



331 Filbert Street  
San Francisco, CA 94133



# The PATHFINDER

Career Opportunities • Mentoring & Motivational Programs • Entrepreneurialism • Investing • Capital-Building



## Winter in San Francisco - September Recap

Pathways for Kids, founded in 1998 by Peter Dwares and friends, partnered up with **Gateway High School** to start a series of Monthly Speaker events at their Campus located at 1430 Scott Street in San Francisco. The School's Motto is "*Step Up, Do Right, Dream Big,*" which aligns with the mission of Pathways. On September 17<sup>th</sup> Pathways had its first All day event which consisted of two speakers, *Antonio Ayala* and *Pilar Gonzales* who gave two lectures each speaking to a total of 40 students.

*Antonio Ayala* who is a two time Emmy Award winning TV & Film Producer shared his story of how at the age of 21, he had already started his own video production company. He shared with the students how he got started in video production while still being in high school; he started searching for a club where he could practice video production. By the time he was a senior he knew he wanted to fully emerge himself in the production world and went on to San Francisco State University to get his Bachelors in BroadCasting and Electronics Communications.

*Antonio's* story motivated students to ask questions about different aspects of Production and many were inspired especially since *Antonio* is a graduate of Gateway High School and shows what you can accomplish with dedication and hard work.

*(continued on page 2)*

## 7 Ways to Support Pathways for Kids

- ❑ Make a tax-deductible donation to Pathways for Kids, a tax-exempt organization under Section 501 (C) (3) of the IRS Tax Code, Federal ID number 94-3313219. You can go to our website: <http://www.pathwaysforkids.org> just click on DONATE.
- ❑ Contribute real estate, antiques or jewelry to Pathways and write the contribution off at the fair market value.
- ❑ Donate an old car.  
Go to: <http://www.pathwaysforkids.org> - Click DONATE, then Click on DONATE AN OLD CAR.
- ❑ Include a bequest in your Will or Trust to Pathways for Kids and reduce your Federal Estate Taxes.
- ❑ Set up a Charitable Remainder Trust.
- ❑ If you are an employee with the City and County of San Francisco you can donate to Pathways for Kids through your Local Independent Charities (LIC) payroll deduction program.
- ❑ Help Pathways for Kids raise money by soliciting individuals, corporations and foundations. If you prefer to mail a check, please mail donations to:  
Pathways for Kids Donations  
331 Filbert Street  
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We need your assistance. Please call:  
Grace Long (415) 986-5885  
to Contribute!

*Every donation of any size  
is greatly appreciated!*



The second speaker of the day was *Pilar Gonzales*, a Fashion Merchandise graduate from **Academy of Art University** who opened up her own online Jewelry Shop and is thriving using social media as her main selling platform. *Pilar* shared with the students key points of the e-commerce world and by the end of the session students had learned about her trajectory as an entrepreneur and were full of questions that she was happy to answer!

Students were so excited and gave amazing feedback that Pathways for Kids was asked to come back to Gateway for a second event!



## Pathways - November Recap

On November 12, Pathways for Kids joined Gateway High School for a second event featuring two wonderful and talented artists.

*Aurora Leonard* has worked throughout the country performing for the stage, television, and film. From over thousands of submissions, she was one of fourteen actors chosen for ABC's New York 2015 Talent Showcase. Her TV credits include *"New Amsterdam"* (NBC), *"Fosse/Verdon"* (FX), *"Marvel's Luke Cage"* (Netflix). She has also appeared in several national commercials and ads including *L'Oreal, Reebok, Pepsi, Adidas, Coca-Cola*, and more.

*Aurora* gave two wonderful lectures where she shared with students what casting calls are and what steps to take if they want to have a career as an actor.

We were hosted at the Little Theater by *Mrs. Velina Brown*, who is also an accomplished actor herself. The students were very moved to

learn the process of casting calls (interviews), making a great first impression, and always being on time. These rules apply to any career path.

The second speaker of the day was *Jiji Knight* who is a Digital Artist and Illustrator. *Jiji* is a successful Illustrator who owns her own shop. She shared with the students key components that have made her thrive in her career, such as *Practicing with intention, the art of networking, and always learning from professionals*. At the end of each session kids were engaged and asking a ton of questions! We thank you *Jiji* for the amazing information you shared with the students.

Towards the end of each session students were entered to win a \$20 dollar gift card to *Dick Blick Art Store*; we had 4 lucky winners who were so excited to go shop for art materials that can help start their careers!

## Get Involved!

While we launch our new branding and website at [pathwaysforkids.org](http://pathwaysforkids.org) as 2021 closes, you can help pathways in 4 ways. If you are a new or existing school in our network, let us know how your kids are doing and what they are looking for in terms of career interests. If you know of a remarkable underserved student who Pathways has impacted, share their story. If you are a professional and want to inspire our students, fill out our survey or email us. If you've been blessed with time or money, reach out to us to share your ideas, resources and finances



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## 2022 and Beyond

Without compromising the traditional PFK spirit of meeting students we serve face-to-face, the pandemic has inspired our staff and volunteers to reimagine our strategy in order to be mindful of the limitations we now face in accessing schools.

We are committed to continue chaperoning students to places of work that inspire and spark new ideas for their life trajectories. We are driven most of all to connect quality mentor speakers that resonate with today's children and most importantly, have a deeper motivation to arrange school talks that will be most meaningful to specific students.

With over 50+ schools and organizations we work with to-date in San Francisco, we are just getting started rolling out and testing new technology mediums to drive virtual attendance. By bringing all the schools together in virtual conferences, we can ensure that our speaker mentors can reach their audience better and effectively cater to the students who want to visit their workplaces next year when offices open up (hopefully). The goal is again to preserve these in-person student field trip experiences as best as we can.





## Founder's Corner



Please remember we receive no government funds; we depend on you. Whether \$100, \$500, \$1,000 or \$25,000, it's vital. Also think about car donation and donations by your bank (they often have to give). Friends working at big companies can often influence the corporations gifts and of course estate bequests. Any corporate or personal donors you know – please let us know.

Asking for money is never easy, but this is a worthy cause. We've been around 23 years. In 2020 we had a virtual celebration of our Annual Auction Gala and it was great fun! 2021 back to being with each other at the wonderful Mark Hopkins.

We thank those of you who joined us this year in person, donated auction items or just donated but could not attend as we celebrated our 23<sup>rd</sup> year of service to San Francisco's young people. We always welcome new sponsors of program venues, teachers and our youth.

*Warm personal regards,  
Peter Dwares  
Founder*



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\* Honor a Member who has passed away by sending a donation to Pathways For Kids honoring them.





# The 2021 Gala News and Photos

It's been a different experience for Pathways for Kids in reimagining how to keep serving our benefactors the best we can, all while celebrating this season of giving with our most loyal supporters and donors. While we had to change our gala format for 2020, this year of 2021, Pathways for Kids brought back art, auctions, wine, and San Francisco's smiles with a bang! The pandemic has made everyone reconsider their priorities from health to finances, but for Pathways for Kids donors, their generosity has not changed.

On November 5, 2021, guests and donors came together once again at the *Intercontinental Mark Hopkins Hotel* for the annual Pathways for Kids gala to support our foundation and make sure every child and student continues to receive equitable opportunities and access to brighter pathways.

The familiar radio voice of our *Masters of Ceremonies*, *Judge Quentin Kopp* and *Adam Copeland*, made a glorious and warm introduction reminding all the gala guests why we came together that evening. Words of wisdom were shared by PFK's newest co-directors, *Norma A. López* and *Mike Montalban*, conveying that our mission continues to "plant seeds for access" and "modernizing the foundation for the future" is what lies ahead to reach more students in San Francisco for 2022 and beyond.

Our annual auctioneer, *Steven Godfryd*, sounded the event hall with a reverberating invitation to fill the money pool this season with solid intentions to fuel the inspirational cause. International vacations, tours, and wine and art packages, generously donated on behalf of Pathways for Kids, created an environment that evening that truly made giving enjoyable again. **Together, we raised \$100,000 that evening, directly benefiting the students and children of San Francisco. We hope to see you back next year!**

