



Daniel Guerra  
Education Director Downtown Clubhouse

Daniel has landed at BGCSCC after teaching around the world, from South Korea to Gault Elementary.

Throughout the summer, Daniel put his own spin on Project Learn, adding a language element to encourage his kids to explore the world beyond. During the summer, Daniel began each rotation with Ted Ed videos, a series that explores science questions and historical stories such as "Will the Ocean Ever Run Out of Fish?" And "History V. Cleopatra". "This worked really well with the kids because

it's quick and interesting, they are engaged and all of the videos spark ideas and discussions," says Daniel.

This fall, Daniel plans to create a French Club, as well as have a special volunteer, Christina, come in on Tuesdays and do reading in Spanish with kids. Daniel is planning a weekly science hour taught by volunteers from Santa Cruz High. Plus, a pen pal program with teenagers in Peru. Daniel wants to make learning fun and have no boundaries to whom and what the kids can learn about.

Alejandro (Alex) Martinez works to create a space for members to sharpen their academic skills and positively model the benefits of a healthy education.

Alex's biggest goal is ensuring that the kids try whatever activity is going on the Education room. Most of the time, Alex found that kids who are apprehensive ended up loving the activity the most. "It's amazing to see kids engaging with activities, especially

ones they didn't want to do. And the only reason they didn't want to participate is because it was usually something they had never been exposed too before. It was great to see them jump in and just go for it!" This fall, Alex looks forward to meeting with the schools to then determine where the kids should be in their education so BGCSCC can lend extra support outside of the classroom. "I want to help education by leading with fun," says Alex.



Alejandro Martinez  
Education Director Live Oak Clubhouse

With the generous support of California Arts Council, the Tim Brauch Foundation, and individual donors, professional muralist Scotty Greathouse lead a visual art exploration for our teens. At the murals' core are words handpicked by teens to represent how the teen room makes them feel. The murals grace the teen room walls using negative space, color schemes, and panels to outline words. At the Downtown Clubhouse, the Teens chose "FAMILY" to go over the couches where they sit every day. Scotty, who ultimately designed the words and cut the panels, encouraged the kids to take ownership over the painting process and word choice.

With visiting artists, such as Jimbo Phillips, Danielle Peters, Danny Fernandez, and Casey Landaker, Scotty, and the Teens worked on each individual panel to decorate it with their own flair and designs. This resulted in a mural that has been touched by all Teen members, special visitors, and the beloved Scotty. As our Executive Director, Bob Langseth, shared at the mural unveiling Downtown, "This is an art piece created for teens, by teens, and by the people that support them."

Follow Scotty on Instagram @ideasforwalls for an inside look.



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**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
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**AUGUST 2017 NEWSLETTER**

## WAVING GOODBYE TO SUMMER AND HELLO TO FALL!

Summer at Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Cruz County (BGCSCC) flew by!

Whether it was field trips, Friday activities, or Project Learn programs, Club kids were busy combating summer learning loss, traveling the world with their Passport Project, making new friends, exploring the outdoors, and, most of all, having FUN!

This year, we took a holistic approach to summer camp by combining High-Yield Learning Activities (HYLA's) with fun and engaging programming to heighten Club kids' skills and confidence and avoid summer learning loss. HYLA's are activities that reinforce and enhance skills and knowledge from the school year in a summer camp structure. HYLA's include: cooking with food harvested from the garden, physical movement such as dancing, field games, dodgeball, swimming, or even playing at the park, and hands-on activities in the art room, music room, and education room such as Pictionary, creating houses and cities, and working with Duolingo to practice foreign language skills.

In the Live Oak Education room, during designated Project Learn hours, Alejandro (Alex) Martinez, the Live Oak Education Director, engaged with the kids through academically stimulating math and problem-solving games where the kids had to work in teams to solve the problems. Alex used group games such as Pictionary and Jeopardy to teach them history, science, and math. Alex lead a creative writing course, encouraging kids to explore their creativity by providing a prompt for their stories. For instance, Alex required the kids to have a super hero, side kick, super power, and villain in their story. "I was amazed with what the kids came up with," he shares, "It was great to see them let their imagination free and see that by giving them a basic structure they naturally showed conflict in their stories without even realizing what they were doing!"

At the Downtown Clubhouse, our program directors used countries and cultures as a central theme to create a cohesive,

cross-curricular program throughout the summer. Daniel Guerra, Education Director, teamed up with Deidre Lister, Art Director, and the Technology room, run by Program Specialist, Isabelle Hernandez, to engage the kids through one theme. Each week kids would travel to a different country, such as Ireland, China, or France. Daniel would teach the kids geography, history of the country, plus current customs, the culture, and the language. Daniel would encourage the kids to practice languages, especially Spanish and French on Duolingo or through worksheets.

Meanwhile, Deidre would be leading the kids in activities in the garden and art room, such as creating art and food based on the culture. In the Technology room, Isabelle created questions and tasks on the computers that reflect what they were learning in the other rooms. "Even if they are just going on Google and looking up a historical figure or attempting to answer a question I posed in my room, I am happy with that. Because they are able to come back to me and tell me something they learned and how they got that information," Isabelle shares.

To follow their progress in the Art room, kids filled out Passports throughout the summer, highlighting what they learned and their favorite part of the week. They also made posters for the Clubhouse to share what they learned, as well as cooked meals to share with the Clubhouse.





