



GARDEN THEATRE

Garden Theatre Summer Camps

Last year, the Garden Theatre received funding from the West Orange C101 for its valuable educational programming. The Garden Theatre leveraged a three-way partnership with locally renowned theatre instructor Karen Rugerio/Act III Acting Studio and Valencia College's School of Arts and Humanities to develop a series of youth acting classes. Each camp culminated with a showcase or production on the Garden Theatre stage. The productions starred Rugerio's acting students grades K-12, while the production team consisted of Valencia College students in their Technical Theatre Production summer class.

The Garden Theatre Summer camps were highly popular this past summer. In addition to four half-day camps, we hosted one full week camp. The first was the week-long "Broadway Camp", which culminated in a staged production of 101 Dalmatians, with full costumes. The ultimate camp was three weeks long and included a full production of "Oliver". The kids learned how to embrace creativity, exercise imaginations, promote artistic risk-taking, and explore unique ways to tell stories. The camps are growing in popularity with 146 students involved in classes last year, up from 87 the previous year.

The funding requested provided scholarships for two under-served students to attend the three-week camp, and to ensure long-term planning and growth of this valuable program while enriching the lives of children in West Orange County.