

PROGRAM DELIVERS MUSIC TO STUDENTS

By Ara Kim

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“Music is a big influence in youth today.” With this statement in mind, Joey Arreguin had the idea to create a program to give kids a positive place to explore all kinds of options in the music industry.

Project RYTMO (Reaching Youth Through Music Opportunities) started off through the non-profit organization CLAMA (Christian Latino Association of Music and Arts). CLAMA, with the goal of advancing Hispanic and other minority communities with music, arts and media, got a federal sub-grant from the Department of Labor and the Latino Coalition, and Project RYTMO got started.

Project RYTMO is a non-profit program for youth ages 14-21. The purpose of the program is “to give youth an opportunity to experience different aspects of music and to open up minds to opportunities in the music business,” says Rande Vick, the assistance director of the program.

Arreguin comes from a background of music and brought in many professionals to work as instructors and mentors. They’re here to teach the students and to provide a “positive and creative environment in the program”, says Arreguin. All the people involved are passionate about music and really make it a point to get involved with the participants.

The curriculum includes learning about music history, business of music, songwriting, recording, music technology, and performing. The program is looking for both volunteers and students; the maximum amount of participants is about 18 people.

Volunteers also play a big role in the program. They are required to have some sort of interest in music. Besides helping in a hands-on way like setting up and cleaning up, they also serve as friends and role models. They also get exposure to the same kind of education the participants receive as well.

RYTMO is a six-week course, meeting two or three times a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at Love and Laughter Recording Studios in Anaheim. The next set of classes is coming up soon. “The program has been a complete success so far”, Arreguin announced, and he is looking forward to expanding and improving the program.

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