

ARTS FOR HUMANITY!

Celebrating Humanity Through the Arts

MISSION



ARTS FOR HUMANITY! (AH!), an arts outreach organization, celebrates humanity through the arts with programs that cultivate creativity and empower people with developmental disabilities, at-risk youth, the elderly and others in partnership with local artists and the community at large.

AH!'s performing and visual arts programs benefit individuals and build community by giving a voice to the underserved through the power and beauty of the arts.



"When I dance I feel like I'm a wizard dancing in the forest."

– Gabriel, 17 Year Old Cast Member

COLLABORATIONS

AH! was founded in 1997 and is an umbrella organization of *Community School Inc.*, a non-profit 501(c)(3). AH! provides enriching programs in collaboration with local organizations such as:



*Alpha Resource Center
CALM
Casa Serena
County Action Commission
Devereux Foundation
Friendship Center
Garden Court
Noah's Anchorage
SBCC Adult Education
SB County Mental Health
Summer Solstice
Tri-Counties Regional Center
UCSB*

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

● INNOVATIVE THEATRE/DANCE PRODUCTIONS:

AH! produces Theatre/Dance productions of original material created through a collaborative improvisational process and perform at venues such as *Center Stage Theater* and *UCSB's Multicultural Center*. AH!'s performance troupe, the innovative **Blue Moon Players**, is composed of actors and dancers with and without disabilities.



● COMMUNITY EXPRESSIVE ARTS PROGRAMS:

Arts for Humanity!'s artist/facilitators create positive experiences for groups at non-profit agencies through interactive arts such as creative theatre, expressive movement, visual art and video documentaries. AH! produces *Outsider Art Exhibits* that feature the work of these artists.

● **VISITING ARTIST WORKSHOPS:** Professional artists in the visual and performing arts provide unique creative experiences that link underserved populations with the general public. These innovative workshops are multicultural and diverse in both theme and demographics.

● **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:** Enriching service experiences are available in all facets of **Arts for Humanity's** organization and programs.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

● **TRAINING PROGRAM:** AH!'s Founder and Director, **Karsen Lee Gould, MA, CDT**, provides staff training in the integration of expressive arts for therapeutic programs at residential and day treatment centers.

● **INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: Future Leaders** – students from local high schools and colleges gain invaluable hands-on experience and training by assisting in AH!'s outreach programs and general operations.



FOUNDER & DIRECTOR

AH! is run by a talented group of staff, artist/facilitators, and volunteers under the direction of **Karsen Lee Gould, MA, CDT**. Ms. Gould has an MA in Clinical Psychology and Creative Arts Therapies from *Antioch University, Santa Barbara*. For over 25 years, she has been active in bringing the stimulating and healing power of the arts to underserved segments of our communities. Ms. Gould is a talented educator, artist, theatre director and creative arts therapist. She also serves as AH!'s liaison to local educational and therapeutic community organizations.



FUNDING

AH! relies on the support of foundations and individual donors to continue to provide these vital services to our community. We are grateful to the generous support provided by *Community School Inc.*, *Santa Barbara County Arts Commission*, *Tri-Counties Regional Center*, *The Santa Barbara Foundation*, *The Wood-Claeyssens Foundation* and AH!'s wonderful individual benefactors.



VISION

Arts for Humanity's envisions a world where the arts are integral to our lives and accessible to all – a world where we celebrate both our differences and commonality through the magic of creativity.

"Sometimes my feelings are shut away behind me. In drama, I feel like a free bird, and all my troubles are gone."

– Louise, Senior Cast Member

"WHAT WE PLAY IS LIFE."

– Louis Armstrong