

District Grant Report

Rotary Club: Irvine
Project Title: Bringing Books to Life

Progress Report Final Report

1. Briefly describe the project. What was done, when and where did project activities take place, and who were the beneficiaries?

Irvine Rotary supported four performances of Laguna Playhouse's Theatre Reach / Bringing Books to Life program in Irvine Schools. Approximately 700 children in Title 1 schools were inspired to read curriculum required books and to better comprehend what they have read. The program provided exposure to live theatre to children who might otherwise not have had access to this enriching experience. Performances took place on the following dates, at the following locations.

Charlotte's Web
3/24 – 1245pm - Culverdale, Irvine

By The Great Horn Spoon
4/27 - 11am - Vista Verde, Irvine
5/1 - 1245pm - Turtle Rock, Irvine
5/12 - 1:15pm - Oak Creek, Irvine

2. How many Rotarians participated in the project?

11

3. What did they do? Please give at least two examples.

Rotarians coordinated the program with the playhouse and arranged for other Rotarians to attend performances for purposes of interacting and inspiring students to focus on education and literacy. Rotarians also shared the project with the press and presented a related award to the playhouse on opening night of Laguna Playhouse's The Wizard of Oz youth theatre performance.

4. How many non-Rotarians benefited from this project?

About 700 Irvine elementary school students plus other guests

5. What are the expected long-term community impacts of the project?

Because of the aggregate impact of this programs and other touchpoints in these children's lives, the children should be more engaged in reading curriculum. Reading improves vocabulary, memory, analytical thinking skills focus and concentration, develops better writing skills, reduces stress in personal relationships and can slow the progress of Alzheimer's and Dementia.

6. If a cooperating organization was involved, what was its role?

Laguna Playhouse provided financing of educational personnel, actors, transportation, and royalty costs. This grant provided for artistic materials and study and activity guides. Note: the original grant was written to cover costs of three performances. The RC of Irvine increased its initially planned contribution of \$1,500 to \$2,000 to support an additional performance.

Financial Report – Be sure that Income equals Expenditures!

7. Income	Amount
1. District Grant funds approved by the District	\$1,500
2. Club contribution	\$2,000
3. Other funding (specify)	
Total Project Income	\$3,500

8. Expenditures - please be specific and add lines as needed - receipts must be attached

1. Invoice from Laguna Playhouse for Artistic Materials and Student Study Guides	\$3,500
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
Total Project Expenditures	\$3,500

9. By signing this report, I confirm that to the best of my knowledge these District Grant funds were spent only for eligible items in accordance with Trustee-approved guidelines, and that all of the information contained herein is true and accurate. Receipts for all grant-funded expenditures have been provided to the district. I also understand that all photographs submitted in connection with this report will become the property of RI and will not be returned. I warrant that I own all rights in the photographs, including copyright, and hereby grant RI and TRF a royalty free irrevocable license to use the photographs now or at any time in the future, throughout the world in any manner it so chooses and in any medium now known or later developed. This includes the right to modify the photograph(s) as necessary in RI's sole discretion. This also includes, without limitation, use on or in the web sites, magazines, brochures, pamphlets, exhibitions and any other promotional materials of RI and TRF.

Certifying Signature

_____ Date: 5/12/2017

Print name, Rotary title, and club

Ray Benedicktus, President, RC Irvine

Photos





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NEWS

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ROTARY CLUB OF IRVINE SPONSORING FOUR SCHOOL PERFORMANCES OF LAGUNA PLAYHOUSE'S SPRING 2017 THEATRE REACH TOUR TO IRVINE SCHOOLS

Laguna Beach, CA April 5, 2017... The Rotary Club of Irvine is providing \$3,500 underwriting support to Laguna Playhouse's *TheatreReach: Bringing Books to Life!* performances in four Irvine elementary schools during the Spring March/ April 2017 tour of *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White and April/May 2017 tour of *By The Great Horn Spoon!*, the popular children's classic about the California Gold Rush, according to Ray Benedicktus, Irvine Rotary Club President.

"We are delighted to provide funding for Arts Access for Youth via a grant in support of these performances. Community service and improving the quality of life within our community is the heartbeat of Rotary." Approximately 20 fourth grade classes from Vista Verde, Culverdale, Turtle Rock and Oak Creek Elementary Schools, many who would otherwise not have the opportunity to experience live theatre, will attend these performances," added Benedicktus.

Donna Inglima, Director of Youth Education Programs at The Laguna Playhouse, explains "the goal of *TheatreReach* is to bring core curriculum books to life, enriching student literature comprehension and reading skills as well as provide early exposure to live theatre for children who might not otherwise have access to this enriching experience. "

TheatreReach: Bringing Books to Life! is Orange County's longest running, most successful literature and curriculum-based, professional theatre touring program. It provides literacy support for thousands of elementary school children – in their schools - through tours of plays adapted from required books in the California State curriculum. *TheatreReach* is a unique and valuable resource for teaching California State Content Standards in history, literature and language. Approximately 6,000 students will enjoy a performance this year.

Inglima explains that *TheatreReach* tours an hour-long one-act play of core-curriculum required literature. It uses professional actors, sets, costumes, props and sound equipment. An extensive "Study and Activities Guide," is sent to teachers prior to each performance. It includes lesson plans, activities for students both before and after reading the book, facts about the author, vocabulary support activities, as well as book report ideas and research activities. A supplement focuses on drama and acting activities that may be incorporated into classroom lessons. The performances are often scheduled to tie into completion of the literature units, thereby deepening comprehension and critical thinking skills.

Inglima adds, "We are grateful to have corporate, foundation and individual donors supporting this valuable program including: Angels Baseball Foundation, The Allergan Foundation, Lloyd & Laretta Dyer Family Foundation, Ueberroth Family Foundation, US Bank, William Gillespie Foundation, Southern California Edison, Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation, Ebell Club of Laguna Beach, Rotary Club of Laguna Niguel, Monarch Beach Sunrise Rotary Club, Assistance League of Laguna Beach, Pacific Life Foundation, Jamie Walters El-Erian and Mohammed El-Erian, and Bobbi Cox."

TheatreReach was developed to address a need posed by ongoing federal and state cuts to educational budgets in public schools. Whenever possible, it targets Title I schools to reach low-income children who lack access to the arts. The Laguna Playhouse is the only Southern California theatre offering a program that links literature and history in curriculum-centered plays for schools. Live theatre helps a young person develop visualization skills, strengthens language and stimulates creativity – all essential in the process of learning to read. These skills are especially critical for students with learning disabilities and English learners.

“By promoting literacy and interest in the arts, *TheatreReach* advances the creative and learning capacity of children in our community, which – as studies show – lead to greater personal and academic success,” says Inglima.



ABOUT LAGUNA PLAYHOUSE

Founded in 1920, the historic Laguna Playhouse is one of the oldest continuously-operating not-for-profit theatres on the West Coast and is proud to be an active participant in the celebrated Laguna Beach arts community. From classic plays and musical comedies to the current off-Broadway smash, cutting edge and traditional music exhibitions, dance festivals and stand-up comedy performances, Laguna Playhouse brings the magical experience of the performing arts direct to over 80,000 patrons each season. Laguna Playhouse has been recognized as “Best in OC” in *Orange County Register* in the category of Live Theatre.

Laguna Playhouse educational programming includes year-round classes, productions by and for children and teens (Youth Theatre) and is one of the few companies in the region that offer a curriculum-based professional theatre-touring program, TheatreReach, which aligns with the California State Standards for literature, history and performing arts curriculum.

Laguna Playhouse has been recognized in 2017, 2016 and 2015 as one of *Orange County Register's* “Best of OC” in the category of Live Theatre. The Playhouse has featured many talented performers on stage, including Ed Asner, Leslie Caron, Hershey Felder, Harrison Ford, Val Kilmer, Dan Lauria, Wendie Malick, Rita Rudner, Charles Shaughnessy, Loretta Swit, and Bette Davis.

Learn What’s Going On at www.lagunaplayhouse.com.

ABOUT THE ROTARY CLUB OF IRVINE

Rotary brings together a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world’s most pressing humanitarian challenges. Rotary connects 1.2 million members of more than 34,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas. Founded in 1991, the Rotary Club of Irvine impacts lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in our own communities to working toward a polio-free world. For more information, visit IrvineRotary.org.

To schedule press interviews, photos or for additional information, please contact David Elzer/DEMAND PR at 818.508.1754 or by e-mail at davidelzer@me.com.

INVOICE



April 5, 2017

Mr. Ray Benedictus, President
Irvine Rotary Club
Irvine, CA

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Theatre Reach: Bringing Books to Life	<u>\$3,500 PAID</u>
Spring 2017 Irvine Schools performances	
Artistic Materials	\$2,925
Student Study & Activity Guides	\$ 575

Laguna Playhouse is a 501 c (3) nonprofit California corporation.
No goods or services were received for your contribution. Our Federal tax ID is: 95-1509841

Thank you for your support!

Moulton Theatre
LAGUNA PLAYHOUSE
606 Laguna Canyon Road
Laguna Beach, CA 92651
(949) 497-ARTS (2787)
Lagunaplayhouse.com

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