

SPONSORED BY EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES CORPORATION

Community Learning Center

6118 East 14th Street, Oakland, California 94621-Phone: (415) 562-5261



"One can have knowledge without understanding. But there is no understanding without knowledge."

Huey P. Newton

INTRODUCTION

The Community Learning Center is a multi-purpose community center sponsored by the Educational Opportunities Corporation, a California-based, non-profit (tax-exempt) corporation.

The Community learning Center was established to provide quality educational and recreational resources for Oakland's Black and poor community.

The programs provided by the Community Learning Center include:

- *INTERCOMMUNAL YOUTH INSTITUTE*, a model school for children 2½ to 11 years of age.
- *ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM*, classes where adults can study high school courses in order to receive their General Equivalency Diploma.
- *CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAM* which provides skilled instruction in *music, dance and drama*.
- *WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE CLASS* which teaches women the basic fundamentals of self-defense.

The Community Learning Center serves the Oakland community as a model educational and recreational facility.



INTERCOMMUNAL YOUTH INSTITUTE

Curriculum

The following curriculum overview cites the focus of all subject matter which children from ages 2½ to 11 are taught.

Math - The math classes are intended to develop the concept of a set, introduce the number line, and to enable children to understand that measurements are a form of comparison or matching the object or quantity being measured. Mathematical formulas and concepts are being taught and put to test in various experiments such as cooking and the school store the children have begun.

Language Arts - The purpose of this class is to enable children to learn at an early age sounds, symbols, consonants, vowels and reading comprehension. The

children are taught to utilize their knowledge in reading such relevant material as newspapers, brochures, leaflets as well as textbooks. Our major concern is that the children read, comprehend and retain.

Science - The focus of the science classes is to inform the children of the concepts of matter, energy and biology. Awareness of self is a crucial preliminary stage to the understanding of scientific principles and is a major area of learning within the science courses. The children learn to know the balance between man and nature as well as other scientific knowledge necessary to exist in a highly technological, scientific world.

Group Art - The purpose of this class is to bring out the creative abilities of each student through artistic expression. The history of art and painting, its relationship to Black and poor people and field trips are the focus of this course.

Political Education - The purpose of this class is to teach the children how and why it is necessary to be critical of the situation the world is in, to foster an investigative attitude, to provide a framework for the comparison of different peoples and their politics. American history as well as Black and Mexican-American history are included here.

Field Trips - One of the basic philosophies of the Intercommunal Youth Institute holds that the community and the world is a classroom whereby learning occurs through observation and experience as well as study. Many field trips have taken place during the past three months, including a trip to The Zen Center, Green Gulch Farm at Tassajara, the San Francisco Legion of Honors Museum, the de Young Museum in San Francisco and to the Bay Area Hydraulic Model. More field trips are planned for the future so that the children can benefit from a total learning experience.



CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAM

Drama - Expression of Black people's culture and lifestyles through drama is the essence of the Drama classes which Eugene Frazier instructs at the Community Learning Center. Drama which is concerned with realism in the community can foster community awareness and a heightened level of consciousness. This program is open to everyone over 12 years old.

Children in this program are being taught basic theory, i.e., background in creative arts historical developments of Black people's culture, speech development, stage management and reading. This theory will then be utilized and combined with actual live performances.

This course will afford children an outlet for free expression and will present entertainment with an educational content to the community.

Music - Creativity, commitment and motivation have been the key elements responsible for the rapid progress of the Music Program. Since its inception, 3 performing units

(the Combo, Trio and Intercommunal Youth Band), comprised of children who had never before handled a musical instrument, have been formed. Performances are held each Sunday at the Community Learning Center as well as at schools and at various community-affairs-in the Bay Area.

Students at the Intercommunal Youth Institute are active participants in the Music Program and children from the public schools come to the after-school program with their own instruments for instruction. According to Charles Moffett, the well-known director of the program, these children hold "first chair" positions in their public school orchestras. This indicates that their instruction at the Community Learning Center is very beneficial.

A Tiny Tots band composed of children from 2 to 6 is being formed. This "rhythm band" will help young children develop an ear for music and rhythm, as well as learn the basics. The program exists within the curriculum of the Youth Institute for all of the school's enrollment.

Music theory classes for adults is also an integral part of this program. Many musicians play by ear and cannot read music because of the lack of proper training. Therefore, many adults are very interested in this aspect of the Music Program.

Central to the Music Program is the notion of music as a learning experience through which children will progress with greater enthusiasm in other subjects. For instance fingering, watching the conductor, reading music and playing an instrument all at one time increases the child's attention span and concentration. It also serves as a motivational experience for other school work, math and history in particular.

Dance - The Dance Program, directed by Jackie Buist, is divided into two sections. Children from ages 5 to 7 are taught the basics of African dance. African rhythms

are taught with the use of tamborines, bells and drums.

Children from ages 8 to 13 are taught Afro-Haitian dance, utilizing the Kathryn Dunheim technique. African, Cuban and Brazilian dances are taught and the children will be expected to make up their own dances once the basics are learned.

Classes are held on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. A maximum of 25 children can enroll in one class. Children throughout Oakland are encouraged to participate.

Adult Education - Every Tuesday and Thursday night from 7 to 9p.m., Maureen Knightly conducts classes for adults who wish to acquire a high school General Equivalency Diploma (GED). The Community Learning Center, in affiliation with the Oakland Board of Education, is offering courses to help people prepare for the necessary exam for this diploma. Courses include basic reading, writing and math.

It is anticipated that the Adult Education Program will be extended to include Consumer Education, Home Economics, courses for senior citizens and other courses that Black and poor residents desperately need.

Women's Self-Defense - Tae Kwon Do, a form of Karate, is being taught at the Learning Center by Brother Luther Sucrease. Brother Sucrease holds a Black Belt in Karate and is a member of the Wado-Kai Association which is a national body of practitioners of Wado-Kai.

This class concerns itself with two aspects of self-defense. One is the mental: being able to understand the philosophy of determination, self-respect and discipline. The physical aspect involves numerous stretching exercises and instruction on proper breathing control and endurance.

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

1. The Intercommunal Youth Institute was established in 1971 by a group of parents, educators, and interested individuals.
2. During the school's second year of operation, this group became incorporated and formed Educational Opportunities Corporation, a California-based, non-profit (tax-exempt) corporation which now sponsors the Intercommunal Youth Institute.
3. The group then selected a site in East Oakland and began the year-long task of raising the necessary funds to purchase this large complex, subsequently named the Community Learning Center.
4. Presently, there are 96 children enrolled in the Intercommunal Youth Institute, ranging from 2½ to 11 years of age.
5. The large majority of children are from the East Oakland community, most of whom come from Black and low-income families.
6. The academic program of the Intercommunal Youth Institute includes: Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Multi-Cultural History, Art, Music and Environmental Studies.
7. The children receive three meals per day, as well as health care services. one-third of the children enrolled live collectively, going home to their parents on the weekends.
8. There is no formal tuition cost, however, the actual cost per child is approximately \$720.00 per year.
9. Other programs housed within the Learning Center include a Music Program, providing music instrument instruction, a Dance Program, providing

instruction in Afro-Haitian dance, Adult Education Classes, and the Son of Man Temple, a community forum held on Sundays.

10. The operational cost of the Intercommunal Youth Institute alone is approximately \$6,000 per month, totaling \$72,000 per year. The approximate operating cost of the entire Community Learning Center is \$100,000 per year.
11. The Community Learning Center is financed by community support, fund-raising activities, individual contributions and private foundation grants.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS

PAYABLE TO: Educational Opportunities Corporation
(a non-profit corporation)
6118 East 14th Street
Oakland, California 94621
Phone: (415) 562-5261

INTERCOMMUNAL YOUTH INSTITUTE
"EACH ONE TEACH ONE" TUITION CLUB

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP _____ PHONE _____

PLEDGE

Monthly _____

Quarterly _____

Bi-Annually _____

Yearly _____

Cash

Check

Money Order

- I AM INTERESTED IN DONATING MY SERVICES.
- I AM INTERESTED IN RECEIVING MORE INFORMATION.
- Fund-raising Volunteer Teachers' aid
- Donating Materials Other *Signature* _____