance. Lucy has a passion for animals as well as people and hopes someday to combine those two passions to perform social work and animal rescue.



ABOUT OUR GUESTS



Cheri Blauwet

A 2004 Paralympic Gold Medalist in wheelchair racing, Ms. Blauwet works to raise public awareness of the accomplishments of people with disabilities in work, sport and life. Most recently, she competed in the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing, China. Ms. Blauwet is a medical student at Stanford University.

Jenny Hillebert

A vocal savant with a four-octave range, Ms. Hillebert has been performing in public since the age of eight. She has attended Berkshire Hills Music Academy in Massachusetts.

Davin A. Thompson

A music and lyrics coach with Bay Area Video Coalition (BAVC) BUMP Program, Mr. Thompson has been the MC at Youth In Action for several years.



OUR SPONSORS

The Oakland Mayor's Commission on Persons with Disabilities (MCPD) and Office of Parks and Recreation Inclusive Recreation Program would like to thank our sponsors for their donations and assistance in making the Youth In Action 2008 Ceremony possible:

Grand Lake Theater
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Karen Hester, Hesternet Productions, www.hesternet.net

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