



2018 Annual Report



We envision
communities where
youth and adults feel
powerful, cared for,
and heard.



Letter from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Public speaking is among the top fears for people of all ages. We are afraid of being judged by others or not being right. On top of that, there are too many people who have been told their voices don't matter. As a public speaking coach, special education teacher, and education researcher, I have worked with amazing people who have been underestimated or misunderstood. Whether told they were "not smart enough for the debate team", "too aggressive for a girl", or they felt afraid of speaking up at all, I have spent 18 years helping people process the alienation these stereotypes cause. It hurts when we cannot express who we are. And it hurts our world when we don't hear the stories of those who have been silenced.

Every time we work with a new student, we uncover more about why this need to build confidence is so central to learning and community. In year 2, we expanded our curriculum to different ages, held events, added programs, partnered with new schools, and provided trainings to local parents and non-profits. We built a presence in our home neighborhoods of Richmond and El Cerrito, but also expanded to Vallejo and Davis. Our students, youth and adults alike, are using their confidence to communicate their stories and speak up for themselves. It is amazing to see the look of pride and relief when they describe a moment when someone actually listened.

We want to increase the diversity of the youth and adults we serve and help more people express who they are, direct their paths, and drive change. We live in a world where it is hard to practice using your voice and take your ideas out for a test run. We are proud to work alongside our local community to create safe, fun spaces to be yourself. Thank you for making this dream possible.

Onward,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "AnnMarie Baines".

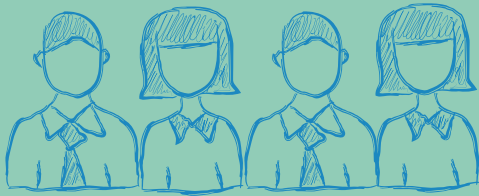
AnnMarie Baines
Executive Director

Our mission is to build confidence and community through communication skill development, advancing inclusion and elevating underrepresented voices.

2018 At-a-Glance

309

Students Served



51%

Youth



49%

Adults



74%

Women
and
Girls



267

Classes
and
Trainings
in 2018



Cities served

Richmond, San Pablo,
El Cerrito, Albany,
Berkeley, Oakland,
Vallejo, Davis, Menlo Park,
San Ramon



95%

of Summer Camp
students say
they improved their
communication skills



Voices in action

We expanded to three summer camps, coaching students ages 8 to 18 representing 15 cities. Students from our summer camps and fall clubs and scrimmages shared their stories at our two community showcases, Embracing Discomfort and Young Wishes, for audiences over 100 people. Many of these same students also won awards at speech and debate tournaments during the year. They also started our student-run podcast on iTunes, Youth Aloud, and interviewed peers about issues such as cultural identity, body image, and gender.



We used our Leaders That Listen curriculum to create teams of “distinguished speakers” at schools in Vallejo and Davis and the West Contra Costa Youth Commission. These students participated in 20 hours of after-school coaching to present speeches, stories, and debates at public events such as school board meetings and parent nights taking place in 2019. Students at Vallejo’s Loma Vista Environmental Science Academy also attended debate tournaments for the first time in their school’s history.

We coached adults in our local community to build confidence through private lessons and services to non-profit organizations. Private lesson students secured jobs and promotions after practicing interview skills and also gave pitches and speeches that were well-received at professional work events. Parent advocates in West Contra Costa worked on interpersonal communication skills for their volunteer work, patrons at Albany Library produced podcasts, and staff at Richmond’s Pogo Park spoke at a national conference for the first time.



“At The Practice Space, you can speak freely and I feel more confident about speaking in my classroom and to other students.”— Student, Age 9

The **TPS Board of Directors:** L-R) Todd Groves, AnnMarie Baines, Joel Mackey, Paul Baines, Mariana Castro, Maria Resendiz, and Nathan Warner.



We thank you

Our growth in 2018 would not have been possible without the countless hours of volunteer work from over 40 volunteers, many of whom were former speech and debate students and parents from El Cerrito High. From promoting our business to helping lead programs, to conceptualizing our showcase events to organizing the logistics to make the events happen, The Practice Space exists because of these volunteers. Thank you for your support, love, and undying commitment to your community.

We also thank our individual donors and funders who helped us reach more students and focus our work on communities that usually do not have public speaking programs. We are grateful for the support from the William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, The William and Alice Hinckley Fund, and the Society for Community Work.

Finally, we thank our Board of Directors, who helped found The Practice Space and continue to be trusted advisors deeply dedicated to the mission of the organization. We are also excited to welcome new staff in 2018, who bring extensive program expertise and public speaking experience. We are grateful to the many creative design consultants who made our work beautiful through web design, photography, music, and video, as well as the seasonal employees who make our summer camps a fun, memorable experience for everyone.



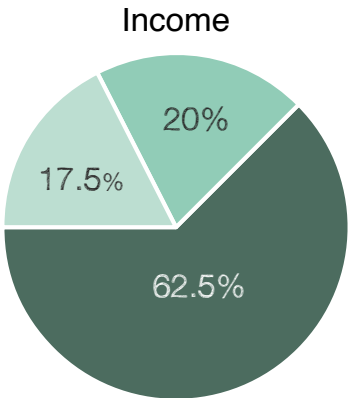
Caitlin Healy,
Program Associate



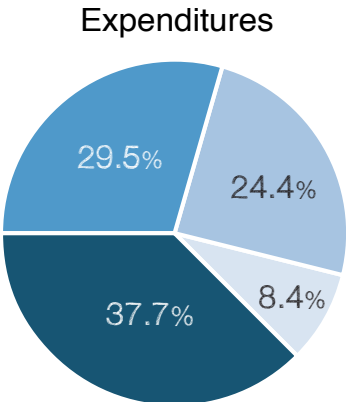
Mariana Castro,
Development Associate



Cristina Kountz,
Social Media Coordinator



Grants Earned Revenue
Donations



Facilities Supplies
Staffing & Services Fees & Licensing

“I face the fear
of public speaking
to make people
happy. It’s what I
live for.”

—Cole Guimaraes, age 13



The background is a solid teal color. Overlaid on this are numerous white dashed lines that form various geometric shapes, including rectangles, circles, and triangles. Some of these shapes are nested or overlapping, creating a complex, abstract pattern. The lines vary in length and orientation, giving the impression of a hand-drawn or sketched design.

the practice space

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