When children discover art, it is a joyful process - whether they are painting a watercolor for the first time, digging their fingers into oozing clay, laughing as they sing a silly song, or trying their hand at the intricacies of making paper, prints or puppets.

Since 1980, when the County gave a dedicated group of art lovers the right to use Hilo’s old police station as a center for artistic expression, the East Hawai‘i Cultural Center has encouraged the creativity of young people through programs like Young at Art and the Youth Arts Series. At EHCC, countless children have enjoyed everything from ancient traditional arts like Japanese gyotaku (fish printing) to innovations made possible by modern technology, like electronic design.

Now, as we celebrate thirty-two years of Young at Art and forty years of residence in our historic building, we are ready to grow and change with a “fresh start for art.” We hope to use our past successes as a springboard to launch new celebrations of youthful creativity:

• Expanded after school programming where eager learners can improve their skills at pottery-making, drawing, and more
• A Youth Art Gallery that showcases the works of aspiring artists
• A Children’s Museum featuring a permanent collection of pieces by our most talented Big Island youth
As schools are forced to cut funding for arts education, we need your support to ensure our keiki are given the chance they deserve to blossom as artists. Your contributions will help us to:

- Fix the ancient, leaky bathrooms in our Annex classrooms
- Termite tent our structures before pests destroy them from within
- Repair our leaky roof to keep our interiors safe and dry
- Promote our long-time volunteer, Kellie Miyazu, to guide and grow our programs full-time

Your dollars will support EHCC in providing safe, solid facilities managed by dedicated staff. This in turn will enable us to provide creative mentorship and a secure haven where children can participate in a vast array of cultural, artistic, and performance experiences.

EHCC has the knowledge, experience, and passion it will take to make this “fresh start.” We know how magical it is when children grow confident and visionary through expressing their creativity. We know how important it is, for the long-term good of our community, to nurture this magic. That is why we want to reach more youth with more programs and more quality.

We need your support to give us a fresh start, but we don’t ask you to give on behalf of EHCC – we ask you to give on behalf of the children we will reach.

EHCC Directors/Volunteers:

Larri Reitze, Internship Liaison • Stephen Freedman, Board Chair
• Pualani Kanahaele, Cultural Advisor • Andrzej Kramarz, Gallery Director
• Kellie Miyazu, Education Director • Philippe Nault, Community Outreach Advisor
• Monique Ortiz, Resident Artist and Board Secretary
• Larry Reitze, Resident Theater Director • Carol Walker, Executive Director and Gamelan Coordinator • Noe Noe Wilson-Wong, Cultural Advisor • Alan Young, Treasurer

How to donate:

(Note: We are happy to make a personal visit if you would like to discuss the possibility of a directed donation for capital improvements, naming rights, a bequest, or other philanthropic initiative. Please call Monique Ortiz at 961-5711 to arrange.)

To give by check or credit card, fill out this form and mail/bring it to: EHCC, 141 Kalakaua Street, Hilo, HI, 96720

Prefer to donate online? Go to PayPal.com/giv enow and enter “East Hawaii Cultural Council” in the search box.

All donations are tax-deductible.

( ) Contributor: $25  ( ) Sponsor: $500
( ) Supporter: $50  ( ) Leader: $1000
( ) Donor: $100  ( ) Benefactor: $2500
( ) Friend: $250  ( ) Artists Circle $5000
( ) Other Amount:

Name: ____________________________
Street Address/PO Box: ____________________________
City: ______________ State: __________ Zip code: __________
Phone or email address: ____________________________
Method of payment:

( ) check (make payable to East Hawai‘i Cultural Center)
( ) Visa ( ) Mastercard ( ) American Express ( ) Discover
Card #: __________________________ Expiration Date: __________