

WITH LOVE & GRATITUDE TO
THOSE WHO GIVE

20GEFFEN
PLAYHOUSE

HOW YOUR GENEROSITY TO THE **20**GEFFEN
PLAYHOUSE
BROUGHT HOPE, JOY, UNDERSTANDING & MORE
TO CHILDREN AND ADULTS IN NEED.

PICTURED ON THE COVER IS MACARTHUR GENIUS AND PLAYWRIGHT, TARELL ALVIN MCCRANEY, AT THE GEFFEN DURING OUR PRODUCTION OF *CHOIR BOY*— A PLAY THAT HAD A HUGE AND LASTING IMPACT ON AUDIENCES, INCLUDING THE YOUTH WHO WERE ABLE TO SEE IT THROUGH YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY.



THE DIFFERENCE
YOU MADE TO
YOUTH

“ TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD, WE NEED TO
REPLACE THE PATCHWORK OF LUCKY BREAKS
AND ARBITRARY ADVANTAGES THAT TODAY
DETERMINE SUCCESS . . . WITH A SOCIETY
THAT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL. ”

—MALCOLM GLADWELL

JOURNALIST AND AUTHOR OF *THE TIPPING POINT*

AND FOUR OTHER BEST-SELLING BOOKS



THANK YOU
FOR GIVING YOUTH
FROM LOS ANGELES' MOST
UNDER-SERVED COMMUNITIES
THE OPPORTUNITY TO
EXPERIENCE LIVE THEATER
AND TO WORK WITH
WORLD-CLASS ARTISTS WHO
INSPIRED AND EDUCATED THEM
LIKE NOTHING ELSE CAN

**YOUTH SERVED THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY
TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM
THIS PAST YEAR WERE FROM COMMUNITIES WHERE
MORE THAN 70% OF THE
FAMILIES ARE LIVING IN POVERTY
AND WHERE YOUTH ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE
ADVERSELY IMPACTED BY:**

HOUSING INSECURITY

LOW LEVELS OF EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AMONG THE ADULTS IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS

THE GREATER LIKELIHOOD OF BEING A VICTIM OF CRIME

SCHOOLS THAT ARE SEVERELY UNDER-RESOURCED



THESE YOUTH GAINED
NOT A ONE-OFF
FIELD TRIP
TO SEE A PLAY.

THEY EXPERIENCED
A SEASON
OF THEATER
INTERTWINED WITH
MAJOR CLASS TIME
WITH GEFEN ARTISTS:

AN IMMERSIVE ADVENTURE THAT
96% OF THE STUDENTS SAID
CHANGED THEIR LIVES



What the youth would like you to know:

“ This program made a big difference to me because I started seeing things in a whole other way. It made a big difference in how I see the world. Thank you. ”

—10th grader from Jordan High School, Watts, South Los Angeles





“ I really appreciate that people outside of our community took the time to help us experience something we have never experienced before. ”

—10th grader from Roosevelt Senior High School, Boyle Heights, East Los Angeles

“ I liked the differences between each play. We saw so many choices and different perspectives. I appreciate how theater can open up your mind in a lot of ways. It showed me how to think outside the box. It made me think about attending UCLA. ”

—10th grader from Jordan High School, Watts, South Los Angeles

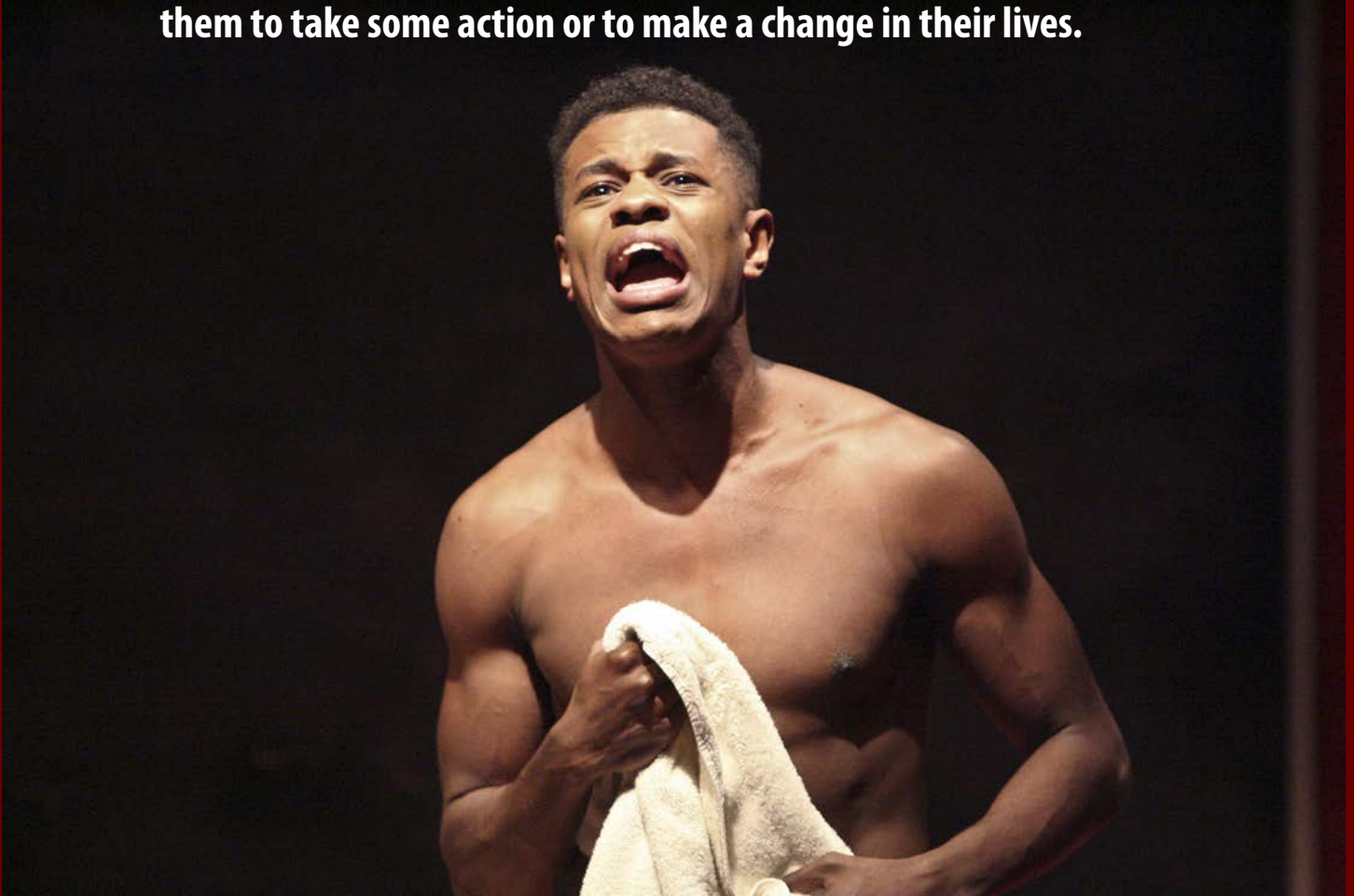
Your donation to the Geffen Playhouse High School Partnerships Program yielded this:

-  51% of students said that being in the program inspired them to attend college.
-  55% of students said they were able to focus more deeply on doing well in school as a result of being part of this program.
-  74% of students reported that being in this program helped them improve their imaginations and creative skills.
-  100% of the students would like to participate in the program again.



96% of the students said seeing the plays had a profound impact on them.

➡ **93% of the youth who saw *Choir Boy* said the performance spurred them to take some action or to make a change in their lives.**



“ *Choir Boy* was a very spiritual play that engrossed me. It made me re-think all of the jokes that I tell because now I know that they may hurt others’ feelings. ”

—12th grader from Westchester High School

“ *Choir Boy* got me to reflect on my self and on my actions. It inspired me to be a better person. ”

—10th grader from Roosevelt Senior High School, Boyle Heights, East Los Angeles

“ From *Choir Boy* I learned to not judge people before actually getting to know them. I learned that it is never too late. ”

—10th grader from Jordan High School, Watts, South Los Angeles

 **95% of the youth who saw *Choir Boy* said the play and performance would leave a lasting impression on them.**



“ I will talk about this play for the rest of my life. ”

—11th grader, Santee Education Complex (High School), South Los Angeles




79% of students said that seeing plays and working with Geffen teaching artists helped them see things differently and gave them a wider, better perspective on their school and/or family life.



“ After seeing *The Power of Duff*, I realized I don’t always treat my mom as well as I should. The play opened my eyes about a lot of things. ”


—10th grader, Jordan High School, Watts



→ **91% of the youth said that they loved learning history through the Geffen's production of *Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin*.**

“ This program matters because these students matter. Their opinions, their philosophies, their understanding of our world and their place in it matters. ”

—Kristina Leach, Geffen Teaching Artist



➡ **100% of teachers reported that their students gained confidence in how to access and communicate their ideas through the program.**

“ From seeing the plays and working with the Teaching Artists, I learned not to be shy and how to express myself. ”

—10th grader, Westchester High School

“ One of my favorite examples of the impact this program has on students is about a boy. He was not invested when we first came to his class. He didn't want to listen. He even wore his earphones while I taught (until I asked him to take them out). By the end of class, I was able to get a couple of responses out of him, but for the most part I'm pretty sure he was seriously annoyed by me. Then, he came to the student matinee of a play and I watched him. I was sitting behind him and I recognized his posture. Before the play started, he was totally closed off. The play began. Slowly, his arms uncrossed, his shoulders relaxed and by the time the show ended, he was leaning forward in his seat completely engrossed. When the actors came out for the curtain call, he led the standing ovation.”

— Kristina Leach, Geffen Playhouse Teaching Artist



“ Who knows who is sitting in an audience at any given student matinee? Perhaps a future Lynn Nottage, Tarell Alvin McCraney or Moises Kaufman? We don't know . . . but the more we give them the opportunity to experience theater, the better our odds. ” — Kristina Leach, Geffen Playhouse Teaching Artist



**99% of the youth stated that the performers were very responsive to them/
to the student audiences.**

An artist reflects on the students' participation:

“ Theatre artists are addicts. Every one of us is addicted to the connection, collaboration and community of the work that we do. Unfortunately, even the best of us can sometimes become desensitized to the power of the theatre. Programs like the High School Partnerships Program at the Geffen remind us of that power. The energy, enthusiasm and earnest nature of the student audiences are more inspiring than the wealthiest donors, the highest intellectuals or the most powerful critics that often populate the seats of dark auditoriums. We theatre artists are indebted to programs such as these, and it was my absolute pleasure to be a recipient of that gift at the Geffen Playhouse. ”

—*Maurice Williams, actor who starred in The Power of Duff*

What their teachers would like you to know:

“ I cannot imagine my students not being a part of this powerful program — a program that truly enhances what we’re trying to do with students in class on a daily basis.

The mere idea of them going to the Geffen completely changes how they view themselves. Students go from wearing baggy jeans and t-shirts to putting on button-down shirts and ties for their trips to the Geffen Playhouse.

The whole experience of attending student matinees and being part of the Teaching Artist workshops really elevates students' expectations of themselves and what they're capable of. It is all really inspiring to them. Thank you to all of the donors who make the Geffen's High School Partnerships Program possible! ”

—Cassandra McGrath, Teacher, Roosevelt Senior High School, Boyle Heights





The cast of Choir Boy greets the students after the matinee and poses for a photograph with the overjoyed students.



*Geffen Education Director, Jennifer Zakkai,
leads a Talk Back for the high school students
with the cast of Choir Boy*



Our partnership with the Geffen Playhouse over the last five years has been a tremendous opportunity for the students. Most of our students have never seen a professional production, especially of the caliber of the Geffen. **It has opened their hearts and minds** to a new art form and has provoked spirited discussions.

The Geffen Teaching Artists provide excellent background and context for the students before the show, and an opportunity after to get student feedback and answer questions.

To get students to think and be active participants is one of the many excellent benefits of the wonderful, generous program. ”

—*Jim Pentecost, Teacher, Santee Education Complex, South Los Angeles*

“ Our students come from an area in which schools have been labeled as low-performing for decades, and historically, they haven’t had much access to arts opportunities.

Our students benefit from added English Language Arts instruction, especially around reading comprehension, writing and critical thinking. Their biggest needs however are social and emotional. Tenth grade in particular is a very transitional year. The Geffen Playhouse High School Partnerships Program has helped our 10th graders come out of their shells to restore their confidence. This program utilizes plays from the Geffen stage as launching pads for students’ artistic projects and creativity, helping students become more collaborative and challenging them to be critical thinkers. It’s our duty to help and inspire these students, and the Geffen Playhouse has stepped up to the challenge. I’ve never worked with a partner like the Geffen, which goes as far as inviting us out to dinner to hear our thoughts about students’ needs and the needs of our school community. **We’ve never had an artistic partnership like this before and cannot thank the Geffen and its donors enough for their ongoing commitment to our students.**”

—Carlos A. Montes, Principal, Jordan High School, Watts



Playhouse
Geffen

GEFFEN
PLAYHOUSE

CHOIR BOY

VOLLISTA

THANK YOU for improving the lives and futures of high school youth who have little or no access to the arts and who are living in some of Los Angeles' most discouraging and limiting communities. **YOUR GENEROSITY CHANGED LIVES AND FUTURES.**



THE DIFFERENCE
YOU MADE TO
YOUNG
CHILDREN





**The Geffen Playhouse Story Pirates Residency Program
for Youth Served in Title 1 Elementary Schools**

THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY, CHILDREN ATTENDING ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN HIGH POVERTY AREAS OF LOS ANGELES GAINED THIS:



The opportunity to work year-round in their classrooms with highly inspiring and gifted teaching artists (Geffen Playhouse Story Pirates) who ignite their language arts skills and creativity by teaching writing and story-telling concepts through theater.



The opportunity to feel successful as writers, often for the first time in their lives.



The opportunity to see their stories come alive on stage through performances by the Story Pirates (who steal their stories and act them out in front of the whole school, either at their school or at the Geffen).



The opportunity to see themselves as creative, entertaining, and capable contributors of ideas, stories, and more.



The opportunity to develop a life-long foundation for and appreciation of writing, the arts, creativity, and more.

What their teachers would like you to know:

“ The Geffen Playhouse Story Pirates are **role models of what it takes to reach students** and engage them in writing. Their engaging, entertaining style brings fun and joy to instruction and reminds me to always keep this in mind when I create *any* lesson.”

“ I had a room full of reluctant writers. Despite my repeated attempts to change that fact, I was frustrated with the results. But this program was absolutely perfect. **My students showed an immediate attitude change about writing** that translated to not only better motivation, but also better paragraph construction. ”

“ Their energy and excitement in the classroom encourages my students to become a part of the process. Almost every child in my class reported that writing was now their favorite subject! ”



“ The way this program gives the students an experience of writing as fun and within their reach is brilliant. ”

—Teacher, Toluca Lake Elementary School, Los Angeles



“ I cannot begin to tell you how impressed I am with this program and with the individuals who were assigned to work with our students. I cannot thank you enough for this wonderful, incredible program. ”

—Patrizia Puccio, Principal, Pinewood Elementary School, Tujunga

More to you from their teachers and principals:

“ This is the single best program available to students. It provided a wonderful forum for imaginative writing and risk taking. I cannot thank you enough for what this program does for our students! ”

“ I saw an increase in student independence with writing. They were more willing to persevere with writing and take risks. ”

“ Each time that the Geffen Playhouse Story Pirates come to our class throughout the year, I feel reinvigorated. They provide excitement and inspiration that fuels me to extend my lessons and make them more meaningful and effective. ”

“ This program is an excellent way to implement the Common Core Standards with effective strategies encouraging student participation and achievement. ”

“ Students expressed a clearer understanding that writing isn't just a way to describe observations, but a way to express their emotions and opinions about what they observe. **They liked having permission to express ideas in humorous, explosive, or unconventional ways.** For example, when recording dialogue of a character, it doesn't have to be done with conventional spelling. The character could be saying, "ooky, eeky." ”

“ My attendance increased during the Geffen Story Pirates Residency Program. My habitually absent students all showed up if they knew Story Pirates were coming. Parents said their children didn't want to miss the program. ”



“ Thank you for letting the Geffen Story Pirates come to my class to teach us how to write. It was the coolest thing ever. ”

—Third grader, Pinewood Elementary School, Tujunga



“ Thank you for the awesome experience with writing. I had so much fun with the Geffen Story Pirates throughout the year that there was never a gray day. ”

— Third grader, Roscoe Elementary School, Sun Valley

What the children would like you to know:

“ Dear People who made it possible for the Geffen Playhouse Story Pirates to come to our school this past year,

Having the Geffen Playhouse Story Pirates Program in our class helped my imagination sprout and grow. Before this, I just had so much stuff on my mind and I was stressed. But working with the Story Pirates gave me so much laughter that it cleared my mind and let me write. This is the best program. I cannot thank you enough.”

—5th grader, Toluca Lake Elementary School, Los Angeles

“ Usually I don't like to write, but the Story Pirates made writing different and fun. Liking writing is important because if you don't like it you won't get a job and succeed in life. ”

—5th grader, Toluca Lake Elementary School, Los Angeles

“ Thank you for sending the Story Pirates to my school. I learned a lot during the program. I learned how to persuade efficiently. I also learned how to use attention grabbers. Finally, I learned that it is important to always practice writing so you can get good at it.

P.S. They will always stay in my head and in my heart. ”

—5th grader, Toluca Lake Elementary School, Los Angeles

“ Your Story Pirates made writing seem so much more alive. Writing is one of my favorite subjects now. I really hope my brothers get to have my same awesome experience. I enjoyed it so much that I would repeat the fifth grade just to be with you again! ”

—5th grader, Toluca Lake Elementary School, Los Angeles



“ It blows my mind that the Story Pirates make time to perform the stories we write! Because of you I will get my writing better and be more fun. And creative. ”

—3rd grader, Pinewood Elementary School, Tujunga

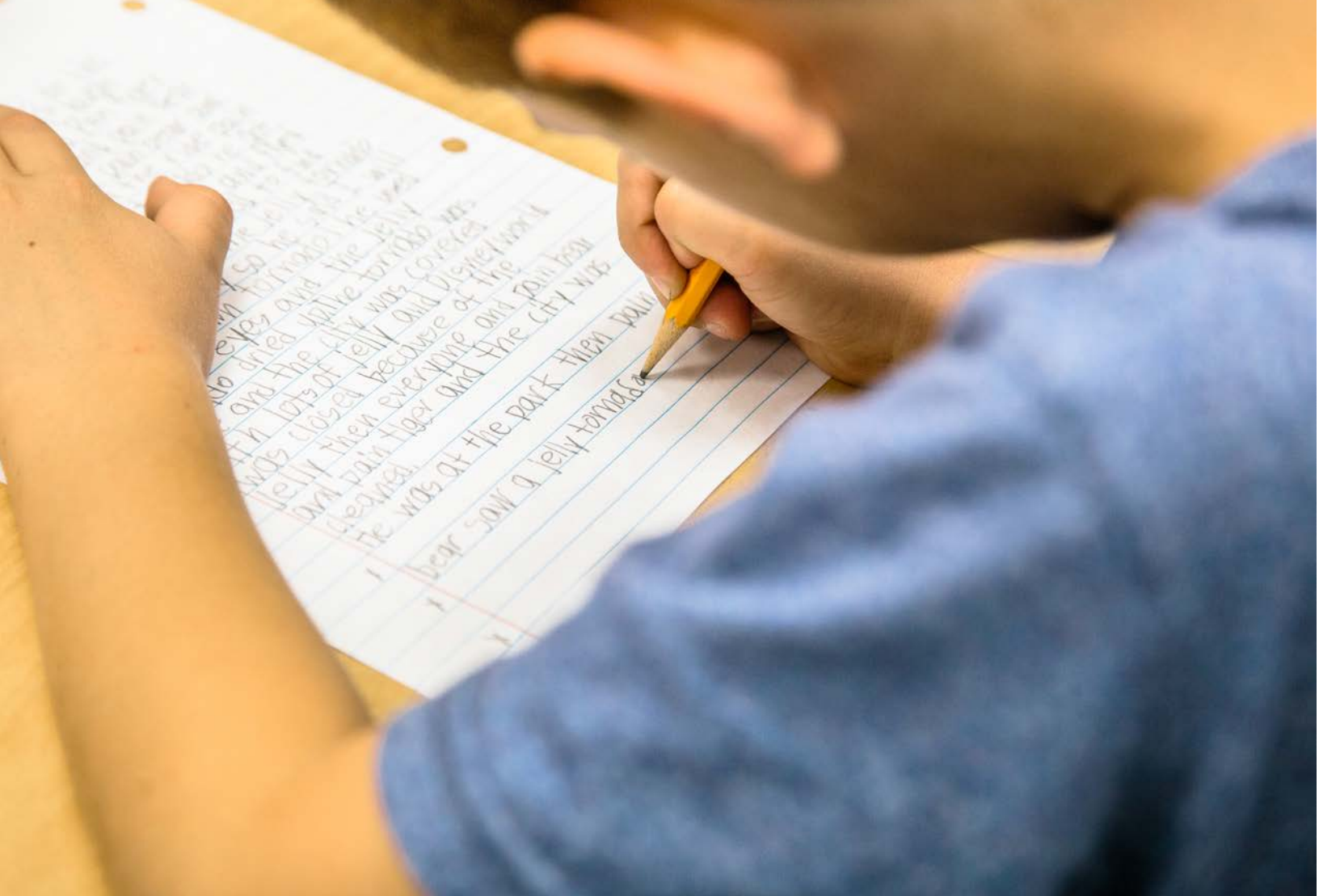


87% of the parents reported that their child is now more interested in writing because of the program.

More evidence of impact:

“ The positive feedback from parents has been nothing short of amazing. The parents wanted to know more about the program because their kids were so enthusiastic about it. This interest prompted parents to come to our ‘Parent Nights’ to see in person how the Story Pirates work with their children . . . and to learn how they could work with their children on writing and creativity at home. ”

— Teacher, Rockdale Elementary School, Eagle Rock



“ Our 3rd graders have never been part of a program like this, and they are having an awesome learning experience. ”

—Gonsalo Garay, Principal, Roscoe Elementary School, Sun Valley

To you from a school principal:



I LOVE LOVE LOVE the Geffen Playhouse Story Pirates Residency Program.

This is our first year participating, and our teachers and students are having a blast! Our 3rd graders have never been part of a program like this, and they are having an awesome learning experience . . . and their parents are just as thrilled. I've never before seen the level of excitement and energy the Story Pirates are able to draw out of our students — and all around writing, nonetheless! A million thanks to the donors of the Geffen for bringing this much-needed inspiration and top-notch program to the San Fernando Valley. ”

—Gonsalo Garay, Principal, Roscoe Elementary, Sun Valley

One of a thousand stories . . .

“ I had a student who was a non-reader when he came into 3rd grade. You can imagine how difficult it was to motivate and teach this student *to write* during the year.

The Geffen Playhouse Story Pirates were like a shot of adrenaline for him!
His reading and writing scores improved significantly.
But the icing on cake was that his story was chosen to be performed by the Story Pirates in front of the whole school! He was literally on cloud nine!
So wonderful to be part of this program! ”

—Third Grade Teacher, Roscoe Elementary School, Sun Valley



“ What a priceless gift your donors have given these children. ”

—Third grade teacher, Roscoe Elementary, Sun Valley



“ I learned so much about writing from this program. I would like to stay in school an extra year to have more time with the Geffen Story Pirates.”

—5th grader, Toluca Lake Elementary School, Los Angeles

“ Thank you for never giving up on us kids. ”

“ People like you always want us to do our best. ”

“ You guys make me feel part of the world. ”

—5th graders, Toluca Lake Elementary School, Los Angeles



On behalf of every child who
gained the opportunity to
be in this program and achieve
new levels of success and
life-changing skills as writers,
creative thinkers, and
participants in the arts because
of your generosity,
**our profound gratitude
to you.**

20 GEFfen
PLAYHOUSE



THE DIFFERENCE
YOUR GENEROSITY MADE
TO THE **YOUTH** SERVED
THROUGH OUR LITERACY PROJECT AT MENDEZ HIGH SCHOOL

**Thanks to your support and belief that ALL young people
have the right to a quality education and a better future . . .**



... 10th graders living in an area of Los Angeles where

more than 50% of their peers drop out of high school

where less than 5% of the adults have a college degree

and where over 60% of the adults have less than a high school degree

successfully participated

in a year-long, rigorous program

of critical thinking and writing challenges built around Geffen plays.

They are now on a whole new path in life.

Through your support of the **Geffen Playhouse Literacy Project**,
these young people achieved this:



Students in September

By the end of the year:

Gave few or no responses when asked a question.



Actively participated in discussions about plays.

Had little confidence in their own thoughts about a play.



Responded to questions asking them to offer their own opinions and/or to provide evidence from a play to support their opinions.

Were uncomfortable about expressing their own thoughts about a play in front of the whole class.



Actively participated in meaningful and reflective discussions with their peers.

Had difficulty focusing in the classroom.



Had the ability to concentrate and focus significantly better.

Didn't think they had the capacity to learn how to write well.



Had new insights about themselves and their abilities.

Student writing was disorganized.



Students wrote essays that were thoughtful and coherent.

Student writing was simplistic.



The details, depth and complexity of their writing increased significantly.

Didn't think they belonged at the Geffen Playhouse.



Now feel the Geffen (and the arts) are resources that they and their families have in their lives.

What their Principal would like you to know:

👉 Please share this letter with Geffen Playhouse donors so that they understand the magnitude and depth of the impact and difference their philanthropic support and investments in this school and in these youth makes.

Your have helped transform our school and our students lives.

Consider what has happened since the Geffen Program began an annual force here in 2012-2013:

- Four years ago (before the Geffen came) we had an attendance rate of 52%.
We now have an attendance rate of 84%!
- Before your program came to our school, we had only 2% of our students successfully completing Advanced Placement (AP) classes. Now we now have 25% doing so.
- We now have 10th graders who, after being a part of the Geffen Playhouse Literacy Project, actually WANT to sign up for AP classes because they feel confident in their skills and ready for the challenge.
- And of course, raising the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) passing rate from 40% (before the Geffen was here) to 78% in 2015 is truly remarkable.

Thank you for being instrumental in changing the course of our students' lives. 🙏

— Mauro Bautista, Principal, Mendez High School



“ Please try to wrap your mind around this data point: An 86% graduation rate in a community that historically graduates 50%. We have no doubt that this long-term impact on students, in part because of innovative, dedicated partners like the Geffen Playhouse. ”

—Principal Mauro Bautista, Mendez High School, Boyle Heights



Impact of your generosity on the youth served:



100% of students reported an increase in their confidence and skills as critical thinkers, writers and speakers.



91% of the students stated that the writing skills they learned helped them in other subjects at school.



94% reported that the program and knowing how to write helped them *outside* of school.



79% of the students stated they would like to attend more plays and have more artistic experiences in the future.



98% of students reported an increase in their understanding of the economic, social and intellectual power of knowing how to write well.

What the students would like you to know:

“ This program definitely helped us a lot. Writing is a lot easier than I thought. I hated essays before. Now, I’m planning on taking advanced writing next year. ”

“ I signed up to take AP English next year. I wouldn’t have done this without having been in this Geffen program. ”

“ This program helped me give my honest opinion, both in writing and in person. It helped me be more outgoing and more presentable. The program didn’t just help in English class, but in all of my classes. ”

“ The most valuable part of the program was the fact that they taught us to think outside of the box. I felt that they gave me ideas to write in the essays. ”



“ At the begining of the school year, these students were at risk of failing out of high school, largely because they didn’t know how to write well. ”

—Principal Mauro Bautista

More from the students:

“The Geffen Playhouse Literacy Project is a one and only chance where they actually help you develop your writing skills, as well as give you the chance to experience plays, which other programs don't offer. They make you come out of your comfort zone and write about your ideas. They don't change your mind about what to write about. They encourage you to be confident writers, that you are good at writing, so you just have to develop and express your thoughts.”

— 11th grader at Mendez High School, who participated in the Literacy Project as a 10th grader

“As a result of being able to be in this program, I know that I can tackle any essay that's given to me. This program actually helped me want to write more. I don't dread it anymore.”

— 10th grader at Mendez High School

“This program helped me want to challenge myself to respond to more difficult writing prompts, to put in the extra mile to write a better piece.”

— 10th grader at Mendez High School

parts and objectives (wants)
of characters





One boy's story:

“ When I think about the gains I saw the students experience last year from going through the Geffen program, I can't help but think of Luis. Luis was a very shy and withdrawn student. He was hesitant to show his writing, let alone join in class discussions. Luis did not see himself as a strong “English student” so he was doing his best to hide. Fortunately, you can't really hide with the Geffen Literacy Project. Luis found himself sharing his essays with a Geffen UCLA Literacy Coach and incorporating feedback to make the necessary revisions. He found himself participating in theatre games and discussions around the plays we were seeing, facilitated by the Geffen's Teaching Artists. Little by little, I saw his shell open. The smile he would bring to class was priceless. By the second semester, Luis was *initiating* class discussions. He wanted to participate in the Geffen Literacy Project's activities — whether they were writing, speaking and even acting with his fellow peers. He applied this new sense of confidence throughout his class work and his grades improved significantly. I am proud of Luis's growth and I am grateful that he had so many supportive adults working together to create a safe space where a student with developing literacy skills could bloom. ”

— Emily Grijalva, 10th Grader English Teacher, Mendez High School



100% of the teachers rated the Geffen's Literacy Coaches as being *very effective* in increasing students' critical literacy skills.

Impact of your generosity on the youth as identified by their teachers:



100% of the teachers reported that the program was highly effective in increasing students' writing skills.



100% of the teachers saw an increase in students' abilities to comprehend, analyze, critique and synthesize different ideas and opinions.



Your generosity supports collective impact through the collaboration of these partners on this project:

- 1 Geffen Playhouse** led by Gil Cates, Jr., Exec. Dir. (center), Holly Rice, Board Education Chair (center), Jennifer Zakkai, Director of Education & Community Engagement (center) and her team: Carolyn Marie Wright (far right), Kristen Smith Eshaya (far left) and Jessica Brusilow Rollins (far left) ; Teaching Artists (l-r) Kristina Leach and David Guerra. Also critical to the project are the artists associated with each Geffen production that the students see, study and respond to through their writing and classroom work.
- 2 Partnership for Los Angeles Schools** led by Joan Sullivan, CEO (not pictured), Claudia Martinez, Manager of Family & Community Engagement (center left) and Ameer Kim El-Mallawany, Director of Family & Community Engagement (not pictured).
- 3 Mendez High School** led by Mauro Bautista, Principal (inset photo, far right), Assistant Principal Alejandro Macias (inset, far left) and Project Lead Teacher Emily Grijalva (inset, second from right); and 10th Grade Teachers Peter Olson (group photo, left), Zulema Sedano (group photo, left) and Ginger Stemnock (group photo, right).
- 4 UCLA Graduate School of Education, Center X** led by Sherv Vaughnna Anderson-Byrd, Director of the California Reading and Literature Project (center) and her team of UCLA Teacher Leaders & Writing Coaches: (l-r) Heather Ward, Spencer Robins, Negretta Freeman, Lois Clark, and Johnetta Fleming.
- 5 Vital Research** led by Dr. Harold Urman, Partner (center), and Andrea Nee, Senior Research Associate (left).

What the Partnership for Los Angeles Schools would like you to know:

“ What the Geffen Playhouse has created in the Literacy Project is nothing short of miraculous. This is an example of collective impact at its highest level. It’s working.

Mendez High School was just ranked the #1 high school in the Los Angeles Unified School District for improvement in Graduation, Attendance, AP Success and the First-time Passing Rate of the California High School Exit Exam between 2010 and 2015.

The school could not have reached these extraordinary levels of success without the critical community partnerships that have built a home on the Mendez campus. The Geffen Playhouse Literacy Project has been an integral part of this school-wide change since 2012, and I continue to hear nothing but extraordinary feedback from students, teachers and Principal Mauro Bautista and his leadership team about the life-changing impact they experience, year after year. ”

— Joan Sullivan, CEO, Partnership for Los Angeles Schools





What our partners at UCLA's Graduate School of Education would like you to know:

“ I cannot believe that it has been four years since UCLA's Graduate School of Education first began partnering with the Geffen Playhouse. I continue to be floored by the impact this unique partnership has had on some of the most underserved students in Los Angeles, and I'm honored that the Geffen has asked us to be an integral part of this critical work year after year. It has been a privilege for us to provide professional development to the teachers and teaching artists engaged in the Geffen Playhouse Literacy Project at Mendez High School. Our teacher leaders and literacy coaches, in turn, have taken their knowledge of the arts, and how critical they are to our lives, to a much deeper level of understanding. This all translates to a creative, well-rounded approach of using theater arts to work with students in English Language Arts. . . and we continue to see major achievements in these students' academic performance every year. Our commitment to serving low-income students in the most destitute neighborhoods of Los Angeles has been strengthened and now includes a critical arts component, thanks to our partnership with the Geffen Playhouse. Together, may we continue to change the lives of youth throughout Los Angeles for years to come. ”

—Shervaughnna Anderson-Byrd, UCLA Graduate School of Education, Center X

Director, California Reading and Literature Project



What you make possible:

“ Our family of donors is exceptional. Their generosity allows students to work with the best of the best: experts from UCLA’s Graduate School of Education/Center X, including Lois Clark and Johnetta Fleming. Thanks to their decades of experience as classroom educators and their passionate commitment to the success of all students, Johnetta and Lois are a treasure trove of knowledge about teaching writing effectively. As founding coaches in our work at Mendez High School, they established traditions of having high expectations and providing students with tangible tools and individualized support. In their current roles in the project as UCLA Teacher Leaders, they help Mendez High School classroom teachers and UCLA Literacy Coaches strengthen their teaching practice. As a result, 10th grade students with significant literacy needs experience discernible progress as thinkers, readers and writers. We’ve seen significant improvement in students’ writing skills, in addition to major changes in students’ social and emotional connections to the material and to one another. Students are now sharing and accepting different points of view. Thanks to our collaboration with the UCLA Teacher Leaders and Literacy Coaches and the donors who make such a collaboration possible, we are creating self-directed, self-initiated learners. This kind of customized attention to address students’ individual needs would not be possible at this level without the significant support of Geffen Playhouse donors. ”

—Jennifer Zakkai, Geffen Playhouse Director of Education & Community Engagement

“ I love seeing students become more expressive and take more risks during the classroom workshops led by the Geffen’s teaching artists. I have had several students who started the year very quiet and reserved, then caught the acting bug through the classroom time with the teaching artists and ultimately signed up for classes at our local Casa 0101 Theater. The role of the Geffen Playhouse in connecting teachers and students with arts resources and institutions in our own neighborhood has been another important aspect of the program. ”

— *Peter Olson, Mendez High School Teacher*



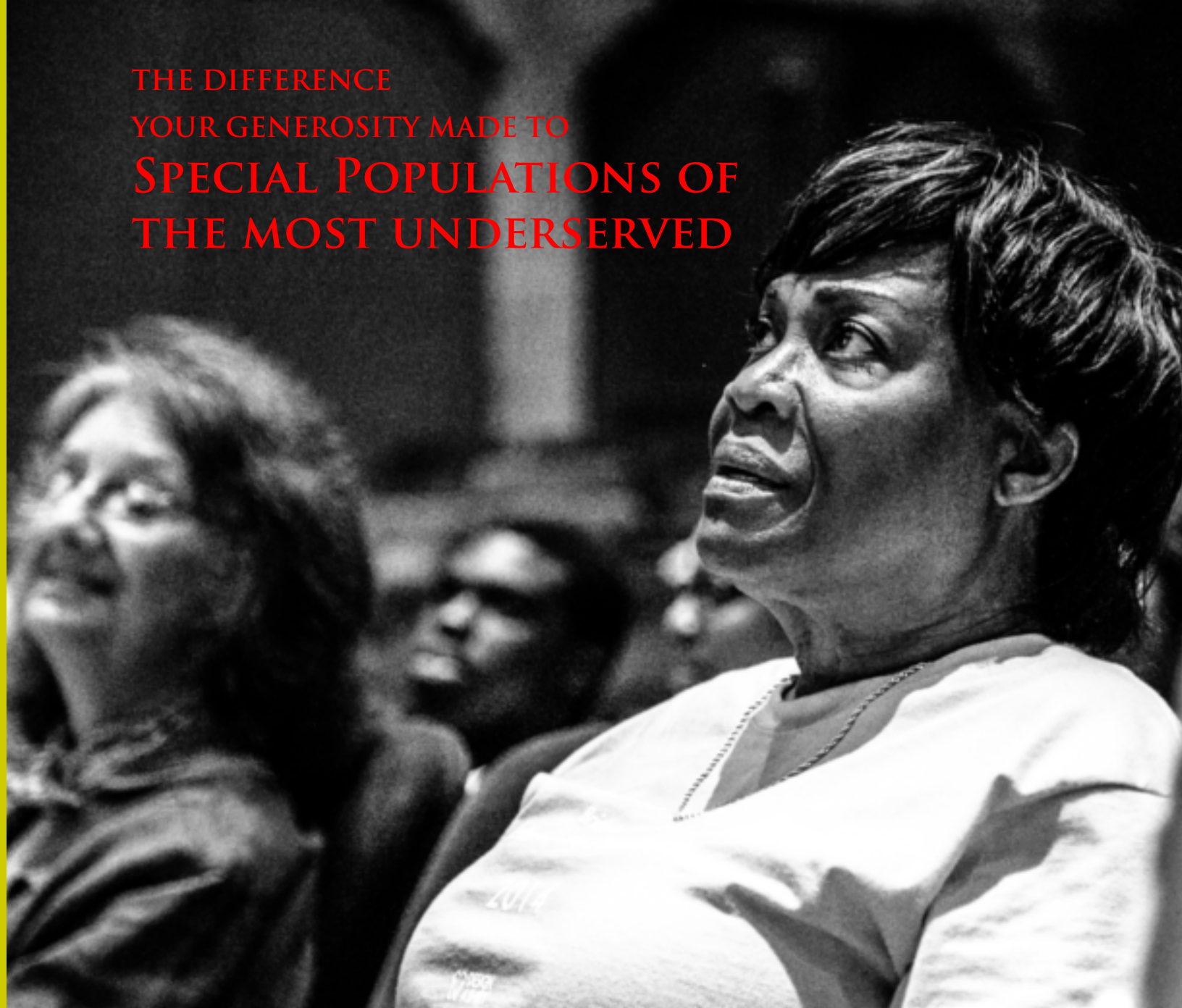
“ A tremendous thank you to the Geffen’s Board and donors for making a major investment in our students and for helping us transform the schools in our city that need it most. ”
—Joan Sullivan, CEO, Partnership for Los Angeles Schools



On behalf of every young person who gained the opportunity to be in this program and achieve new levels of success and life-changing skills as writers, critical thinkers and participants in the arts because of your generosity, our profound gratitude to you.

20 GEFFEN
PLAYHOUSE

THE DIFFERENCE
YOUR GENEROSITY MADE TO
SPECIAL POPULATIONS OF
THE MOST UNDERSERVED



THROUGH YOUR
SUPPORT OF OUR
LIGHTS UP PROGRAM



YOUNG ADULTS, ADULTS, AND SENIOR CITIZENS GAINED THIS:

We believe that all people of all ages are entitled to experience the arts, to engage their imaginative powers, and to learn through the arts. We also realize that thousands in our community are completely left out of art experiences, not only because they cannot afford them but also because they are not aware of how to access them or even what is available. We developed LIGHTS UP to address this gap in access to the arts and the unmet need for arts programs that serve adults, not just youth. But instead of simply opening our doors and offering free theater tickets on a first-come, first-served basis, we directed our outreach through L.A. social service organizations that serve disadvantaged and socially isolated young adults, adults and senior citizens. This past season, 44 nonprofits partnered with us to send group leaders to support the participation of their constituents who have the least access to the arts and who could benefit the most from such immersive, year-round opportunities to see plays, receive and read our Study Guides, attend workshops with our teaching artists, and meet and interact with Geffen playwrights, directors, designers and more.

Target Audience: The most underserved and disadvantaged adult populations of Los Angeles County including:

- Veterans who are recovering from PTSD and other major physical and emotional challenges as a result of their service,
- Seniors who are socially isolated and economically disadvantaged,
- Young adults who have recently transitioned out of foster care and who are without a support system,
- Adults who are transitioning out of homelessness,
- Adults who are challenged by serious health or physical issues, including those living with HIV/AIDS and those who are recent amputees.



Education Director, Jennifer Zakkai, and new Executive Director, Gil Cates, Jr., answer questions from Lights Up Group Leaders — representatives of the 44 social service organizations and 2,500 individuals served through the Geffen's Lights Up Program. These meetings train Group Leaders in how to prepare their constituents for each play as well as how to engage them in creative post-show discussions and responses to each play.

The difference your generosity makes to seniors:

“ My life and perspective have immensely changed since being able to participate in the Geffen's Playhouse's Lights Up Program. It is difficult to describe how solitary and lonely I was before I was invited to attend this theatre through this free program.

Many years ago I was able both physically and financially to attend incredible live theatre which was very dear to my heart and interest. I can no longer do that but thanks to this wonderful program I feel that my life and independence have returned. I am very grateful for the joy and spirit that I now enjoy. ”

— Senior, Lights Up Participant from St. Monica's Senior Ministries



What the Lights Up Group Leaders would like you to know:

“ The meetings for Lights Up Group Leaders are phenomenal. The Geffen provides in-person discussions with playwrights, directors, actors and others involved in each upcoming production to enlighten our knowledge and understanding of each play. We are introduced to exciting and new concepts that provide excellent tools and techniques for us to engage our participants into deeper and more constructive group discussions after seeing each play. The study guides are exceptional and have information and creative experiences that can be converted into activities to enhance our discussions with our group members. They are an invaluable asset that I pass on to our participants who are amazed at the depth and insightfulness put into each document. We thank the donors for all they give to enhance and brighten the lives of so many known and unknown recipients of their generosity. ”

— Barbara Harrison, Lights Up Group Leader representing St. Monica's Senior Ministries, Santa Monica

The difference your generosity makes to seniors:

“ Having the opportunity to attend the incredible performances at the Geffen Playhouse is one of the great joys of my life. As a very low income person I absolutely would not be able to experience this high caliber of theatre. I immensely enjoy the fellowship, the enthusiasm, and the increased knowledge that I always receive from the Geffen Playhouse staff. This never fails for each play. I am so very grateful to be a participant in the Geffen's Lights Up Program. ”

— Senior, Lights Up Participant from St. Monica's Senior Ministries





What seeing *Hershey Felder as Irving Berlin* meant to Lights Up Participants:

“ I did not realize how Irving Berlin had such an impact on our American culture. The play was very emotional for me. It made me realize how patriotic our country is and how anyone with work and determination can be a success in this country. ”

— *Lights Up Participant from St Monica Senior Ministries*

“ I am 85 years old. I recently celebrated 60 years of marriage, two months before my husband died. I felt so much emotion during the brilliant performance and wonderful story. I sang all of the songs and remembered all the words. I am so thankful for this amazing experience. ”

— *Lights Up Participant from Santa Monica Emeritus College*

“ Seeing this play was literally a healing experience. Belonging to the audience that was so attuned to Hershey Felder, singing and breathing together was unforgettable. ”

— *Lights Up Participant from Russian American Choir*



“ Silvercrest is a non-profit residence in Santa Monica for low-to-middle income seniors that’s operated by the Salvation Army. Participating in a program of this caliber has been an extraordinary experience for our residents and **contributes tremendously to their quality of life.** It gives our residents the chance to get out and **feel like they are culturally and intellectually alive.** All of this stimulates their minds, provokes thoughts and lively discussions, and gives them something to look forward to. The Geffen and your Lights Up Program are a priceless gift and we are forever grateful. ”

— Amy Malina, Program Coordinator, The Salvation Army Silvercrest Senior Residence, Santa Monica



A few weeks before her group comes to the Geffen to see each play throughout the year, Cynthia Singleton attends a Lights Up meeting at the Geffen to learn about the upcoming play and how she can prepare her group for it, as well as engage them in discussions afterwards.

“ I cannot possibly express the joy that this program has brought to our Lights Up participants — a group of seniors, all over the age of 65, living in Baldwin Hills.

Being able to see the Geffen’s play, *Choir Boy*, changed the relationship between a grandmother and her grandson. She finally understood her grandson — that it his orientation was not a “fad” but a state of being. It helped her understand what he has been going through while growing up in the public schools.

Another play that had a big impact on my group was *The Power of Duff*. We had a lively discussion about the power of collective positive thinking and the energy that made the population at large act more altruistically after seeing the news anchor pray on television.

We thank you for a fascinating season and for all of the joy and entertainment you have brought to all of us. ”

—Cynthia Singleton, OASIS Baldwin Hills Senior Center



The difference your generosity makes to amputees:

“ We are a nonprofit serving amputees in the Los Angeles area. People come to us for support when they are in a very dark time in their lives. It has been a gift to our members who feel shy about being out in public after going through a life-changing ordeal (amputation).

Having the ability to give newly-injured people the opportunity to know that they have been invited to the Geffen Playhouse to attend the play and that the theater wants their feedback is very empowering to them.

I cannot tell you how much having the Geffen Lights Up Program means to our community. ”

— Katy Sullivan, Board Member, Mutual Amputee Aid Foundation

How your support helps immigrants:

“ Thank you to the Geffen Playhouse and its donors for the opportunity for Russian immigrants to learn American culture through theater and to feel a much more connected, absorbed part of this country.

European people learned in school great Russian playwrights: Chekov, Gorky, Ostrovsky, etc. We love learning from American playwrights. We do not understand everything but we try! After each play we get to see because of your donors and this program, we discuss it together. This program has helped me and those in our organization learn the English language. The Geffen is a big part of our lives.

Thank you. ”

— Marsha Frank, Leader, Russian American Choir





How your support helps restore hope and lives:

“ The biggest cost of being homeless is not losing your home or your possessions —it is losing your belief in yourself. People describe themselves as if they are dead — walking around feeling dead inside. Our job is to help them change the way they think about themselves, to help them realize that they have worth, they are talented and valuable people, full of potential.

Getting away from Skid Row and coming to the Geffen gives them great hope. The Geffen’s plays are far more than entertainment for our students. They are a catalyst for personal empowerment and a window to a new world.

Being welcomed through the Geffen Playhouse doors skyrockets self-esteem. After seeing Geffen plays, our students walk taller, stand prouder, and think in affirming ways. Seeing plays at the Geffen is so much more than entertainment. It helps people get their lives back.”

—*Eyvette Jones Johnson, Founder and Executive Director of Urban Possibilities*

Lights Up Serves Youth, too:

“ Because of the generosity of your donors and their support of the Geffen’s Lights Up Program, our non-profit organization, It’s Time For Kids, has been able to bring hundreds of kids each year to enjoy live theater.

The kids we serve come from disadvantaged if not tragic circumstances. Giving them a cultural experience as sophisticated as theater not only expands their worlds, but helps them see themselves as different people. It makes them feel important and special that someone has wanted them to be there.

Thank you for broadening the worlds of some of our most disadvantaged kids. Our teens are so appreciative to be invited to attend plays at your beautiful theater. ”

—Kendall Wolf, Executive Director, It’s Time for Kids





“ The Geffen’s Lights Up Program has opened the doors for not only me and my peers, but also for my future family. Thank you. ”

—High School student from the Upward Bound Program

How your support helps open doors for youth:

“ The Geffen’s Lights Up Program has given over 100 future first-generation college students from Pasadena and El Monte High Schools the opportunity to experience live theater, each year.

Many of our students have never gone out of their communities. Taking them to the Geffen Playhouse is a cultural experience in itself. Being able to receive complimentary tickets has allowed our program to use our funding to take the students to dinner before the theatrical performance.

Many of our students have never had the experience of dining in a restaurant with silverware (I am not joking).

I am a strong believer that exposing them to the arts outside of their small living areas will prepare them to succeed in college. Their world expands and so do their dreams. We hope the Geffen’s Lights Up Program can continue for years to come as it will continue to impact the lives of many underserved and underrepresented communities. ”

—Juan Pablo Carreon, Director, Upward Bound Program, Pasadena City College

“ ‘Get Lit - Words Ignite’ is a nationally-recognized organization made to reach teens, stem dropout rates, and spark dramatically increased literacy among youth in Los Angeles.

Because of the Lights Up Program at the Geffen, our teens have been exposed to the arts beyond classic poetry. **Most of the kids have never been to the theater**, let alone a professionally produced production. Because of your generosity these teens have developed an appreciation for the theater. The pre-show sessions are masterfully taught. The study guides greatly assist in prepping for the show. The plays are unbelievably entertaining, and the post-show discussions allow our kids to see how the theatrical experiences relates to their lives.

Thank you so much to your donors for giving so much to these youth. ”

—Paul Mabon, Lights Up Group Leader representing Get-Lit Words Ignite



“ Because of your generosity, these teens have developed an appreciation for theater. ”

—Paul Mabon, *Lights Up* Group Leader representing *Get-Lit Words Ignite*



“ I love when a play gets me to think.”

—College Student and Lights Up Participant from East Los Angeles College

How your support helps disadvantaged college students:

“ The majority of my students live in the East Los Angeles/Montebello area. They may live in small, crowded homes but they have big dreams. Many are Theatre Majors, but you would be surprised at how little theatre they have actually seen — limited to high school and college productions. The spoken word, delivered by professionals, is a new and rare experience. My gratitude to all who make the Geffen’s Lights Up Program possible. ”

— Kelley Logan, *Lights Up Group Leader and Faculty Member, East Los Angeles College*

“ Prior to watching the performance of *The Night Alive*, a friend and I had an intense discussion about the universe and the idea of a higher being. We had this discussion without any knowledge of what this play was about. It surprised the both of us how much of this subject was being brought up in the play. It only added more food for thought to our endless debate. I love it when a play gets me to think. This play was incredible. ”

— College Student and *Lights Up Participant from East Los Angeles College*



“ The play, *Bad Jews*, made me think about family. I'm not Jewish, but still I could relate to a family crisis and I related to both sides of the argument. ”

—College Student and Lights Up Participant from East Los Angeles College

What seeing *Bad Jews* meant to Lights Up participants of all ages:

“ I was proud of people who care about their ancestors. ”

—Senior from The Salvation Army Silvercrest Senior Residence

“ I was very moved by the intensity of the play and of the performance of the actors. ”

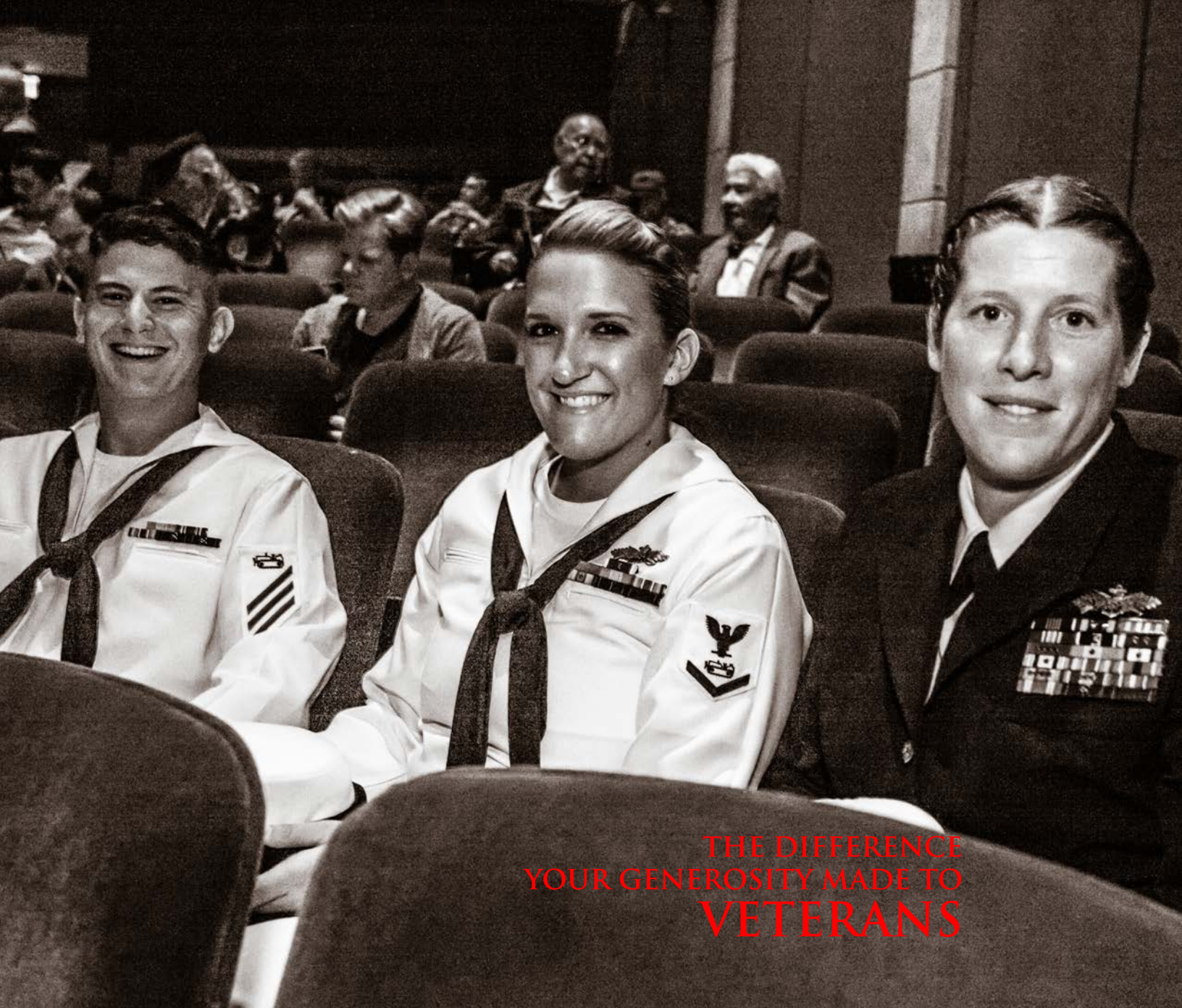
—College Student and Lights Up Participant from East Los Angeles College

“ The emotions I felt made while watching *Bad Jews* me reflect on my own culture and identity . . . The play made me think and feel. ”

—High School Student from the Upward Bound Program



On behalf of every person who gained the opportunity to participate in
our LIGHTS UP Program because of your generosity,
our profound gratitude to you.



THE DIFFERENCE
YOUR GENEROSITY MADE TO
VETERANS



PLAYHOUSE
GEFFEN
Theatre
Box Office
1001 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90024
(213) 467-1234

VETERANS GAINED THIS THROUGH YOUR SUPPORT:

Veterans' Nights at the Geffen: Year-round access to Geffen plays for veterans who are struggling with re-entry, feeling isolated and disconnected from society, and/or who are living with significant challenges as a result of their service (physical, economic, psychosocial). Veterans are invited to attend the final dress rehearsal of Gil Cates Theater shows and to enjoy an elegant pre-show dinner at which they are formally thanked for their service to our country and have the opportunity to meet veterans from all over Los Angeles. The Gary Sinise Foundation covers the cost of the dinners, while donors like you fund all of the other costs, including the time of the casts and stage crew, and those who help us welcome the Veterans. The artists and production staff stay after each performance to meet and greet the veterans and to participate in a formal "Talk Back" to answer questions and give these special guests an inside look at the artistic process.

As an inaugural member of the Blue Star Theatres Program, the Geffen Playhouse now offers four **complimentary tickets to any main stage show for anyone who presents a military service card**. While most every other theater in California offers tickets *at a discount*, the Geffen Playhouse is the only theater that offers completely free tickets to Veterans, **thanks to donors like you**, who are passionate about the Geffen reaching out to and **removing all barriers for veterans to feel welcomed, honored, and wholeheartedly connected to the cultural assets of Los Angeles**.

93% of the veterans reported that being part of the Veterans Night Dinners & Final Dress Rehearsals of each play at the Geffen was a great source of comfort, strength and hope for them.



“ This program gives me that push forward. Keeps me motivated. Inspires me. Helps me to see that there really is a lot of generosity in the world. ”
—Veteran attending the Vets Night Performance of Bad Jews

Thanks to your generosity, more than 400 veterans and their family members have been able to participate in the Veterans Night Program — enjoying Sunday evenings and dinners together as well as being the first in the world to experience a Geffen Playhouse production, five times a year.



Geffen Playhouse Artistic Director Randall Arney welcomes veterans and their guests to the final dress rehearsal of every main stage play, sharing insights about the production and the play.

“ I have seen vets coming to the event, some very quiet, even withdrawn. They leave, however, without fail chatting about the play, feeling recharged. I hope that the Geffen will be able to continue the program for many years to come.”

—Peter Sego, Veteran

“ The Geffen Playhouse has been very therapeutic for me. Other PTS victims don’t even know about this. It’s such a shame. My biggest fear is losing this Geffen Playhouse experience when I leave New Directions. I really love it here. This is huge for me. ”

—*Martin Shearer, Navy Veteran from New Directions Post-Traumatic Stress Unit*



🗨️ Experiencing art in any form shows the creative side of mankind as opposed to the destructive which many of us have experienced. 🗨️

— Veteran attending a Veterans Night at the Geffen last summer



“ It was great to connect with fellow veterans outside my age demographic; to know that we all share a commonality outside the normal human experience is humbling. ”

—Jason Fracaro

“I am a Vietnam veteran. When I returned stateside after eight months in ‘Nam,’ people literally spat at me and called me a murderer. Today when I tell someone that I served, they thank me for my service. The dinners and plays at the Geffen are a way of thanking the vets, for those who served in Vietnam long overdue, for their sacrifice. It also shows how far we have come as people since Vietnam.”

—Veteran attending the *The Night Alive* at the Geffen last Spring

“ I go to all of the Veterans Nights at the Geffen.

The food is wonderful. The staff are so friendly and welcoming.

It's a beautiful night, unlike any other for me.

Unlike any other night in Los Angeles. ”

—*Millie Taylor, age 92, Served in World War II as Nurse in the Navy*



Millie Taylor, age 92, served in World War II as a Nurse in the Navy

“ I am so proud that the Gary Sinise Foundation is partnering with the Geffen Playhouse. The Geffen’s plays are a cornerstone of our Arts & Entertainment outreach here in Los Angeles. We’re honoring our defenders, veterans, first responders, and their families, by providing them with inspiring cultural experiences throughout the year.

My deepest appreciation to Geffen supporters who make our Veterans’ Nights possible. Thanks to you, our nation’s Veterans may experience the joy of live theater absolutely free of charge. ”

— Gary Sinise, Founder, The Gary Sinise Foundation



“ I can assure you that these special Sunday nights for Veterans are very much appreciated by all the active duty servicemen and women and so many Veteran groups that we have connected to this wonderful support program by the Geffen Playhouse. **This program ensures that ‘no soldier, young or old, will be forgotten’** and complements our non-profit’s mission and objectives.

We look forward to inviting many more of our troops to enjoy this wonderful Geffen support night with their colleagues and brothers-in-arms in the future. ”

—Tom Fick, Founder/Executive Director, Project: Hollywood Cares, Navy Veteran



💬 This program ensures that 'no soldier, young or old, will be forgotten.' 💬

—Tom Fick, Founder/Executive Director, Project: Hollywood Cares, Navy Veteran



Fifteen veterans participated in the Geffen's new Veterans Writing & Performance Workshop this past year, thanks to the generosity of Geffen donors.

How your support inspired new programming:

“ Last winter, I was invited to the Geffen Playhouse for a round-table discussion with Veterans and other leaders of the Veterans community here in Los Angeles. It was a night of open conversation for the theater to learn about the needs of Veterans and how the Geffen could respond to these needs. We talked about how Veterans, in addition to attending plays at the theater, could deeply benefit from creative opportunities to write, to present their work, in order to really change their lives for the better. The idea for the Geffen Playhouse Veterans Writing & Performance Workshop thus emerged. My deepest gratitude to all of the Geffen donors who support the work the organization is doing to deepen and widen its vital services and outreach to Veterans of all ages and backgrounds. I could not be more proud. ”

—Joseph Chicas, *Economic Liaison, U.S. Veterans Affairs Administration*

“ When the Geffen’s new Writing & Performing Workshop classes started, I didn’t really know what to expect. At first I was intimidated to write and to share about my life . . . but now I’m excited to perform. Just the way the directors at the Geffen talked to us in that first class and introduced us as the first 15 participants in a program that is going to continue for years to come . . . it really made me realize how significant this opportunity was for all of us who were chosen to participate. **Thank you for making me part of this special project, which has given my life a whole new direction.** ”

—Thomas Tucker, U.S. Marine Corps, 1974-1977

Participant in the inaugural Geffen Playhouse Veterans Writing & Performance Workshop

Please stay tuned for more about the impact of this new program!





“ There are many inspiring, life-changing activities that occasionally present themselves to our veterans; **none** more exciting than the Veterans' Night at the Geffen Playhouse and its newly established Veterans' Writing and Performance Program. Since these programs began, we have shared magnificent evenings with many of our more than now 300 full-time residents here at the Veterans Home of California in West Los Angeles.

Discussing these plays before attending, bringing our WWII, Korean, and Vietnam War Veterans to the Geffen and sharing their responses following the performances, has **added immeasurably to the dynamics and vitality of these honorably discharged vets**. We truly appreciate the generosity of the Geffen's donors and the impact this program has on those fortunate enough to attend. Please continue to welcome our veterans to these **outstanding experiences**. ”

— Chaplain DOV Cohen, Veterans Home of West LA, United States Air Force 1962-1966



**On behalf of every Veteran who gained the opportunity
to enjoy and participate in live theater because of your generosity,
our profound gratitude to you.**



THE IMPACT OF
YOUR SUPPORT ON
UCLA STUDENTS

KEY SKIRBALL KENIS THEATER
GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE



You helped make this possible for UCLA students:

Master classes with world-class actors, playwrights and directors who are part of Geffen Playhouse productions during the year.

Resume-building professional internships in directing, playwriting, dramaturgy, acting, stage management, production management, lighting, sound, public relations, arts education, development, marketing and more. (To date, 140 UCLA students have interned at the Geffen)

Special access to the art on stage. Complimentary tickets to dress rehearsals and preview nights, low-cost tickets to all other regular Gil Cates main stage shows, invitations to special readings and workshops of new plays, and performance space for showcases. (Annually, more than 1,500 UCLA students attend performances at the Geffen, thanks to your generosity).

Employment. At least 25 students a year are employed by the Geffen in positions that give them paid, resume-building experiences as members of our Production, Front of House, Box Office and other teams.

NEW: A Professional Theater Practicum — a 10-week, credited course giving students a detailed understanding of what it takes to run a LORT B Regional Theater.

NEW: College Nights at the Geffen — college students are invited to attend pre-show receptions, access discounted tickets, and attend exclusive post-show Talk Back with the artists on stage.

Your generosity helps support job opportunities for UCLA Students

💬 The Geffen Playhouse has become a home to me and the people who work here have become my family. While at UCLA, I was lucky enough to intern in the Artistic Department. On my very first day, as nervous as I was, I was so warmly welcomed by the Geffen team. I remember thinking at this time 'I never want to leave!' In the years since I have had the opportunity to work as an Assistant Director and Production Assistant, and I have worked with the Development, Education, and Production departments. I have learned so much from the wide breadth of experience that the Geffen has given me and feel so appreciative for these opportunities. They have helped me to grow as an artist and person. The people I have worked with here at the Geffen have shown me what it means to do what you are passionate about and to tell a story that will touch an audience on a deeply personal level. These people are my family. This place is my home. 💬

—Kristen Osborn, UCLA School of Theater Graduate, 2013



Your generosity helps support internships for UCLA Students

“ When you're a part of the Geffen, even as an intern, you feel like a working professional. I was respected, involved, and always warmly welcomed; this inspired me to rise to the challenge of working with world-class theatre professionals.

Being a part of the Geffen empowered me as an educator and as an individual. I truly felt like my ideas and thoughts made an impact as they translated into meetings, lesson plans, and most significantly, the education of high school students. ”

—Megan Fitzgerald, UCLA Student and Intern in Education





Your generosity helps us give internships to UCLA Extension Students

“The partnership between Pathway at UCLA Extension and the Geffen Playhouse has opened the door for students with disabilities to learn about the daily operations of a world-class theater. Justin is entering surveys, answering phones, reading scripts, and has been invited to attend events. He’s loving every minute of his experience. Thank you.”

—Rachel Grazer, Vocational Coordinator-Pathway at UCLA Extension

“My name is Justin and I am working at the Geffen Playhouse and I love it. I am job shadowing. I am reading a lot of plays and seeing plays. I am fascinated by the scenes. I love meeting new people.”

—Justin, Intern from the Pathway at UCLA Extension Program

👂👂 As an Intern at the Geffen, I got to observe the workers at their jobs and ask them questions. I observed one of the leaders of the Geffen's new Veterans Writing & Performance Workshop Program do a rehearsal. My favorite part was observing the leader as she took the actors through blocking. I watched the exercises and dances and stretches the actors did to warm up while they were all in a circle. Another favorite part was seeing the entire performance come together.

When I become a director of a play someday, I will create great warm-ups. I will select great plays. I will love working with talented actors to prepare them for performances.👂👂


— *Austin, Intern from Pathway at UCLA Extension*



VICTORIA & DONALD SIMMS
COURTYARD
IN HONOR OF TED MANN

Your generosity helps bring world-class actors, playwrights and more to UCLA students



It is exciting to see how the collaboration between the Geffen Playhouse and the UCLA Department of Theater continues to grow. In the last year alone, the department's students have been given the opportunity to learn directly from Geffen staff via internships and the first-ever UCLA practicum class at the Geffen Playhouse, to meet and have meaningful dialogue with theater artists connected to the Geffen production season, and to see some outstanding shows. These are opportunities that wouldn't necessarily be available to our students if it weren't for this kind of cohesive partnership. . . a partnership that continues to inspire students year after year. 

— Julia Castelaz, Theater Coordinator, UCLA Theater, Film & Television





Your generosity helps make a 10-week, fully credited class at the Geffen possible for UCLA Students

“ I greatly enjoyed getting insider perspectives on parts of the theater I do not normally consider or think about. My eyes were opened to the intricacy of all of the various departments, not just the usual parts we learn about or experience in our usual classes. ”

“ I enjoyed how we got so much one-on-one time with all of the heads of the Geffen departments. ”

“ I loved being able to hear directly from theater professionals and their journey to their position. I also like that we could better understand the workings of a theater from all perspectives. ”

“ This was the best class I have taken in a while! ”

“ I have taken away so much more from this class than I had expected, and I love the Geffen more so now than ever! ”

Your generosity funds programs to help College Students participate in and fall in love with live theater

“ I recommend the Geffen’s College Night to all my friends because I had such a great time when I first saw *Murder for Two*!! I can't thank you enough for giving us a chance to get more affordable tickets to see such great shows. I am a struggling student with two jobs, but it's so great to still be able to experience nights at the theater with my friends. And the cheaper tickets allow me to introduce my otherwise theatrically disinclined friends to how enjoyable it all is. We look forward to the rest of your season! ”


—Angela Cosme, UCLA Student, English Major







The audiences at the Geffen take special ownership of the shows, the performers, the theater itself. But **one of the most exciting audiences is the Geffen's 'College Night' audience**, packed with students from UCLA and nearby universities. It's the night all the actors look forward to because the entire house brims with youthful energy and excitement. There's hardly a more rewarding performance.

Having gone to UCLA myself, it makes me proud to see the current students also taking ownership of their 'home theater.' It makes me feel hopeful about the audiences of the next generation. 

—Brett Ryback, Artist, *Murder for Two*



This past year, we formed an extraordinary new relationship with the Office of Residential Life (ORL) at UCLA. This has been significant in helping the Geffen Playhouse connect to students of all majors and backgrounds, not just students in the theater school. UCLA's ORL has been instrumental in helping us engage undergrads living in dorms on campus — majoring in psychology, engineering, philosophy, English, pre-med — and getting them to fall in love with theater and with the Geffen Playhouse. Thank you to the ORL directors and staff, who have been tremendous advocates for the Geffen Playhouse this past year. We look forward to our growing partnership with ORL and building a new, diverse audience for the theater. 📖📖

— *Jessica Brusilow Rollins, Geffen Playhouse Director of Education Partnerships & Donor Relations*



AUDREY SKIRBALL KENIS THEATER
Geffen PLAYHOUSE

Audrey Skirball Kenis Theater



Your generosity helps support job opportunities for UCLA students and new graduates

👏👏 I graduated with a BA from UCLA's School of Theater, Film & Television in June of 2009 with no idea of what would come next. I had just completed four years of intense acting training and my plan was to pursue acting. I had started as an usher in the Geffen's Front of House my Junior year of college, and upon graduation Regina Miller offered me a position in the Development Department. A part-time job that I thought was temporary lasted for six years, and I don't know what I would have done without it. I was pursuing acting at the time and, coming out of a BA program that was built like a conservatory, I really had no idea how to turn my training into a job that would support and sustain me. Being a part of the Geffen family taught me how to be a good employee and showed me my value as a creative person in an administrative position. I am beyond grateful to the Geffen Playhouse for giving me a job straight out of college and for making that transition an easy and painless one. Moving forward in my career, I will always see the Geffen as a place where I grew from a college student into a working adult, and somewhere I am happy to consider my LA home. 🙏🙏

—Ava Bogle, UCLA Class of 2009

GEFFEN
PLAYHOUSE

CITY NATIONAL BANK
The way up.®



CITY NATIONAL BANK
The way up.®

CLAYTON
Aviation
SINCE 1968

GEFFEN
PLAYHOUSE

ROBERT
K. KRAVITZ



What the Chancellor of UCLA would like you to know:

“ The Geffen Playhouse has been a prestigious leader in the world of theater and a crucial resource to the students of UCLA, who are so lucky to have this world-renowned institution right in their backyard. In the past two decades, we’ve seen the quality of the artistic work on both of the Geffen stages transcend what was originally envisioned, and I am proud to support and be a part of such innovative artistic growth.

This forward thinking has inspired new partnerships between the Geffen Playhouse and UCLA, including strong collaborations with our School of Theater, Film and Television, Graduate School of Education, Office of Residential Life and Pathway Program at UCLA Extension. The services offered to our students, from master classes, internships, job opportunities and College Nights at the theater, have created new ways of thinking among our students and new ways of perceiving art and its importance in the world.

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of UCLA, my gratitude to the entire Geffen Playhouse Board of Directors and Trustees and to all of its donors for continuing the legacy of the Geffen Playhouse and supporting its partnership with UCLA. ”

— Gene D. Block, Chancellor of UCLA and Geffen Playhouse Board Member



On behalf of UCLA students who gained the opportunity to advance their love for and knowledge of theater arts, our profound gratitude to you.

WE DEDICATE THIS REPORT
TO ALL THOSE WE LOST THIS PAST YEAR INCLUDING:

A.J. BIANCO

DAVID COLEMAN

LOU COLEN

JERRY JANGER

WENDELL JEFFREY

JUDI KAUFMAN

AI O. SHAY

JOANNIE STERN

GAIL ZAPPA

THANK YOU FOR LIGHTING UP OUR LIVES
WITH YOUR LOVE AND SUPPORT OF THE ARTS
AND PASSION FOR SHARING THE ARTS WITH THOSE
WHO HAVE LITTLE OR NO ACCESS OR MEANS.
YOU ARE FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS.

THANK YOU
FOR HELPING US
SERVE SO MANY
SCHOOLS &
COMMUNITIES
OF LOS ANGELES



Schools, Organizations and Communities Served through your generosity:



Elementary Schools Served through our Story Pirates Residency Program

Beachy Avenue Elementary, San Fernando Valley
Lorena Street Elementary, Boyle Heights
Nora Sterry Elementary, West Los Angeles
Pinewood Elementary, Tujunga
Rockdale Elementary, Eagle Rock
Toluca Lake Elementary, Los Angeles

High Schools Served through our Geffen Playhouse Literacy Project

Felicitas & Gonzalo Mendez High School,
Boyle Heights



High Schools Served through our High School Partnerships Program

Jordan High School, Watts
Roosevelt Senior High School, Boyle Heights
Santee Education Complex, South Los Angeles
Westchester Enriched Sciences Magnet, Westchester
Academy of Environmental & Social Policy,
Lincoln Heights
Van Nuys High School, Van Nuys



Veteran Organizations served through our Veterans Initiatives

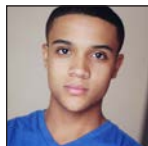
New Directions
PATH Homeless Organization
Project Hollywood Cares
Serve the Warrior
Team Rubicon
UCLA Operation Mend
Veterans Home of West LA
Veterans in Film & Television
West Los Angeles VA

Schools and Organizations Served through our LIGHTS UP Program

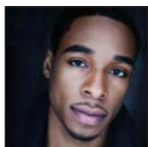
Affordable Living for the Aging
Being Alive
Beverly Hills Adult School
California Lawyers for the Arts
Challengers Boys and Girls Club
Choreographer's Theater Ensemble
Claude Pepper Senior Community Center
Country Villa Terrace
Create NOW
Cultural Education Project
Culver Slauson Center
East Los Angeles College
Felicia Mahood Senior Center
Fifty-Fifty Leadership
Get Lit - Words Ignite
GLEH
Heal the Bay
Holman United Methodist Church Arts Council
Israel Levin Senior Center
It's Time for Kids
Long Beach Central Area Association
Math/Science Upward Bound
Mutual Amputee Aid Foundation
My Friend's Place
Oasis Baldwin Hills
Phoenix House
P.S. Arts

Reading is Fundamental of Southern California
Russian American Choir
Santa Monica Emeritus College
Self-Realization Fellowship
Sheenway School and Cultural Center
Silvercrest Senior Center
SRO Housing
St. Monica Senior Ministries
Step Up on Second
Stop Senior Scams Acting Program
Sunset Hall
Thomas Safran and Associates
Urban Possibilities
West Hollywood Community Housing Corporation
West Valley Occupational Center — AEWC
West Valley Occupational Center — ESL
Zeta Rho

Our gratitude to the artists who supported our Education & Community Engagement Programs this past year:



Nicholas L. Ashe



Grantham Coleman



Caleb Eberhardt



Leonard Kelly-Young



Donovan Mitchell



Jeremy Pope



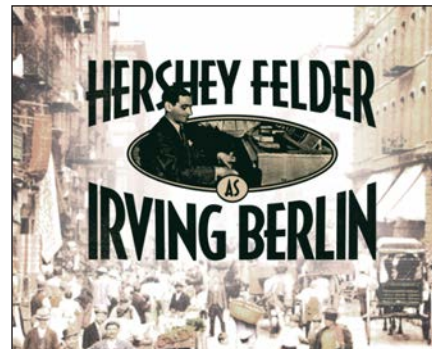
Trip Cullman



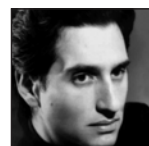
Tarell Alvin McCraney



Michael A. Shepperd



Trevor Hay



Hershey Felder



Randall Arney



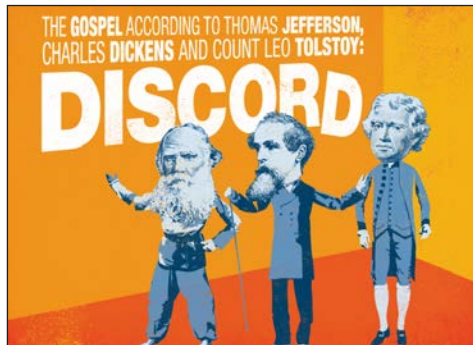
Conor McPherson



Matt August



Scott Carter



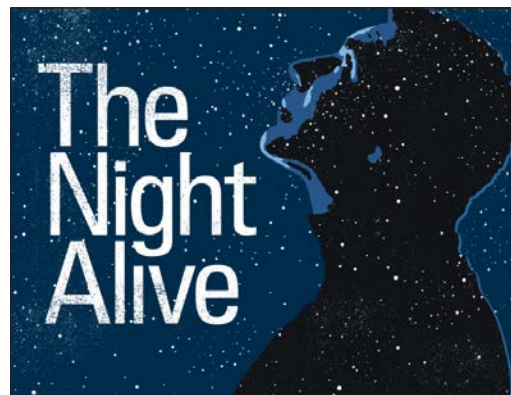
Larry Cedar



David Melville



Armin Shimerman



Denis Arndt



Dan Donohue



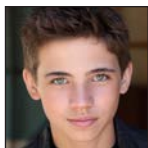
Fiona O'Shaughnessy



Peter O'Meara



Paul Vincent O'Connor



Tanner Buchanan



Brendan Griffin



Eric Ladin



Joe Paulik



Elizabeth Rodriguez



Josh Stamberg



Peter DuBois



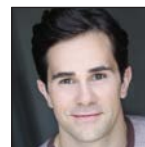
Stephen Belber



Maurice Williams



Jeff Blumenkrantz



Brett Ryback



Kellen Blair



Joe Kinosian



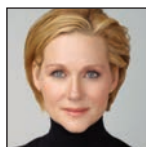
Scott Schwartz



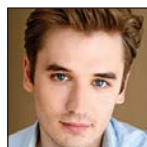
Mark Brokaw



Joanna Murray-Smith



Laura Linney



Seth Numrich



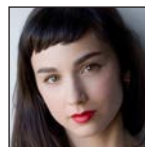
Matt Shakman



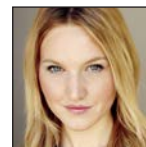
Joshua Harmon



Ari Brand



Molly Ephraim



Lili Fuller



Raviv Ullman

With Gratitude to You from the Board of the Geffen Playhouse



Martha Henderson
Co-Chair



**Pamela Robinson
Hollander**
Co-Chair



**Patricia Kiernan
Applegate**



Randall Arney
Artistic Director



Beth Behrs



Dr. Gene D. Block



Kevin Bright



Harold A. Brown
Treasurer



Gil Cates, Jr.
Executive Director



Michael Centeno



Mary Ann Cloyd



Kirsten Combs



Robert A. Daly



Merle Dandridge



Dr. Brad Edgerton



Mark Fleischer



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Herbert M. Gelfand
Chairman Emeritus



Patricia L. Glaser



Sam Gores



Adi Greenberg



Arthur Greenberg



Quincy Jones



Joan Kaloustian



Jeffrey Katzenberg



Glorya Kaufman



**Loretta Everett
Kaufman**



Dr. Gerald S. Levey



Carla Malden



Susan Mallory



Ginny Mancini
Secretary



Frank G. Mancuso
Chairman Emeritus



Victoria Mann Simms



Barry Meyer



Ron Meyer



Scott Minerd



Leslie Moonves



Jerry Moss



Steven A. Olsen



Jerry Perenchio



Bruce Ramer
Founding Chairman



Holly Rice
Education Chair



**Linda Bernstein
Rubin**



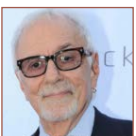
Teri Schwartz



Richard Sherman



Andy Spahn



Fred Specktor



Steven Spielberg



Lorraine Spurge



Cynthia P. Stafford



Howard Tenenbaum
Vice Chair



Steve Tisch



Dr. Charles E. Young
Chairman Emeritus

and from our Advisory Board



Miranda Tollman
Chair



Annette Blum



Stephanie Carson



Lori Collins



Debra Davis



Valarie de la Garza



Colin Eggesfield



Priscila Giraldo



Kirsten Hansen



Eric Heer



Wendy Kurtzman



Jason Lee



Yvonne Lee



Hannah Linkenhoker



John McCrite



Rollin Ransom



Allen Shay



John Sonogo



Laurie Ziegler

The Geffen Playhouse is a non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the cultural life of Los Angeles through plays and educational programs that inform, entertain and inspire. We are very proud of our formal affiliation with UCLA, including our partnerships with the UCLA School of Theatre, Film and Television and the UCLA Graduate School of Education.



SPECIAL THANKS TO JEFF LORCH FOR HIS OUTSTANDING PHOTOGRAPHY



From the Geffen's Education Chair

“As Education Chair on the Geffen Playhouse Board of Directors, I believe deeply in the Education and Community Engagement Programs offered by the Geffen.

I am delighted to have this opportunity to thank you for playing an important role in the success of these programs as illustrated on the preceding pages.

Thanks to your support, this past year was one of impressive creative work, measurable academic progress, and meaningful stage performances that resulted in inspirational experiences for everyone involved: students, community members, staff, artists. The countless testimonials and anecdotes about the positive impact of the work done, the increase in test scores, and the pure joy of accomplishment we observed in the participating students and community partners this year are both significant and heartwarming. I am proud to be a part of the Geffen Playhouse family and happy to have you as a contributor to these innovative projects.

After reading this report, I am sure you, too, will be impressed not only with the students and community members who have worked so hard this year but also with the Geffen's programs that have guided their efforts. The Geffen has made a difference in lives and futures and YOU have been an important part of that! Thank you! “

— Holly Rice, Education Chair and Member, Geffen Playhouse Board of Directors



Above, from right to left:
Holly Rice, Education Chair and Board Member,
Gil Cates, Jr., Executive Director, and
Jennifer Zakkai, Director of Education & Community Engagement



Our Education Team, above, from right to left:
Jessica Brusilow Rollins, Director of Education Partnerships
Carolyn Marie Wright, Manager of Education & Community Engagement
Jennifer Zakkai, Director of Education & Community Engagement
Kristen Smith Eshaya, Development & Education Programs Coordinator



WITH PROFOUND GRATITUDE TO YOU
FROM YOUR FAMILY AND FANS AT THE GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE

20 GEFFEN
PLAYHOUSE

10886 Le Conte Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90024

310.208.6500



The End.