



## Winter 2020: In this issue

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- **Cheers to our Champions!**

### Junior Players Staff

**Rosaura Cruz**

*Executive Director*

**Megan Carfa**

*Operations and Development Director*

**Carine Rice**

*Program Director*

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### *From the Executive Director*

This year we have come together from various communities to support one common goal - empowering young voices. Thank you for supporting Junior Players and embodying the resilient character of arts champions. The entire Junior Players family is forever grateful for your encouragement.

I am honored to serve an organization who has such phenomenal stakeholders. My deep appreciation to all those who have shown support by donating financial gifts, in-kind goods, services and capacity building resources, despite the effect this ongoing pandemic has had on our economy and daily lives. Thank you for choosing to support the arts and our youth, even during the most difficult of times.

Thanks to your combined efforts and generosity, we are raising much needed funds for students like Shy'Peria Brown, who shared that, "What I like most about being a part of Junior Players is the warmth it brings. You're always treated as a family member and as a person and I think that's very valuable."

In spite of the many unknowns, we are adapting our financial plans to address the problems presented by COVID-19, responding to fast-changing circumstances with imperfect information. After the assessment of the pandemic's implications, we will address the reductions in our revenue portfolio and identify short-term solutions that maintain operations and continue to deliver quality programming and experiences through teleworking, remote learning, and creative forms of virtual community-building and engagement.

**We understand that the pandemic will have some serious consequences on our revenue streams, but we do not want to forget the impact that it may have on our youth's social and emotional health and the arts at large.** It is our long-term goal to highlight and promote arts programs that focus on positive community engagement and mental health during these challenging times.

As I look back on our year, I have to admit, it's not what I imagined our 65th anniversary would look like. First, I didn't think I would be learning so much about Zoom! But, despite the challenges and difficulties we and many other individuals, non-profits, and organizations faced, we have persevered.

Our Junior Players team turned obstacles into opportunities, to ensure we could continue providing the innovative programming and events for our youth and our community. By quickly switching to virtual programming, we've been able to continue providing safe spaces for the over 15,000 kids and teens. These youth rely on our programming, and our efforts have shown them, and community leaders, the importance and resilience of the arts.

While creating this virtual world for our participants, we have also been brought face-to-face with a cultural revolution. Junior Players believes that BlackLivesMatter, that there is no place for racism and intolerance in our schools, communities, and country, and that there is an urgent need for change that cannot be ignored. Much of our outreach is in the black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) community, and we will continue to work hard to listen and learn to be strong allies for our students, artists, and communities. We acknowledge that actions speak louder than words and have taken action by infusing EDI into all of our curriculum, as well as relaunching our Youth in Arts Student Council.

Despite the obstacles, you, our community advocates, have stayed resolute in your support of Junior Players. Your encouragement creates a brighter future for our participants, ensuring they have the tools they need to grow, create, and explore. Together, we can ensure that our youth are not denied opportunities based on socio-economic station.

Junior Players programming narrows the arts education gap between low-income partner schools/neighborhoods and their nearby higher-income peers by providing 6,000 hours of arts education programming. With your support, our programs are able to help our youth expand communication skills, increase self-confidence, and improve self-esteem. Thanks to our new virtual programs and your continued generosity, we are present in our students' lives. ALL of our nation's youth deserve a well-rounded education inclusive of the arts. And we're making that happen, one child at a time.

**We remain committed to our community and our youth through this trying time, and by making a final 2020 gift today, you are making the same commitment.** A commitment to create a better future for our youth. A well-deserved standing ovation to the champions who construct cultural equity for all.

**Rosaura Cruz**

*Executive Director | Junior Players Alumna 1999 – 2002*



## 2020 Future Stars Event Series

Junior Player's annual Future Stars Gala was reinvented in consideration of COVID-19. This year, we took our celebration online to create a brand new event series!

These events featured a different celebrity guest at each and will place an emphasis on the importance of supporting the arts and your community.

We were thrilled to have Junior Players' Alumni and star of the Emmy-Nominated Series, *The Good Place*, William Jackson Harper, join us as our keynote speaker on October 19, 2020, star of *Psych* and *A Million Little Things*, James Roday Rodriguez, join us as our keynote speaker on November, 7 2020, Silver Spoon Award winner, Chef Dean Fearing, join us as our keynote speaker on December 2, 2020, and the prolific Jeff Daniels join us as our keynote speaker on December 10, 2020!

We were also ecstatic to have founder/CEO of Kimiya International, Dr. Sana Syed, Junior Players' Program Director, Carine Rice, and journalist, entrepreneur, and consultant, Susy Solis, join us as our phenomenal moderators for these events! Together we raised much needed funds for over 15,000 North Texas youth.

### 2020 PRESENTING SPONSOR:



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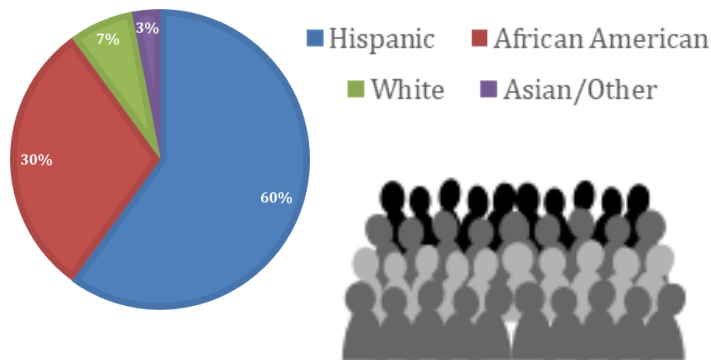
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## 2020 Participant Demographics:



"I love working with Junior Players because they are a very professional organization. They care about their teaching artists, they care about their community, and there is no other company in Dallas that has such a variety of classes for kids and teens."

- Omar Padilla, 2020 Teaching Artist

140 Unique Programs

11,750 Participants Served

3,500 Audience Members Served

110 Industry Professionals Employed

## 2020 Year in Review

"During this quarantine and during COVID I would have had no place to get to express my passion and love of theater and [Junior Players] gave that to me for free and it was just an amazing experience. I didn't have to travel anywhere; I didn't have to risk my safety and I got to experience this amazing thing."

- Alexis Fritsche, 2020 Junior Players' Participant

"This is the 3rd year for which my children have participated. Thank you for having a virtual camp. With everything locked down, they were disappointed because they thought camp would be cancelled. They were happy when I told them that there was a virtual option, and we look forward to participating every year. Now that they are old enough to audition for plays, I believe they will be on the lookout for auditioning for your productions in the future."

- Kim Mackey, 2020 Parent

"Even during this time of uncertainty and social distancing, Junior Players has continued to provide quality programming to Dallas' youth, encouraging them to lean in to their imaginations. Supporting the creative and artistic health of our young communities is supporting the future of Dallas. All kids deserve the chance to play."

- Liz D'Aloia, 2020 Board Vice President

### Discover Art with Junior Players

Junior Players is excited to announce a new virtual Discover Art program that combines visual art with EDI lessons!

This program is open to all current 3rd through 5th graders and the final projects will be displayed at Love Field Airport for the first time ever!

**January 12, 2021 - February 11, 2021**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays**  
**4:30 pm - 5:30 pm**

Sign up today at [juniorplayers.org/art/](https://juniorplayers.org/art/)!

### Junior Players Programming

Junior Players has provided FREE arts education (including visual, performing, media, and dance) programming to the youth of North Texas since 1955, which now includes virtual programming!

Our goal is to encourage, empower and enable as many children and youth as possible each year.

Learn more about our individual programs and how to enroll by visiting [juniorplayers.org/programs](https://juniorplayers.org/programs) today!



### Junior Players' 2021 Season of Unity

Now announcing Junior Players' 2021 Season of Unity. Junior Players plans on continuing with our season in accordance to CDC guidelines. All information below is subject to change based on the guidelines set in place by the CDC and the city of Dallas.

**Discover Runway Dreams**  
April 8 - 10 2021

**PUP Fest 2021**  
June 26, 2021

**Amplify**  
June 17 - 19, 2021

**12th Night: A Rock Musical**  
August 3 - 8, 2021

**Mockingbird**  
August 12 - 15, 2021

**The Shipment**  
TBD

For the most up-to-date information on our season, including audition information, visit [juniorplayers.org](https://juniorplayers.org).



## 2020 DIAMOND, RUBY, EMERALD, AND PLATINUM SPONSORS AS OF 11/05/20

### 2020 Diamond Sponsor:

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*Anonymous*

### 2020 Ruby Sponsors:



### 2020 Emerald Sponsor:



*Hillcrest Foundation*

### 2020 Platinum Sponsors:



*Hal and Diane Brierley*  
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