



The Project Spera Quarterly Newsletter

Please volunteer for the
World Affairs Challenge!

Saturday, March 18 2006
San Francisco State University

We are in need of judges and volunteers for
this exciting international affairs competition.
Please contact Victoria Restler at
restler@projectspera.org or 415-292-7421
for more information.

in this issue

- what we've been up to..... p. 1
- we need your support..... p. 2
- news and events..... p. 2
- tell us what you think p. 3
- who supports us..... p. 3
- test your global awareness and see answers from the last issue... p. 3
- community profiles..... p. 4

information contacts

Contact Us
Project Spera, Inc.
999 Sutter Street, 4th Fl.
San Francisco, CA 94109
(415) 292-7421

to find out more visit
www.projectspera.org

to unsubscribe email
info@projectspera.org

what we've been up to

Project Spera's first annual **Global Youth Media and Art Program** was a resounding success! The Festival took place on December 8th and 9th at SOMArts Cultural Center and was attended by over 500 visitors and nearly 200 students on school field trips. The festival celebrated a three-month collaboration between Project Spera and 20 local media and arts programs. Over the course of the fall Project Spera supported each partner organization in incorporating global issues into their program around this year's theme: *Peace and Conflict, from Local to Global*. Project Spera provided each partner with a Collaborator's Guide of curricula, original workshops merging art, media and global issues, and planned three Saturday "Jam Sessions" designed to facilitate community building and introduce the youth to a wide range of professional artists.

With this support, 270 youth from 20 arts organizations worked throughout the fall on art and media projects about peace and conflict and presented their projects at the December Festival. Youth worked in a wide range of media including photography, film, painting, spoken word, radio and print journalism, web design, hip-hop and dance. These youth tackled the theme of peace and conflict in creative and thought-provoking ways:

In an attempt to beautify and bring more peace to their community, a group of youth from Southern Exposure took on a "Guerilla Gardening" project.

Students walked around the neighborhood with daisies and lettuce and planted their blooms wherever they could find soil: next to trees and at the edges of overgrown parks. Youth then documented this outing and displayed their maps and photographs at the festival.



Journalism students from Lick Wilmerding High School dedicated an entire issue of their newspaper to The Global Youth Media and Arts Program and wrote articles on topics ranging from the role of arts in public school education to the murders in Ciudad Juarez and a personal take on the recent riots in France.

There were also a number of wonderful performances at the festival. The Destiny Arts Performance Company worked with a young choreographer to create a dynamic, original piece titled, "Dangerous Beauty," addressing issues of global inequality, racial and cultural conflict.

The young people of Youth Movement Records (YMR) also brought their rhythm and style to the SOMArts stage.

Two YMR artists performed hip-hop and reggae songs addressing community violence, discrimination against women, and hope for peace through music and solidarity.

All in all, the two-day festival was a wonderful occasion for creative exchange and community engagement for young artists, parents, program leaders and community members alike!

The Electronic Arts Foundation at the Community Foundation Silicon Valley largely supported the



Program, with additional support from the Rudolf Steiner Foundation's New Initiatives Fund, the Ark Foundation, the Arthur B. Schultz Foundation, and the Mary Crocker Trust.

In kind support was provided by SOMArts Cultural Center, A Bed of Roses, Pasta Pomodoro, Arizmendi Bakery, Pizza Hut, Baja Fresh, Rotee, Chutney, Subway, Krishna Digital, Whole Foods, and Trader Joe's.

Without the generous support of the following individual volunteers the festival would not have been possible. Please accept our warmest thanks for making this such a special event for the young artists!

Huge thanks to Jennifer Wasson, Mathias Mortenson, Blake Respini, Cholpon Nazarmatova, Stacey Mangni, Steff Eiter, Jacqueline Egnan, Byron Alex, Brooke Lloyd, Joey Piziali, Vanessa Blaikie, Jessica Sanfilippo, Peter Post, Rayna Goldman, May Tien, Candice Smith, Sarah Haldan, Kate Macomber-Jones, Karena Salmond, Lauren Caprone and Chrissy Manonian for assistance with installation, de-installation, and support during the two day festival. Alex Lee was a tremendous support in crunch time with technology and IT issues on site—we don't know what we would have done without you, Alex!

news and events

World Affairs Challenge

When: Saturday, March 18, 2006 from 9am to 4pm

Where: San Francisco State University, College of Education

Who: Youth in 30 middle and high schools from throughout Northern California. Community members are also welcome to attend – almost all the events are open to the public. If you are interested in volunteering or donating items for prizes, please get in touch!

Project Spera's Teacher Workshop: "Pollution and Energy Use"

When: Thursday, February 16, 2006 from 5 – 7.30pm

Where: BAGEP Office, World Affairs Building, 312 Sutter Street, Room 312

Who: Teachers in all disciplines throughout the Bay Area are welcome to attend.

Please register by emailing murshed@projectspera.org or call 415-292-7421.

Thanks to our volunteer photographers for their time and energy-- Yosun Denizeri, Marta Martinez, Daniel Lunghi and Molly Merson--and to our videographer, George Aguilar, for his beautiful work and countless edits. Special thanks to Kristy McKoy and Jonathan Burkett for their largely in kind contribution of all graphic artwork for publicity and program materials.

And finally, a big thank you to SOMArts: Jack, Cecily, Lisa, Mary Molly, Yosuke, George, Rene and Rio for their tireless support in the inaugural year of this festival—from installation and technology, to in-kind support for the venue and video production. Thanks to all of you!

other program news

The [World Affairs Challenge](#) is quickly approaching! Over 400 students in 50 teams from 30 schools from throughout Northern California have begun their research process, assisted by volunteer coaches and teachers. For 2006, the theme of the Challenge is *Conflict in the Contemporary World*. Participating youth are investigating the political and societal ramifications of issues such as nuclear proliferation, genocide, and the war in Iraq, and developing creative solutions to the dilemmas inherent in these conflicts.

The 2006 Challenge will be held on **Saturday, March 18**, at San Francisco State University. Please consider supporting the World Affairs Challenge! Volunteer for the day as a judge. Anyone who has an appreciation for international affairs and education is welcome; no background in the issues is required. We hope you will consider sharing this time with tomorrow's leaders. It is a unique and powerful opportunity to show support for the participants' studies, and to communicate the importance of international awareness. Please contact Victoria Restler at restler@projectspera.org if you would like to judge.

Our [Teachers Program](#) continues to work with over 30 teachers to develop standards-based curriculum that addresses international affairs. Our workshop series has been very well-attended (with over 30 teachers attending one or more) and we look forward to two more successful workshops in February and April.

we need your support

Thank you for helping us reach our fundraising goal from individual donations!
Our fall campaign raised over \$34,000 with your support.

Aside from the huge undertaking of educating youth for responsible citizenship, two challenging aspects of running our nonprofit are getting the word out and fundraising. Project Spera's supporters play a vital role in helping us expand our programs.

Support Project Spera by eating at Pasta Pomodoro! If you eat at Pasta Pomodoro in the next few months (until July 1) a portion of your bill (\$1 for each entrée ordered) will be donated to Project Spera. Please mention Project Spera when you order.

It's not too late to contribute for the 2005-6 academic year!
Learn about how to contribute to Project Spera online at www.projectspera.org.

tell us what you think

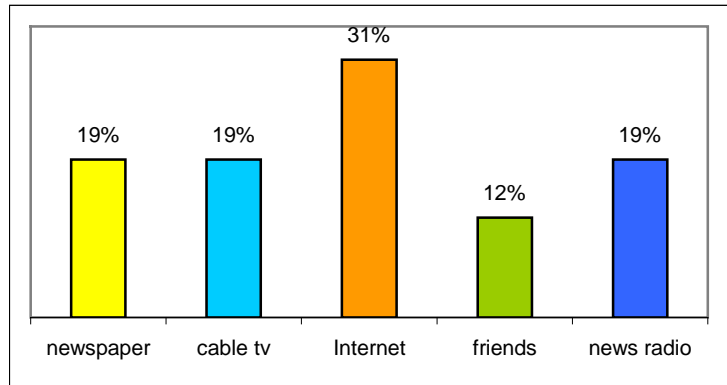
Do you believe that the U.S. gives a large enough portion of foreign aid per capita to overseas development projects?

In your opinion, what should be the priorities for disbursing foreign aid?

- Poverty alleviation
- Health care
- Disaster relief
- Education
- Other

Please visit www.projectspera.org to submit your response.

This is how you voted on the last poll, which asked you to tell us your main source for news:



test your global awareness!

Take the poll online at www.projectspera.org and see the correct answers.

1. The former European country of Yugoslavia is now composed of Slovenia, Macedonia, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, and:

- Romania
- Albania
- Bosnia
- Austria

2. In the capital city of _____, thousands of Iraqis turned out for the first multiparty election in almost 50 years.

- Karachi
- New Delhi
- Baghdad
- Tikrit

3. Russia and China joined the European Union and the United States in demanding that _____ suspend its nuclear activity.

- Iran
- Pakistan
- India
- France

4. The world's largest religion is Christianity with 2.1 billion followers. A close second is _____ with 1.3 billion followers.

- Islam
- Hinduism
- Buddhism
- Rastafarianism

5. The rebel Tamil Tigers continue their raids across the island nation of _____.

- Sri Lanka
- Madagascar
- New Zealand
- Philippines

answers from the last quiz...

1. Q: Which country has the largest land mass in the world:
A: **Russia** Correct: 80% Incorrect: 20%

2. Q: Which global organization aims to protect human rights:
A: **United Nations** Correct: 73% Incorrect: 17%

3. Q: In 2004, which country gave the highest percentage of its national income (GNP) as foreign aid:
A: **Norway** Correct: 88% Incorrect: 12%

4. Q: What is one of the main goals of the World Bank:
A: **Reducing poverty** Correct: 73% Incorrect: 17%

5. Which country mines the most gold in the world?
A: **South Africa** Correct: 100% Incorrect: 0%

who supports us

We are very grateful for the support we have recently received for our programs. We are pleased to announce recent contributions from the following local businesses and corporations: SOMArts Cultural Center, A Bed of Roses, Pasta Pomodoro, Arizmendi Bakery, Pizza Hut, Baja Fresh, Rotee, Chutney, Subway, Krishna Digital, Whole Foods, Trader Joe's, Lonely Planet Publications, Bay Area Global Education Project (BAGEP), Microsoft Giving Campaign, Walmart.com, Pasta Pomodoro, and Albertsons. Also, thanks to the **David and Lucile Packard Foundation Matching Gift Program**, **Leonardt Foundation**, and **Mortenson Family Foundation** for recent grants.

The following generous individuals have also contributed since our last newsletter:

Adam Becker	John Mackie & Kathleen Ecker
Amy Antos	Juanito Villanueva
Amy Grabill	Julie Tassi
Ann Lew	June and Donald Restler
Anna-Mae Chin	Justin Reyna
Audrey Strauss	Karen Keys
Caitlin Stanton	Kelly Sears
Cecile Hardy	Larry and Marcia Bell
Christina Wu	Linda Goossens
Claire Haldan	Lynne S Yirchott
Dan Weiner	Mary Pickering
David Hansen	Matt Tennant
David Maurrasse	Michael Patton
Debbie McBride	Molly Merson
Donna W. Hill	Neil and Nancy Humphreys
Ellen and Ted Fraumann	Paul and Kate Ramundo
Greg and Jill Kunkel	R. David Freeman
Hildy Simmons	Ron Herring
J. Stuart Haldan	Ryan Phillips
Jan Wiginton	Santeri and Mariah Voutilainen
Jason Curran & Amy Robertson	Sarah Haldan
Jeffrey Couch	Susan and Peter Restler
Jennifer Cole and Zoe Hug	Temp Keller
Jennifer Lucky	Valerie Corradini
Joel and Terry Cohen	Vincent Farrell
John and Laura Saidy	Yassie Tran

We would also like to thank our staff and interns who work so hard for the success of our programs: Sarah Haldan, Jake Meyer, Victoria Restler, Christina Hoheisel, Bryn Murray, Jones Chan, and Kelly Korenak.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR GENEROUS DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS.

Being a donor of Project Spera means you are part of a community that believes everyone should have the opportunity to learn about world affairs in order to become responsible leaders and citizens.

community profiles

Read about some of the teachers, students, volunteers and donors who are involved in Project Spera's global education programs. We are grateful for their commitment to education and youth development.

Charmagne Campbell-Patton

Former Project Spera Intern, Charmagne Campbell-Patton, spent the first two weeks of January at a youth summit in Kampala, Uganda discussing the conflict that has plagued the northern portion of the country for nearly 20 years. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has been waging war on the Acholi people of northern Uganda since 1986 and has relied on kidnapping of children to bolster its ranks. Currently, over 80% of the LRA consists of child soldiers and nearly 2 million people, have been forced into Internally Displaced People's (IDP) camps for security. The government of Uganda has been largely complacent in the war and has failed to put forth an adequate counter-insurgency to stop the violence. At the conference, Charmagne along with 50 other American and Uganda youth discussed the issues of HIV/AIDS, women's rights, conflict resolution and reconciliation and developed an action statement to reaffirm their commitment to combating the problems facing Uganda and working to end the conflict.

Read the full article by Charmagne on our website at <http://www.projectspera.org/about/opinions.html>

Thank you for supporting Project Spera and global education!