



Eleven Center Theatre Group Student Ambassadors and California Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez after a successful day of arts advocacy.

Students Lead Arts Advocacy Workshops for Peers in Sacramento

BUZZING WITH EXCITEMENT, 11 Center Theatre Group Student Ambassadors, aged 14-18, travelled to Sacramento for the 16th-annual California Youth in Theatre Day on March 12. A celebratory day honoring theatre students throughout California, CYIT gave these talented young people a chance to see their legislators in action, showcase their performance skills and grow as arts leaders.

"Don't let anyone tell you theatre is 'extra,'" said director of the California Arts Council Craig Watson in his opening remarks. "Theatre will improve everything about your future, no matter what you end up doing in your life."

Bringing this notion to life, the Student Ambassadors led their peers in a workshop, which they planned over several weeks, about sharing the importance of the arts with others.

Each session began with a warm-up activity in which the student leaders made statements such as, "I am an artist," or "I believe the arts are an important aspect of a child's education." Participants

stood every time a phrase felt true for them, symbolizing how advocates must "stand up" for their beliefs.

Participants then learned the definition of "advocate" and important facts related to arts advocacy, such as the direct relationship between higher family income and increased access to arts education. In groups, each student created an arts education "elevator speech," a short statement to share with people in their "spheres of influence." Finally, the Student Ambassadors shared many resources with their peers to help them continue rallying for the arts.

After the successful day, the Student Ambassadors met and took a photo with California Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez on the floor of the Capitol.



Eliana Pipes, left, Rhyver White and Pablo Lopez celebrate the news that they will travel to New York for the national August Wilson Monologue Competition.

PHOTO BY RYAN MILLER/CAPTURE IMAGING.

Three Students Advance to National August Wilson Monologue Competition

Pablo Lopez, Rhyver White and Eliana Pipes will represent Los Angeles at the national August Wilson Monologue Competition at Broadway's August Wilson Theatre on May 6. A panel of celebrity judges selected the trio at the competition's Los Angeles regional finals, an evening of 10 powerful student performances held March 4 at the Mark Taper Forum.

"Center Theatre Group is proud of our three New York-bound performers and all the students who have discovered Wilson and his profound works through our program," says Center Theatre Group's Artistic Director Michael Ritchie. "It is a great privilege to be able to introduce students of all backgrounds to Wilson's works, which ultimately transcend race and time, and to inspire and nurture these students' growing artistry."

Artists & Educators Forum

The Artists & Educators Forum is comprised of individuals dedicated to providing significant funding for CTC's new play development and Education and Community Partnerships programs. For more information, please call 213.972.3069. (Donors listed as of April 4, 2013)

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