

YOUTHCITY HIGHLIGHTS

Growing Up with Global Artways

By Megan Davis Brown, Global Artways

At just six and eight years old, Ana and Stefan Jovanovic-Hacon are already veteran Global Artways students. Collectively, they have participated in over 30 visual art, music and dance classes.

When their mother, Aleksandra, discovered Global Artways two years ago, she expected fun community art classes that would engage her son over the summer. What she discovered by attending a few classes with her children exceeded her expectations. "Not only do all Global Artways teachers have a college degree in their discipline, they are also incredible teachers," she said. "Every time my children do something different and learn something new, and this keeps them wanting to come back. Even if Ana and Stefan are ill and stay home from school, they insist on going to their Global Artways classes.



Stefan and Ana attend a YouthCity Artways visual arts class at Sprague Library.

They have already moved beyond the introductory music classes, and, after begging their parents for a piano, now take private lessons from one of their former Global Artways instructors, Kristin Petersen. Kristin credits the children's success to supportive parents and the foundation they received in Global Artways classes.

Aleksandra is from former Yugoslavia where education focuses heavily on math and science. Growing up, art was present but not very accessible and definitely not an integral part her life. "I want to thank Global Artways because my children became interested in art through your classes," she said. "It's wonderful to feel that art is a very important part of our life. I tell everyone I know about Global Artways!"

Computer Clubhouse Goes Robotic

By Carole Costa, Manager, Computer Center, Sorenson Multi-Cultural Center

Answer this Sphinx-like riddle:

- *Propelling with oars is my first.*
- *You decorate presents with my second.*
- *My third are bloodthirsty parasites that like your skin.*
- *My all is a fun science and engineering YouthCity workshop and the way of the future!*
- *Answer: ROW - BOW - TICS = Robotics!*



During the winter months, Sorenson Computer Clubhouse staff members Jan Nelson and Thien Nguyen took Lego Robotics on the road to the YouthCity Central City and Ottinger Hall programs. Twenty-five youth participated in the program and learned how computer programming and Legos can interact to create amazing contraptions.

The goal was to create a machine that incorporated small motors and wheels, and then use basic programming language to make the machine physically move in a controlled way. Each group had to utilize engineering principles, and collaborate on problem-solving regarding gear system, rotation and structure design. Our junior engineers enjoyed the experience and requested more robotics workshops.

Thanks to the support of Intel and Microsoft, the Clubhouse will soon be in position to expand the robotics program. The MIT Media Lab in Boston also participated in the endeavor by sponsoring staff training, and donating new-generation educational equipment called “crickets.” Crickets allow students to combine arts and crafts material with sensors and robotics components to create a pet cat that meows when petted, or a birthday cake that sings a song when the candles are blown out.



Youth learn engineering principals at Ottinger Hall.

Sorenson Sports Program Fosters Sportsmanship

By Josh DeCola, Sorenson Multi-Cultural Center Sports Program

This year, Jr. Jazz launched a new program called the “Utah Jazz Sportsmanship Initiative,” which emphasized good sportsmanship for players, parents and coaches. During each game, teams could to earn up to five points based upon five criteria.

The 5th-6th grade Tar Heels boys’ team won the sportsmanship award for their division. As a reward, they attended a banquet held at the Energy Solutions Arena. Utah Jazz players Carlos Boozer and Andrei Kirilenko were the guest speakers.

When asked about the sportsmanship program, Stephan Kapetanovic, age 11, explained: “I had a lot of fun this year. I think our team was the best in sportsmanship and we won the award to prove it. The program helped other kids to not brag when they won their games during the season. I like the friendly competition and it keeps me active.”

“I really enjoyed watching the kids improve their basketball skills week to week,” said Tarheels coach Mike Carlston. “The sportsmanship initiative also really helped teams, coaches and parents improve their attitudes and behavior.”

From the Director: Hellos and Goodbyes

By Janet Wolf, Director, Youth and Family Services Division, Salt Lake City

In the past quarter, we have said hello and goodbye to several key staffers. Hello to Lucy Smith, new coordinator of the Sorenson Center’s After-School and Summer programs.

Lucy comes to us from the University of Utah's Youth Education program in the Division of Continuing Education. She is also an artist, and a recent graduate of the university's Parks, Recreation and Tourism masters program. Lucy's work at Sorenson has already made us grateful to find her. Her program innovation experience, and the intelligence and caring she brings to the work and our participants will result in many positive changes to the program.

We said goodbye to Dan Gerhart, director of YouthCity Artways (formerly Global Artways). Dan came to us almost five years ago from the University of Utah's College of Fine Arts. He filled the huge void created when the program's founder, Elaine Harding, moved to California. We were worried we'd never be the same after Elaine left. Our fears were quieted as Dan led YCA with care and inspiration over the past several years. He brought tremendous growth and stability to the city's art program, and built new relationships with partners and teaching artists. He has also been instrumental in carrying forth the vision of YCA at The Leonardo. We will miss Dan's humor and calm leadership. We wish him well on his new adventure in Kansas City, Kansas.

YOUTHCITY PROGRAM UPDATES

YouthCity @ Central City – by Ken Perko

Recap

- The Winter Session ended with a fantastic celebration on March 29th. Kids and families enjoyed pizza, ice cream, a program open house, and of course, awards!
- We returned to The Front Climbing Club for more rock climbing, where the kids learned how to boulder and climb with a rope.
- The second annual Pinewood Derby brought participants from Ottinger Hall, Liberty Park, Fairmont Park and Central City together for a race to remember.

Looking Ahead

- Spring session brings back the ever-popular Skateboarding and Capoeira classes, in addition to new classes at the Tracy Aviary.

YouthCity After-School @ Fairmont Park – Andrew McCormick

Recap

- The last two sessions at Fairmont Park have been especially fun and educational. We are serving over 30 youth this year, who continue to enjoy a variety of great activities and classes.
- Our Pine Wood Derby class ended with a terrific four-site race where students pitted their car against other students' creations. Each class spent six weeks carving, sawing, sanding, painting and detailing their cars. The class was so much fun, students requested we offer it during Winter Session as well.
- Felicia Baca joined us as a new instructor this winter. She led four art classes, including Mailing Art, Jewelry Making, Recycled Art, and Art Adventure. In Art Adventure, the students take walking field trips to Sugarhouse art locales to learn about the type of art being produced in our neighborhood. The youth really enjoyed learning more about their artistic community.

Looking Ahead

- Spring Session is always one of the best. We will be exploring some new activities, including a "spy" class, where students search the park for clues and puzzles in a race to beat the clock and expose a hidden conspiracy.
- We have already received a lot of interest for Summer Session, and will be bumping up enrollment numbers to serve as many families as possible.

YouthCity After-School @ Liberty Park – by Elizabeth Robinson

Recap

- We added a new class Spring Session called 1997-2017. In the class, youth meet once a week to discuss what life was like 10 years ago, and how different life will be in 10 years. The class is designed to help the kids think more seriously about their future, set some goals, make predictions, and dream big about possibilities. We hope to create a time capsule at our end-of-session celebration and bury it somewhere in the park. Long term, it would be really interesting to get together for a reunion in 10 years and open the capsule.
- Teens in tights (a.k.a., The Liberty Park Players) are back, and shaping up to be bigger and better than last year. We have 21 teens (some veterans and some new) who meet twice each week. Colin Crebs and Jessie Mulvey, program alum and now college students, are serving as interns in the program, helping write the plays.

Looking Ahead

- The Players will once again perform at the Utah Arts Festival, June 21-24. They will perform every day at 6:00, 7:00, 8:00 and 9:00 p.m. in the pit amphitheatre. The Players will be the only performing arts group taking the stage at night, which is quite an honor. This year we will perform The Tempest, Othello, and Winter's Tale, as 20-minute condensed or "Shakin' Up" versions. We will also be performing Taming of the Shrew, which will run 45 minutes.

YouthCity After-School @ Glendale – by Dallas Russell

Recap

- During Winter Session, YouthCity at Ottinger Hall teamed with the Salt Lake City Water Department to educate our youth on the City Creek watershed. In a class called H2O Adventures, Vanessa Welch from the city's water department, taught a bi-weekly class about water issues—from how we get our drinking water, to water bugs and what their presence or absence tell us about a body of water, to ways to keep our streams and rivers pure. The class included hikes up City Creek Canyon, daily water purity tests, a trip to the City Creek Water Treatment Plant, and a first hand display of the powerful Vector Truck, which keeps our drainage system clean. The kids loved the class and had an especially great time competing over who could find the biggest, nastiest water bug.

Looking Ahead

- This spring we will bring back some old favorites such as Gardening, Capoeira, and Web Design.
- We will also offer Culture Club, which will highlight other cultures through food, literature, dance, and music.

YouthCity After-School @ Sorenson – by Lucy Smith

Recap

- This spring we have been in the garden Wasatch Gardens that is! The Sorenson After-School program participants have been planting plants, getting dirty, and investigating worms. The class focused on natural science, living and non-living things, and other cool science topics.
- Since January, participants have also been back in the Computer Clubhouse, where they are learning how to use scanners, Photoshop and image manipulation. The 2nd graders are beginning their first voyage in the computer lab. They are having a great time learning new skills and expanding their knowledge.
- As part of a new partnership recently launched with the Salt Lake City Police Department, Sorenson Center After-School participants will visit the crime lab, discover finger printing, and learn about police dogs.

Looking Ahead

- We are starting to plan some exciting activities for the summer such as swimming, tennis, hiking, teambuilding, and field trips to Utah's natural wonders.

YouthCity Government – by Angela Romero

Recap

- YouthCity Government's second annual Youth Freedom Forum titled, "*The Freedom of Speech on High School Campuses*," was a great success, with over 40 young people and adults attending the event. Guest speakers included representatives from Equality Utah, West High School's Gay-Straight Alliance, and the Sutherland Institute.
- The YouthCity Government Law and Government Program introduces students to the four levels of government: city, county, state and federal. To date, students have heard from city and county officials, including Salt Lake City Prosecutor Sim Gill, and Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon.

Looking Ahead

- YouthCity Government will host the Glocal Youth Parliament's (GYP) first North American Regional Retreat, June 15 – 17. The North American Retreat will utilize Salt Lake City's existing environmental programs to train GYP members on how global change can be addressed at the local level. Participants will also learn about a variety of topics—from fundraising, to trans-national environmental issues—through hands-on workshops. In keeping with the Glocal Youth Parliament's mission, the retreat will also focus on diversity training and team-building skills.

YouthCity Employment – by Matt Lyon

Recap

- In spring 2007, the Workplace Mentorship students explored life in government and education careers.
- Workplace Mentorship participants learned about political messaging, how a bill becomes a law, and different methods of lobbying. The students also job-shadowed Utah's United States attorney, an elections officer, and Salt Lake City's minority affairs director.
- YouthCity's *Connections* completed the in-class portion of the program. This spring the students led and worked in after-school programs at Parkview, Rose Park, Mountain View, and Newman elementary schools.

Looking Ahead

- YouthCity Employment Programs and Salt Lake County Youth EmployAbility Services will host a Youth Summer Job Fair on Thursday, May 10 from 3:30 until 6:30 p.m. at the downtown library. Lagoon, YouthWorks, Job Corps and the Megaplex Theaters are a few of the employers attending.
- YouthCity's Farmers' Market Internship Program will kick off Saturday, June 9. Participants will tour and meet local businesses on Fridays, and work at the Farmers' Market on Saturday mornings throughout the summer.

YouthCity @ Glendale – Rebecca Peters

Recap

- Most of our efforts at Glendale this past session focused on preparing for the Glendale Multi-Cultural Festival. The festival is an annual event featuring cultural arts performances from around the globe.

Looking Ahead

- The Multi-Cultural Festival will take place on May 18, immediately following the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Glendale Middle School building.
- We look forward to packing up and moving to the new location, which will be ready just in time for the 2007-2008 school year.