



2012 Annual Report



Leo M. Shortino
Family Foundation

A catalyst for the support of at-risk youth and their families
through education, healthy lifestyles and the arts



“
*(My students) have never seen anything like this.
 It ripped open their minds and let their imaginations loose.*
 4TH GRADE TEACHER | GALARZA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 ”



Letter from the Board

Dear Friends



Leo M. Shortino
Family Foundation

The Shortino Foundation's grantmaking continues to gain focus as the growing number of funding requests far outstrips our resources. We invest in high impact services that are consistent with our mission "to act as a catalyst for the support of at-risk youth and their families through education, healthy lifestyles and the arts." We focus our funding on Santa Clara County organizations that strengthen K-12 children's educational achievement, through academic, social, and emotional supports, as well as arts education.

Silicon Valley's vibrant economy and reputation for innovation attracts some of the most talented workers in the world. The Shortino Foundation is committed to creating a pathway for our local students, particularly those whose families lack education and resources, to access the exciting career opportunities right here at home. We have deepened our relationships with organizations that have adopted best practices and initiated steps toward a collective impact model, characterized by cross-sector collaboration, integrated services and a common set of measurable goals including:

- Percentage of students achieving proficient and advanced scores on California Standards Tests
- Percentage of students successfully completing algebra by 8th grade
- Percentage of high school students completing A-G coursework required to attend California State Universities.

The Shortino Foundation played a part, as cheerleader, funder and convener in several promising initiatives featured in this report.

- **City Year/Alum Rock School District** – integrating in-school curriculum with after-school programs for all 6th grade students at Fischer and Mathson Middle Schools
- **RAFT and Youth Science Institute** – sequential science curriculum and field trips for all 4th–7th grade students at Ocala Middle and three feeder elementary schools.
- **Symphony Silicon Valley** – in collaboration with 1stACT, the ArtSPARK program introduced 17,000 elementary school students to multiple performing and visual arts events presented by local arts organizations
- **School of Arts and Culture** – a public/private partnership rejuvenating the Mexican Heritage Plaza and creating a center for multi-cultural arts education and community events in East San Jose

As our investments continue in targeted communities, our involvement with nonprofit service providers and education agencies has developed into partnerships in which we share ideas, broker partnerships and invite additional funders to support the successful work.

We look forward to sharing with you the growing success of these and other vibrant initiatives.

Sincerely,

Gary T. Shara
Chairman of the Board

Elaine Curran
Executive Director



LEO M. SHORTINO FAMILY FOUNDATION Board of Directors

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Connecting the Community

Education

City Year: Extending Opportunities

The transition from elementary to middle school is often characterized by a marked decline in achievement, particularly for low-income students, as they grapple with the increasingly challenging class structure and academic expectations. Over the past five years, the Alum Rock School District (ARUSD) has substantially improved elementary school performance while the middle schools have lagged behind. In 2012 the District developed an extended day program specifically to bridge the critical elementary-to-middle school transition, expanding its successful partnership with City Year, a non-profit whose Corps Members tutor, mentor, and serve as role models. Nearly all of the 300+ sixth-grade students at Mathson and Fischer Middle Schools were enrolled.

The highly structured model included 500 hours of academic programming taught by credentialed teachers and City Year Corps Members, 17-24 year-olds who devote 10 months to supporting at-risk students. The School District staffs aligned the in-school and after-school instructional programs, trained City Year Corps Members in teaching strategies and instructional planning,



City Year Corps Member and one of her students

and tutored students with the greatest educational challenges. Students received numerous services: small group and 1:1 literacy support; technology-based individualized math instruction aimed at algebra readiness; “Project Based Learning” to build students’ critical thinking and problem solving skills; and a “Bridge Block” designed to prepare students to take ownership for their education through character development and college readiness.

The focus of the program was to significantly increase the number of students meeting grade level standards and achieving proficiency on standardized tests. Program performance was measured by attendance, student grades, and standardized tests, including two mid-year assessments and the end-of-year STAR tests. The program has shown promising results, particularly at Fischer Middle School, with over 80% of participating students achieving a B or better in the first quarter, and attendance rates averaging 90%. Early assessments showed a dramatic decrease in students in the two schools performing at the lowest levels: a 50% drop in Math and a 30% drop in Literacy.

Other highlights included a “Night of Extraordinary Student Work” in which students presented their “Project Based Learning” work to over 200 students, family members, and school staff.



A happy group showing off their Certificates of Completion

Youth Science Institute and Resource Area For Teachers: Taking Science Education Out of the Book

Testing floating compasses. Building solar ovens. Dissecting owl pellets. These are just a few of the hands-on, inquiry based science projects that nearly 1,500 Alum Rock District students experienced in 2012. This innovative science education collaboration led by the Youth Science Institute (YSI) and Resource Area For Teachers (RAFT) offered every 4th through 7th grade students an in-depth, standards-based science activities consistent across all four schools in the “Ocala Cluster” – Ocala Middle and Cassell, Rogers, and Ryan Elementary Schools.

California public school students often enter middle school unprepared in Science. As few as 10% of California public elementary school students regularly experience high-quality science curriculum, particularly hands-on projects. The content and frequency of science educations varies widely from class-to-class and across grade levels, particularly in low-income districts such as Alum Rock. As a result, most students are not adequately prepared to take the high school lab sciences that are part of a college preparatory curriculum.

YSI and RAFT engaged the four school principals and **Walden West**, another leader in hands-on science, to ensure that every student received high quality science education. Together, they developed a rich, standards-based program aligned across grade

levels and consistent across schools. RAFT’s teacher training and “Activity Kits” complemented YSI’s field trips to Alum Rock Park and Walden West. RAFT taught teachers effective, practical, and accessible strategies for engaging students, providing kits designed to match the curriculum. Students participated in interactive experiences such as “Electricity and Magnetism,” “Animals and their Adaptations,” and “Roots, Shoots, Seeds, and Leaves.” YSI’s and Walden West’s outdoor settings offered students – many of whom who have had very limited exposure to the natural environment – to take nature hikes and interact with live animals. All lessons incorporated “21st century skills” of collaboration, creativity, and communication, with students working together in the classroom, brainstorming ideas, and describing what they learned about being respectful stewards of their environment. In 2013-14 the partnership is expanding to include modules on sustainability and green technology.

Together YSI and RAFT evaluate student learning and teacher skill development. Evaluation results are encouraging: students showed an increase of up to 50% in academic understanding of science concepts. Standardized test scores in Science have also risen at three out of four schools between 2010 and 2012, with Ryan Elementary’s percentage of students scoring “Proficient” or “Advanced” jumping from 33% to 64%.



Connecting the Community

Arts

School of Arts and Culture: Unleashing Multicultural Creativity

If you have recently wandered into the Mexican Heritage Plaza, you might have been drawn in by the sound of children playing Mariachi music or beating West African drums. Or you might have seen children painting murals or creating Mexican crafts. Welcome to the School of Arts and Culture!

Recently completing its second year of operation, SAC is hitting its stride. Following an extensive community assessment of potential uses for the struggling facility, in 2011 the City of San Jose turned over operation to 1stACT Silicon Valley to launch the School of Arts and Culture.

SAC has transformed the underutilized facility into a hub of community activity in the low-income Mayfair Neighborhood. It recently became an independent nonprofit organization. The centerpiece of the facility is multicultural arts education for K-12 youth, complemented by a variety of community events and programs. Responding to the limited means of the Mayfair families, class fees are highly subsidized, enabling students who would otherwise not have access to the arts to participate. Course themes for summer day camps and afterschool classes are rooted in Mexican and other cultures' arts, reflecting the rich diversity of Silicon Valley. Performing arts classes include Mariachi instrumental and voice instruction, Folklorico, Aztec dance, Samba, Reggae, Brazilian Dance, Hip-Hop/Break dancing, and West African hand drumming. Visual arts opportunities are also plentiful, offering sculpture, watercolor, mural making, paper maché and Mexican crafts.



Summer Camp students hard at work creating Aztec-style headdresses

Parents and other community members have expressed the appreciation for the new opportunities for their children:



For me as a parent, the classes and camps at the School are a way to conserve our culture, to have my three sons involved in a positive activity, especially during the summer. ...

I observe the children being able to have more tolerance for other cultures because of these types of activities.

— Parent, Mayfair Community



SAC partners with over 20 local arts and community agencies providing the dual benefit of ensuring community access to a wide variety of arts and providing affordable venues to arts organizations, drawing audiences from across the region. Among SAC partners are **Teatro Visión**, **Los Lupeños de San Jose**, **San Jose Museum of Art**, **Mariachi Azteca**, **Symphony Silicon Valley**, **Future Arts Now** and **Opera Cultura**. As SAC gains visibility and a reputation for high quality inclusive arts, use of the Center has grown commensurately, growing from 280 children receiving arts instruction in 2011 to 578 in 2012.

Deepening their connection with the neighborhood children, SAC also partners with a growing number of local schools and community organizations providing arts instruction, conducting presentations during assemblies and providing venues for schools to hold their assemblies.

Symphony Silicon Valley: Sparking a Love of Art

Imagine seeing *A Christmas Carol* at the San Jose Repertory Theatre in the morning, and the Firebird Chinese Youth Orchestra in the afternoon, or the Symphony Silicon Valley followed by San Jose Taiko drummers. Over 17,000 Santa Clara County 3rd and 4th grade students had that chance during the 2011-12 school year, thanks to ArtSPARKsv, a part of 1stACT Silicon Valley's Children's Creativity Network. Administered by Symphony Silicon Valley and delivered by a range of arts groups, ArtSPARKsv exposes children to high-quality visual and performing arts programs that highlight our community's diversity. ArtSPARKsv's goal is to serve every 3rd through 6th grader in the county, offering all children the opportunity for multiple "aha!" arts encounters that inspire future engagement and promote a shared cultural vocabulary.

Shaped by the observation by arts providers that their outreach programs have limited reach—with the same small group of schools and teachers attending year after year—ArtSPARKsv removes the barriers to participation, dramatically increasing the number of children accessing the arts. Teachers no longer have to organize and raise money for field trips. Symphony Silicon Valley plans, schedules, and coordinates the paired events with schools and school districts, and contracts with artists, venues, and bus companies—all at no cost to the schools.

Programs such as ArtSPARKsv are a welcome enrichment opportunity for students. Of the 155 schools participating in 2011-12, 39% reported

having no in-school arts program. For many of the students, ArtSPARKsv provided their first experience at a professional arts exhibition. As a Mercury News reporter so wisely observed:

“

It's better than a two-for-one; thanks to donors and the fledgling ArtSPARK program, it's two-for-none: Schools don't pay for the concerts or the buses.

— San Jose Mercury News

”

Student and teacher surveys and focus groups were very positive, providing valuable feedback to strengthen the program structure and content. Among improvements in 2012-13, ArtSPARKsv created a website for teachers, who can now easily access Study Guides and logistical information whenever they wish.

The program continued to scale up in 2012-13, expanding the number of 3rd and 4th graders, and adding 5th graders, who experienced world dance, music, and/or visual arts at Montalvo Arts Center, the Mexican Heritage Theatre, and the San Jose Museum of Art. The total number of students served by ArtSPARKsv nearly doubled in its second year, to 33,000.



A day at the theater for ArtSPARKsv students



Kids try their hand at drumming

Financial Statements

Fiscal Year 2012

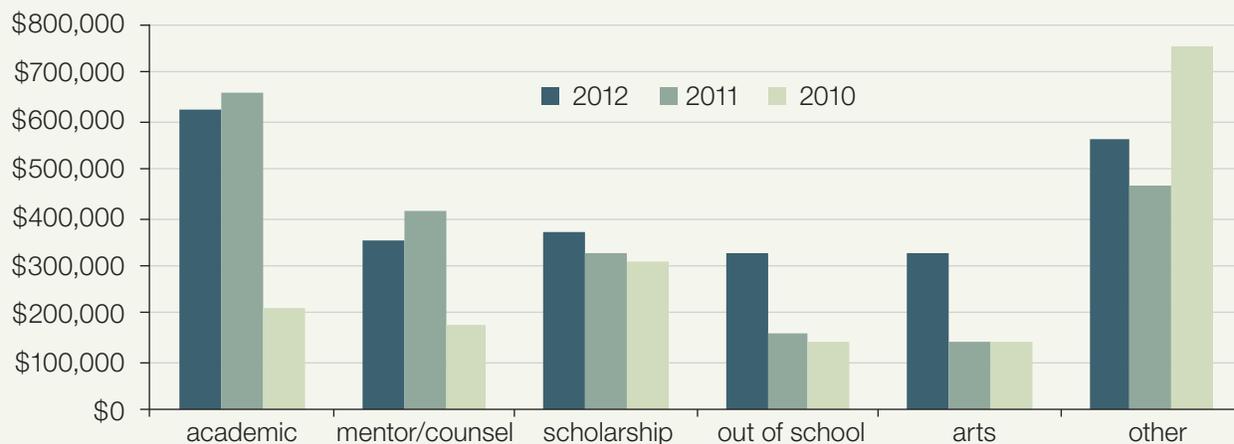
Statement of Financial Position

	December 31, 2012	December 31, 2011
ASSETS		
Total Assets	\$46,989,173	\$45,884,185
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Grants and Other Payables	\$594,350	\$481,702
Net Assets, Unrestricted	\$ 46,394,823	\$45,402,483
Total Liabilities and net assets	\$46,989,173	\$45,884,185

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

REVENUE AND SUPPORT		
Net Investment Income	\$3,414,021	(\$686,844)
EXPENSES		
Grants Awarded	\$2,202,823	\$1,860,102
Management and General	\$218,858	\$255,545
Total Expenses	\$2,421,681	\$2,115,647
Change in net assets	\$992,340	(\$2,802,491)

Annual Funding by Program Area, 2010–2012



Grant Recipients

ACE Charter Schools

AchieveKids

ALearn

Alum Rock Counseling Center

Alum Rock School District

Archbishop Mitty High School

Arts Council Silicon Valley

Bay Area Women's Sports Initiative

Bellarmino College Prep

Boys and Girls Club of Silicon Valley

Breakthrough Silicon Valley

Bring Me A Book Foundation

California Community Partners for Youth

Child Advocates of Silicon Valley

Children's Musical Theater San Jose

City Year

Cleo Eulau Center

Community Health Awareness Council

Community School of Music Art

Downtown College Prep

Employer School Council

EMQ Families First

Family Supportive Housing

Foothill DeAnza Foundation

Fresh Lifelines for Youth

Girl Scouts of Northern California

Grail Family Services

Guadalupe River Park Conservancy

Hammer Montessori Foundation

Happy Hollow Foundation

Industry Initiatives for Science & Math Education

InnVision Shelter Network

Jesuits of the California Province

JustREAD

Kiwanis Club of San Jose Foundation

Mountain View-Los Altos Community Scholars

MOUSE Squad of California

Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana

Music for Minors

Notre Dame High School

Opera San Jose

Partners in School Innovation

Peninsula College Fund

Presentation High School

Rotary Club of San Jose Foundation

Sacred Heart Nativity School

Salvation Army

San Francisco Shakespeare Festival

San Jose Downtown Foundation

San Jose Jazz

San Jose Repertory Theater

School Health Clinics of Santa Clara County

School of Arts & Culture at Mexican Heritage Plaza

Silicon Valley Children's Fund

Silicon Valley Education Foundation

Silicon Valley FACES

Somos Mayfair

Symphony Silicon Valley

Tech Museum

TeenForce

The Beat Within

Third Street Community Center

Veggielution

Via Services

Willow Glen High School

YMCA of Silicon Valley

YWCA of Silicon Valley



Leo M. Shortino
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