



FEDERICA ARMSTRONG

La'Shawndra Breston, a formerly homeless mother of five, singing "I Am Different," stole the show at Community Housing Partnership's gala.

Housing Partnership clients strut their stuff to tune of \$240,000

By MARK HEDIN

COMMUNITY HOUSING Partnership celebrated 25 years of moving homeless people into supportive housing with its "American Idol"-style "Night With the Stars" benefit event April 22 at the SFJazz Center.

Although the nonprofit has been hosting such events since 1999, Bridget Holian, director of fund development and communications, said this "was definitely our most successful event regarding how much we raised and in attendance."

The take? \$240,000 and counting.

The highlight was a talent show competition among seven finalists chosen at a December audition open to all 1,300 CHP clients. The audition drew 50 entrants. The seven contestants were paired with artistic mentors including Elizabeth Wyler, Christian Cagigal and Caroline Parsons, to hone their acts prior to the show.

"Some of these people are uber-talented," Holian said. "We're able to show these people in our buildings are so much more than formerly homeless. When you give them a chance to shine, they really do. It makes it all worthwhile."

Singer La'Shawndra Breston, a native San Franciscan and mother of five, stole

the show with her performance "I'm Different." Multi-instrumentalist Stanley Antill took second place with his "Mid-Metamorphosis" performed on fiddle, while family dance troupe Jada, Alliyah and Alisha, took third as "Swaggettz."

In recognition of the organization's silver anniversary, CHP bestowed Founders Awards to Paul Boden, Calvin Welch, Bob Wilson and Laura Ware, who were all present, and to the late Rene Cazanave, whose widow, Sylvie, accepted his award.

Judges included "Tales of the City" author Armistead Maupin, and the event was emceed by Dave Clark of KTVU, while muralist Todd Berman did on-the-spot sketches illustrating CHP's history.

Besides the corporate sponsorships that brought in the bulk of the support for this event — Zendesk led the way as the "Signature Sponsor" — the fundraiser also included a "live mobile pledging" drive that netted \$15,000 from attendees using their smartphones, with a matching gift from Digital Realty.

As things were winding down, Holian said, Supervisor Jane Kim jumped onstage to announce that Caroline Barlerin, Twitter's community liaison, had just kicked in another \$15,000.

"It was very exciting," Holian said. ■

GOOD NEWS

STOP AND LOOK Great, engaging, relevant art has graced Market Street for 23 years through the Arts Commission's Kiosk Poster Series. Exhibited on 36 bus shelters between Eighth Street and the Embarcadero, the high-quality posters, 4 feet wide by 5½, are displayed for three months. Each cycle includes six original posters by a Bay Area artist paid \$8,000 for the designs and camera-ready art; the Arts Commission prints and installs. The time for interested artists to apply for next year's commissions is now. The theme for all four cycles: Utopian Visions: The Changing Face of Market Street. Midnight May 11 is the deadline. Applications must include a resume, letter of interest stating a brief approach for the series, and 10 images of previous art work. If you make the first cut, the next step is a proposal that includes poster design images. Arts Commission announces winners in mid-August. Apply at sfgov.slideroom.com. More info: Zoë Taleporos, zoe.taleporos@sfgov.org or (415) 252-3215.

MORE COLOR ON THE STREET

For the third time in as many years, Academy of Art University students have painted the town red — and blue and green, too. Their latest Tenderloin murals, 13 panels on the vast façade of the 1960s-era PG&E substation at Eddy and Larkin streets, were unveiled April 10. Led by Academy instructor Carol Nunnally, the students donated 1,200 hours to research



S.F. ARTS COMMISSION

Robert Minervini's poster is on view on Market Street through May.

and paint images tracing more than 100 years of the TL's chromatic history up to the present: a building burning during the 1906 earthquake and fire, Blackhawk Jazz Club, Hyde Street Film Exchanges, Wally Heider's Recording Studio, Newman's Gym, Leroy Looper in front of the Cadillac Hotel, 1960s gay activists of Vanguard, Cecil Williams and Glide, Aunt Charlie's, neon signage, Tenderloin National Forest, Little Saigon, and a "We are the Tenderloin" image showing the neighborhood's diversity. Randy Shaw's Uptown Tenderloin administered the project gratis, and PG&E paid for the paint. The students' first TL project, in 2012, was on the Polk Street side of the adult O'Farrell Theatre, the repainting of a much-faded 1977 underwater fantasy mural of schools of fish, a pod of whales and more. And in 2013, students painted a depiction of the Breakers Cafe, an early 1900s supper club, on the Mason Street side of the Bristol Hotel. The 13x30-foot mural was based on a postcard of the cafe at Mason and Eddy that features patrons imbibing and listening to Gypsy violinist Rigo Jancsi and his band. ■

— Marjorie Beggs



MARJORIE BEGGS

Academy of Art University student paintings adorn PG&E substation.

CENTRAL CITY

EXTRA

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SAN FRANCISCO

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PHONE: (415) 626-1650

FAX: (415) 626-7276

EMAIL: centralcityextra@studycenter.org

EDITOR & PUBLISHER: Geoffrey Link

SENIOR WRITER/EDITOR: Marjorie Beggs

COMMUNITY REPORTER: Tom Carter

REPORTERS: Brian Rinker, Mark Hedin, Eric Louie, Paul Dunn, Jonathan Newman

DESIGNER: Lise Stampfli

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Mark Doneza, Paul Dunn

CONTRIBUTORS: John Burks, Ed Bowers

DESIGN CONSULTANT: Don McCartney

DISTRIBUTION: Mark Hedin

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT: Sophia Heller

COMMUNITY CONSULTANT: Michael Nulty

ONLINE PARTNER: Hoodline

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