



EPACENTER LAUNCHES FIRST IN-PERSON CLASSES IN VISUAL AND CULINARY ARTS, MUSIC, AND MORE, FREE FOR EAST PALO ALTO YOUTH - PLUS PAID INTERNSHIPS IN FILM, FASHION & ART April 23 – June 11, 2022

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (30 March 2022) — After two years of offering online classes and assisting youth at community schools, the recently-completed state-of-the-art **EPACENTER** will open its doors and offer free in-person classes to the youth of East Palo Alto. The 25,000-sf creative youth development center has announced classes in voice, sketching and painting, drumming, piano, ukulele, guitar, digital art, photography, cartooning, arts & crafts, acting, screenwriting, culinary arts, and more for youth aged 6 to 18. Also available are art and yoga classes that parents can take with their children, and a thrilling new class in which students will learn to personally design and implement artwork on skateboards, after which they will also learn to ride them. In addition, EPACENTER will offer paid internships that allow teens to learn skills in photography, visual art, digital design, fashion, and public art under the guidance of seasoned professionals. All classes are offered free to East Palo Alto youth but will require advance registration and a nominal supplies fee. (*Students requiring financial assistance may apply for fees to be waived.*) “We are thrilled to finally welcome the youth of East Palo Alto to our beautiful new building, which was designed and built by and for them,” said EPACENTER Executive Director Nadine Rambeau, “Our students now have the opportunity to learn from our instructors in person and be a part of an inclusive community that supports and encourages their artistry in a variety of creative fields—from film to fashion, and culinary arts to skateboarding.” EPACENTER’s spring classes will take place **April 23 – June 11, 2022** at 1950 Bay Rd, East Palo Alto. For a full schedule of classes and to register, the public may visit epacenter.org/programs. For more information, the public may contact programs@epacenterarts.org or call 877-372-2787.

EPACENTER will hold an in-person open house and registration event onsite **1pm - 3pm, Saturday, April 23** for students and families who want to check out the new site, or who may

need assistance with internet access or translation. Visitors will also have the opportunity to explore the recently completed facility and tour its stunning dance studio, art gallery, theatre, and state-of-the-art classrooms and workspaces.

In addition to classes, **EPACENTER'S ARTWORKS** program provides youth ages 14 and up with opportunities to apply their creative skills in real-world contexts with paid internships and on-the-job-training. The spring session includes paid opportunities to learn about fashion design, film production, photography, and visual art. New to this session is an innovative visual arts internship in which students will learn to sculpt and create other artworks to be displayed in EPACENTER's art gallery and offered for sale. Students must register in advance for these paid internships.

COVID-19 Guidelines

EPACENTER is committed to keeping students and teachers safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Students attending classes in person will be required to partake in a temperature check. Where possible, programming will take place outdoors. Some classes may also be offered online.

About EPACENTER

EPACENTER is a creative youth development center in East Palo Alto that amplifies the creative potential in every young person. It harnesses the power of art, design, technology, and culture to accelerate creative youth development outcomes for vulnerable youth in East Palo Alto. EPACENTER offers free programming along four developmental pathways including: arts education classes that help students develop 21st century skills such as creativity, teamwork, and perseverance; job training and workforce development programs in creative fields that close gaps in skills; art production programs for students to create high-quality works of art for sale, as well as community art projects and youth-produced events for public enjoyment; and ongoing support to help youth develop the socio-emotional skills needed to thrive, through engagement with the center's programs. EPACENTER's age-differentiated programs are led by professional artists, designers, technicians, and therapists with programs that take place during the school day, after-school, and during the summer. EPACENTER envisions a future where all young people in and of East Palo Alto will have the opportunity to become creative innovators and enjoy economic and social success in their community.

EPACENTER's state-of-the-art facility was driven by a community-based outreach effort, filling a much-needed gap in East Palo Alto to give local youth access to free quality arts instruction. Funded by the John & Marcia Goldman Foundation, the 25,000 square foot facility provides

local youth with a space they asked for specifically: a safe learning environment where they can access a multitude of exciting opportunities to develop their creativity and learn job skills.

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PHOTOS: Media may download high-res photos at:
<https://www.cbpr.co/press/epacenter>