

LA COUNTY  
**artsed**  
COLLECTIVE

2023-24 End of Year Report

LA County  
**ARTS &  
CULTURE**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Preface	5
Message from the Funders Council	6
School-Based Arts Education	7
Community-Based Arts Education	19
Creative Career Pathways for Youth	35
Shared Learning & Leadership	39
Communications & Advocacy	45
Research & Evaluation	45
Looking Ahead	47

### ATTACHMENTS

1. Funders Council, 2023-24
2. 2023-24 Advancement Grant Projects
3. Ten Years of the Advancement Grant Program
4. 2023-24 Stakeholder Convenings
5. Healing Centered Engagement Working Group
6. Meetings and Conferences Participation

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This year-end report summarizes the LA County Arts Ed Collective's work from July 2023 through June 2024. Efforts across all priority areas are funded by LA County government and general operating support from the LA County Arts Ed Collective Funders Council (see Attachment 1 for list of funding organizations). Restricted funding is noted throughout the report in italics.

The [Arts for All Children, Youth, and Families: LA County's Regional Blueprint for Arts Education](#) (Arts Ed Blueprint) envisions positive child and youth development that addresses large-scale societal inequities, fosters social-emotional development, promotes healing, builds cohesion and cultural identity, and uplifts communities through the arts.

With a growing network to build capacity within and across the field, and to advance policy change in ways that benefit all youth in LA County, the Arts Ed Blueprint establishes three primary goals for achieving scale, equity, and quality in arts education:

**GOAL 1: Develop systems and infrastructure that expand and sustain arts education for all young people in all schools, and in all communities.**

**GOAL 2: Build and strengthen partnerships and collaborations to create, expand, and leverage resources for arts education.**

**GOAL 3: Increase public awareness about the importance of arts education and mobilize stakeholders to advocate for robust implementation.**

**To achieve the goals of the LA County Regional Blueprint for Arts Education, Arts Ed Collective activities take place under the following strategic focus areas:**

**School-Based Arts Education**

*Directs resources to school districts to help expand arts education in schools through strategic planning and coaching, matching grants, professional development for classroom teachers, and networking that allows promising practices to be shared across school districts.*

**Community-Based Arts Education**

*Embeds arts-based youth development across LA County systems of care to help young people, families, and the adults who work with them to heal and thrive.*

**Creative Career Pathways for Youth**

*Addresses systemic barriers within creative industries and supports young people of color in entering and shaping LA County's creative economy.*

**Shared Learning & Leadership**

*Enables practitioners and advocates to pool resources and leverage expertise for greater impact while cultivating diverse leadership within communities, across sectors, and at all levels of experience.*

**Communications & Advocacy**

*Builds public will and accountability for expanding youth access to the arts in school, after school, and within communities.*

**Research & Evaluation**

*Collects and analyzes data to inform strategies, identify Countywide trends, and educate the public about systemic inequities and the impacts of arts education.*

## Preface

After the historic passage of Proposition 28 in November 2022, which promised to allocate \$1B per year in public funding for schools to hire new arts teachers and expand K-12 arts instruction, the 2023-24 school year saw its first year of implementation. However, there is still much uncertainty.

School districts did not receive confirmation from the California Department of Education (CDE) about funding allocations until February 2024, and the CDE has yet to provide clarity on reporting requirements. As school districts continue to navigate ambiguous state guidelines and the challenges of Prop 28 expenditure plans, some school districts have yet to begin spending Prop 28 funding in light of budget cuts projected by the state.

With three years to spend down each year's allocation of Prop 28 funds, districts will need to integrate multiple funding sources, to ensure Prop 28 funds expand, rather than supplant, existing resources and revenue. As Prop 28 continues to roll out, there remains much to learn. We also need to remind ourselves that Prop 28 is not the sole solution to addressing decades of chronic disinvestment of, and fragmented approaches to, arts education in public schools. Rather it is a brick in the road on a very long journey.

People don't question the need to teach students more than one discipline of science, demonstrated by the inclusion of the physical, earth, and natural sciences in the core curriculum. But what about the visual, performing, and media arts? While Prop 28 is the largest investment into arts education in recent decades, no one school is receiving enough money to provide instruction in multiple arts disciplines for all students.

How do we achieve scale and equity in arts education, and what does that look like? As school districts continue to consider how Prop 28 dollars might be leveraged to match funding from the Advancement Grant Program, we continue to provide forums for districts to share best practices and align strategic planning efforts with the goals of the LA County Regional Blueprint for Arts Education. With these challenges ahead, we are honored to do this work alongside our network of school districts, nonprofit partners, County service providers, and arts advocates.

## Message from the Funders Council

As co-chairs of the Arts Ed Collective Funders Council, we would like to highlight and celebrate new growth in the past year, from new philanthropic organizations joining the Funders Council to the addition of new Department of Arts and Culture staff and nonprofit partners dedicated to our shared mission.

In 2024 we celebrated 10 years of the Advancement Grant Program by welcoming moments of connection through panel conversations, student performances, and site visits hosted by two school districts in the San Gabriel Valley—San Gabriel Unified and Arcadia Unified. We also continued work on a multi-year evaluation plan for the Arts Ed Collective, and refined approaches toward tracking progress on the goals in the LA County Regional Blueprint for Arts Education.

As our shared work grows and evolves over time, we would like to take a moment to express our gratitude to Funders Council members Shawn Kravich (Calley Foundation) and Wendy Chang (Dwight Stuart Youth Fund) for leading the Equity Subcommittee for the last three years. Since 2020, the Equity Subcommittee served as a catalyst for addressing equity objectives defined in the Arts Ed Blueprint through shared learning about DEI work across the field, documenting how equity is advanced through strategic priorities, and helping to launch the inclusion of Youth Advisors within the Funders Council. The Equity subcommittee held their last meeting in December 2023, leaving a strong foundation for equity to be integrated into many aspects of our work.

We'd also like to acknowledge and show our deep appreciation for Jacqueline Chun, who served as a Funders Council member and thought partner for over a decade in her role with The Carl & Roberta Deutsch Foundation, serving six years as chair of the Advancement Grants Subcommittee. We are grateful for her leadership and contributions to stewarding the growth and sustainability of the Advancement Grant Program. We congratulate her as she transitions to a new role at the LA County Center for Strategic Partnerships, where she will continue to partner with the Department of Arts and Culture's Arts Ed & Youth Development Division in new ways.

We also celebrated the contributions of our inaugural cohort of Youth Advisors—Autumn Taylor, Maritza Lopez, and Rudy Torres—who concluded their two-year terms with the Funders Council. Their feedback and experiences will help inform future efforts to incorporate youth voice and leadership into our work. And finally, we are excited to share that Stephania Ramirez (Perenchio Foundation) and Julianne Green (Green Foundation) have stepped into chair roles for the Planning & Evaluation and Advancement Grants Subcommittees, respectively. We look forward to their new perspectives and ideas, and are excited about what the next year brings.

Sincerely,

Katherine Bonalos  
The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation

Matty Wilder  
Herb Alpert Foundation

## School-Based Arts Education

*Directs resources to school districts to help expand arts education in schools through strategic planning and coaching, matching grants, professional development for classroom teachers, and networking that allows promising practices to be shared across school districts.*

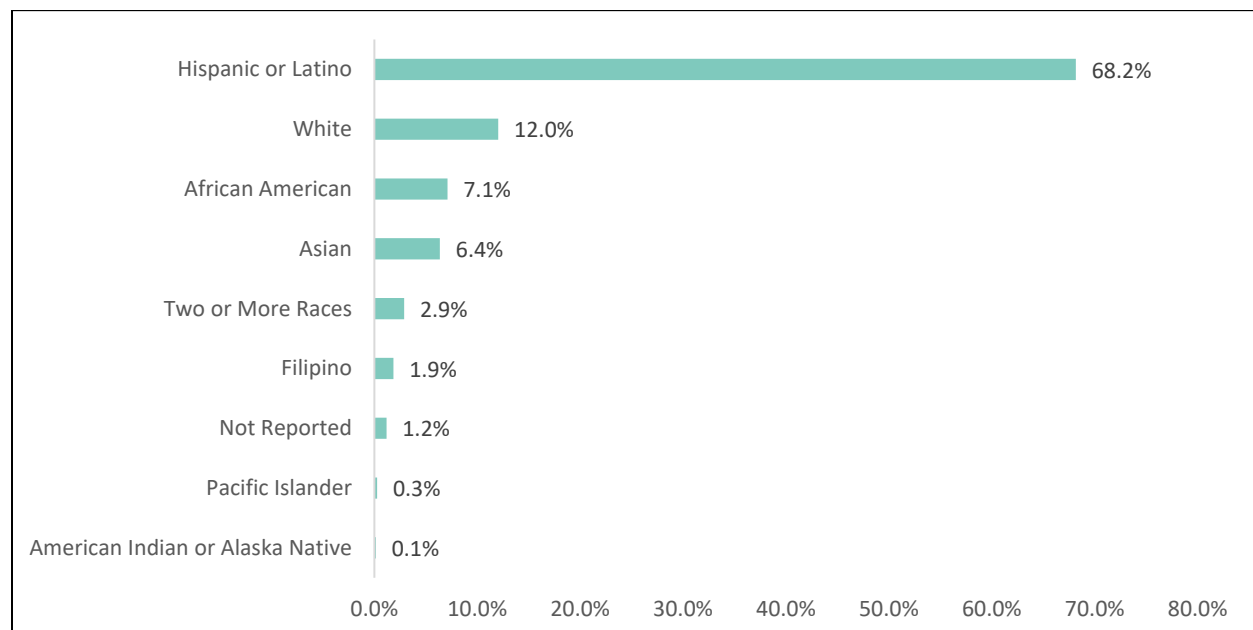
Every school year, all school district partners of the Arts Ed Collective are offered a continuum of mutually aligned and supportive services:

- **Coaching:** School districts interested in creating or updating strategic plans receive year-long coaching to support the expansion of arts education in their schools.
- **Advancement Grant:** School districts that formally adopt strategic arts plans are eligible for matching grants that support implementation of key action items identified in these plans.
- **Professional Development:** Professional development workshops help educators and school district leaders to advance their knowledge and competencies of social-emotional learning (SEL), mental health awareness, and equip them with tools and strategies to integrate healing-informed arts activities into their work to support youth wellbeing.
- **Networking:** Regular convenings bring school district leadership and practitioners from across LA County together to network, share best practices / resources, and collaborate.

## Demographic and Geographic Profile for School District Partners Engaged in 2023-24

During the 2023-24 school year, 52 school districts (including 4 charter school networks) were engaged in the Arts Ed Collective's programs and services for School-Based Arts Education. These partners represent 861,481 students. Of these students, 76% are English learners, eligible for free/reduced-price meals, and/or foster youth.

Student demographics are as follows:



School district partners in 2023-24 also represent the following geographic regions of LA County, based on the *Los Angeles Times*' [Mapping LA](#) project:

- Antelope Valley
- Eastside
- Northwest County
- Pomona Valley
- San Gabriel Valley
- South Bay
- South LA
- Southeast
- Verdugos
- Westside

### Highlights

- 20 local education agencies engaged in Strategic Planning & Coaching
- \$2.8M in total investments into arts education by 33 local education agencies
- 33 local education agencies represented in Arts Coordinator Network convenings
- Arts Ed Collective coaches provided support to LACOE's Arts Ed Funding Communities of Practice for school districts looking to advance equity via new Prop 28 funding

### Strategic Planning & Coaching

During the 2023-24 school year, 20 school districts (including one charter network) worked with an Arts Ed Collective coach to develop, update, or implement a five-year strategic plan for arts education. This number is up from 14 districts in the prior year, a notable increase due to school districts' desire to plan for new Proposition 28 funding.

Twelve (12) districts created new plans, and six (6) built capacity for plan implementation including design and facilitation of districtwide arts team meetings, professional development, arts integration at school sites, strategies to address Prop 28 expenditure plans, and other first-year action steps. Two (2) districts engaged in a third year of coaching as a special project to provide professional development and resources for their newly hired Arts Coordinators.

<b><u>Year-One Coaching</u></b> <b><i>(To create new plans)</i></b>	<b><u>Year-Two Coaching</u></b> <b><i>(Engaged in capacity building)</i></b>	<b><u>Year-Three Coaching</u></b> <b><i>(Engaged in a special project)</i></b>
Arcadia Unified Azusa Unified Gorman Joint Inglewood Unified Palmdale Pasadena Unified Las Virgenes Los Nietos Lynwood Unified Mountain View Elementary Norwalk-La Mirada Unified San Gabriel Unified	Culver City Unified Claremont Unified El Monte Union Magnolia Public Schools South Whittier Elementary Sulphur Springs	Acton-Agua Dulce Unified Antelope Valley Union
<u>Coaching Consultants</u> Kimberleigh Aarn (lead) Heather Heslup Jill Newman Sandy Seufert Melissa Valencia		



## First Year Coaching (Strategic Planning)

### *Azusa Unified School District*

Azusa modeled strong buy-in and participation from district administration, as both the Assistant Superintendent and Director of Education Services attended all strategic planning meetings. The district is considering extending arts coordination by solidifying the roles of two Teachers on Special Assignment (TOSAs) who will be given additional hours to coordinate the arts. Using Prop 28 funding, this district will hire visual arts and music teachers, along with a Career Technical Education (CTE) theatre educator. The district also plans to grow arts instruction at the elementary level and establish arts liaisons at all elementary schools.

### *Arcadia Unified School District*

Arcadia's strategic plan includes a major focus on aligning curriculum across grade levels, teacher collaboration time, and the expansion of arts coordination. The district aims to coordinate Prop 28 funds district-wide, rather than having individual school sites operate independently with their funds. This approach will involve pooling funds to share newly hired teachers, and help ensure the funds are used to support aligning the arts learning available between upper grades and lower grades. Arcadia also transformed the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) planning team into an Executive VAPA Committee that will continue to support implementation of arts plan priorities.

### *Gorman Joint School District*

At Gorman Joint, a one-site school district with a population of under 500 students, the superintendent serves many roles, including being the site principal. Because the district has flexibility in how they can spend Prop 28 funding, their strategic planning process has focused on clarifying this spending flexibility and determining how best to support implementation of their five-year VAPA plan. They are considering putting the funding toward their new STEAM outdoor classroom.

### *Inglewood Unified School District*

After last adopting a strategic arts plan in 2016-17, Inglewood wished to develop a new plan focused on CTE AME<sup>1</sup> and VAPA. Inglewood is passionate about providing all students with equitable access to creative career opportunities. The planning team consisted of CTE teachers, principals, arts teachers, a counselor, and community partners currently working with the district. Key goals in the plan include elements such as: strong CTE and College & Career Pathways through culturally relevant VAPA instruction for all students and professional learning experiences for all teachers, reinforcing/increasing parent involvement, and cultivating/growing partnerships.

### *Las Virgenes Unified School District*

Las Virgenes' plan has a strong focus on expanding equitable access to arts instruction, and shifted their Arts TOSA position into a full-time certificated, district-level arts coordinator. With an eye on Prop 28 funding allocations and deepening TK-12 articulation, district leaders actively worked to ensure that pathways for learning in the arts would expand, including arts at the elementary school level. The district plans to hire CTE teachers and additional arts staff to expand arts at the elementary level, and address gaps at middle and high schools.

### *Los Nietos School District*

Los Nietos had high engagement during the planning process, with school board members participating. School board members provided crucial perspective and ensured the plan aligned with the district's broader vision, fostering a sense of shared ownership. For a small school district, securing funding and navigating budgetary constraints require creative solutions and careful prioritization. With Prop 28 funds, the district plans to hire a visual arts teacher at the elementary level.

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<sup>1</sup> Arts, Media, Entertainment (AME)

#### *Lynwood Unified School District*

Lynwood developed its third strategic arts plan with the Arts Ed Collective, aligning it with the district's Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) goals. Their updated five-year strategic plan demonstrates a strong commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusivity (DEI) throughout its vision and goals. By introducing arts education early and offering both integrated and dedicated arts classes, the plan fosters a more inclusive environment for students with various learning styles. Lynwood aims to increase awareness of arts courses and ensure that all students and families are informed of the full range of arts options available to students. Engaging families involves educating them about the value of arts education and ensuring all students have support at home. The plan recognizes the need for a diverse teaching staff that can connect with students from various backgrounds. Lynwood plans to use Prop 28 funds to hire visual arts teachers for elementary schools.

#### *Mountain View School District*

Mountain View will use their newly developed arts plan to focus on Prop 28 funding. District administration plans to hire arts teachers with Prop 28 funding and will focus on professional development and capacity building in the next school year. Student voice was included throughout the strategic planning process, and Create CA's [Declaration of the Rights of All Students to Equity in Arts Learning](#) was used to discuss and incorporate diversity, equity, access, and inclusion.

#### *Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District*

Arts coordination at Norwalk-La Mirada shifted to a two-TOSA model by establishing Visual Arts TOSA and Performing Arts TOSA positions. School site teams that include community members, teachers, and principals are determining Prop 28 spending approaches. The district has submitted a comprehensive Year Two / Building Capacity coaching proposal that focuses on professional development, Arts Advisory Committee support, and leadership coaching for the newly appointed TOSAs.

#### *Palmdale School District*

Palmdale set out to complete their plan in time to make hiring decisions in light of Prop 28. Along with hiring arts teachers, the district looks to build partnerships with those who deliver discrete instruction in varying arts disciplines, as North LA County needs more instructors who teach disciplines outside of music and visual arts. Palmdale plans to sustain and convene their VAPA Committee two or three times a year, as well as appoint arts site liaisons to support arts coordination and communication.

#### *Pasadena Unified School District*

Pasadena developed its fourth strategic arts plan, aligned with the district's Educational Master Plan and LCAP. Both the Master Plan and the district's Strategic Pillars address DEIA. While aligning with the LCAP is standard practice, it was equally important to incorporate and acknowledge other district-wide educational plans within the strategic arts planning process. The addition of Prop 28 funds enabled significant growth. Visual arts teachers have been added at every elementary school, and at all secondary schools, new courses were added, including ceramics, photography, modern band, music production, symphonic orchestra, theater, and theatre tech. The district also plans to allocate funds towards training, supplies, materials, and nonprofit partnership programs.

#### *San Gabriel Unified School District*

San Gabriel updated their arts plan to align with both the LCAP and the new districtwide strategic plan. Standing out in this plan are a strategy to support arts instruction through classified employees serving as coaches and other support roles and a new focus on AME pathways. Equity conversations woven into the coaching process encouraged establishing plan priorities that prioritize cultural relevance. Their arts coordinator created a Prop 28 funding plan video, which was shared publicly on the district website. Prop 28 funding enabled the district to advance previously unfunded priorities from their prior arts plan, including adding dance classes at the middle school, and expanding visual arts, dance, and theater for all elementary grades.

### Second Year Coaching (Building Capacity)

School districts with newly adopted plans from the previous year receive a second year of coaching for plan implementation. A parallel focus is helping planning teams become long-term leadership bodies to sustain progress on their arts plan. In 2023-24, Arts Ed Collective coaches supported year-two planning districts in the following areas:

- Identified and highlighted areas in strategic arts plans that will dovetail with Prop 28 spending
- Leadership coaching that included creating agenda items and meeting content, meeting facilitation, arts event planning, survey development, and course description updates
- Plans for increased professional development opportunities, instructional materials, and hiring consultants to support elementary arts instruction via Prop 28 funds
- Mid-year and year-end reporting (on plan implementation) to the district and community
- Regional collaboration and relationship building with neighboring school districts to develop shared resources for plan implementation (i.e., community partnerships)
- Identified corresponding initiatives in strategic arts plans that also align with the district's new Instructional Leadership Plan
- Development of a Principal School Site Art Plan template
- Revisions made to the district's "Portrait of a Graduate" to include a VAPA component
- Planning for other Arts Ed Collective services (e.g., Advancement Grant Program, Creative Wellbeing)

### Third Year Coaching (Special Project)

Two districts received professional development and resources for their newly hired Arts TOSAs to implement and update their strategic arts plans. These districts were supported in the following ways:

#### *Acton-Agua Dulce Unified School District*

- One-on-one coaching with the new VAPA TOSA
- Monthly facilitation of the District Arts Team, and event planning support (i.e., Student Arts Day)
- With Prop 28 funds, the district recently hired a new music teacher and plans to hire a visual arts teacher for the middle and high schools

#### *Antelope Valley Union High School District*

- Ongoing leadership support and check-ins to co-plan Arts Steering Committee meetings
- Development of tracking tools to support monitoring and reporting of plan implementation
- Refinement of Arts Coordinator job description and duties
- In regard to Prop 28, the district has not yet allocated or spent these funds, as they focused efforts on creating templates and forms for reporting, and surveying stakeholders to assess needs. The district plans to start hiring teachers next year.

### Connections to Creative Career Pathways for Youth

Arts Ed Collective coaches supported school districts with strategic thinking about Creative Career Pathways for Youth and utilized the Department of Arts and Culture's [Building Creative Careers for Youth](#) field scan report (2019) as a resource in focused discussions, helping to embed key tools and recommendations into the planning process.

Inglewood Unified is one example of a strategic planning district whose plan for arts education incorporates creative career pathways. They are the first district to build a CTE Arts, Media, Entertainment (AME) and Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) plan. In the next year, they will receive support from an Arts Ed Collective coach to establish clear pathways for students to pursue creative

careers by collaborating and engaging with industry partners, educators, students, parents, community members, and policymakers.

Azusa Unified's plan includes support for developing middle and high school pathways for visual and media arts. With Prop 28 funding, this district plans to hire visual arts and music teachers, along with a Career Technical Education (CTE) theatre educator.

San Gabriel Unified's plan includes an explicit focus on College and Career Connections. The 2024 plan aims to expand opportunities that connect students to college and career paths in the arts, especially focusing on CTE pathways. Tactics include creating internship and mentorship opportunities via alumni relationships and contracting a consultant to support work-based learning opportunities.

*School District Strategic Planning received dedicated support from The Carl and Roberta Deutsch Foundation, Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, and Stuart Foundation. Local education agencies whose plans include components related to Creative Career Pathways for Youth received funding from Sony Pictures Entertainment.*



*L to R: LACOE Arts Education Consultant, Rory Pullens, moderated a panel with Dr. Mariana Astorga-Almanza and Michele Fulsom (of Lynwood Unified), and Arts Ed Collective coaches, Sandy Seufert and Melissa Valencia.*

### Arts Ed Funding Community of Practice

In the absence of clear state guidelines regarding Prop 28 implementation, the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture), Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE), and Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation (GLAEF) have played a critical role in sharing updates and events for school districts to stay informed.

Arts Ed Collective coaches and Arts and Culture staff supported LACOE/GLAEF's Arts Ed Funding Community of Practice by attending virtual workshops and other events, making sure to align school district strategic planning efforts with resources, key learnings, and best practices from the Community of Practice. The Community of Practice launched on September 12, 2023 and provided year-round support for 31 school districts looking to advance equity via new Proposition 28 funding. The network

received guidance on financial management, staffing/recruitment, and training in the core arts education disciplines. Districts were represented by cross-disciplinary teams comprised of arts teachers, district administrators, and school site leadership responsible for all aspects of program implementation, including curriculum and instruction, finance, and operations.

The Community of Practice closed out the year with a culmination event on May 1, to highlight progress made by the first year of Prop 28 funding. Panel presentations featured three different case studies—Lynwood, Inglewood, and Claremont Unified School Districts—who shared how their schools have developed strategic arts plans in partnership with the Arts Ed Collective and grown their capacity to implement programs. They also discussed emerging Prop 28 challenges, possible solutions, and how partnerships are helping to advance their aspirations.

*The Arts Ed Funding Community of Practice received dedicated support from the Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation (through a grant from the California Community Foundation).*

## **2023-24 Advancement Grant Program**

The Advancement Grant Program offers matching grants to LA County school districts working to expand school-based arts education for students. Grant funds assist districts in achieving key action items in their Strategic Arts Plans, and help them to launch, expand, or sustain projects that align with priority goals. Districts with an active strategic plan may apply for up to \$25,000 in matching funds, with priority given to those with large student enrollments (10,000+) and/or a greater than Countywide average<sup>2</sup> of students who are English learners, eligible for free/reduced-price meals, or foster youth (also called the Unduplicated Pupil Count).



*At South Pasadena Unified School District, Advancement Grant funds helped update the South Pasadena High School Photography Lab and provide new tools, software, and learning for their Photography 1-2 and AP Art 2D Photo classes. Students developed their skills in digital photography and an expanded understanding of how they can represent themselves through art.*

For this 2023-24 program cycle, 33 school districts (including three charter networks) were awarded a total of \$721,947 in matching grants to advance and/or sustain arts education infrastructure. Twenty-one (21) of these grantees received priority points for having 1) a student population of 10,000+ and/or 2) greater than the Countywide average of students in the Unduplicated Pupil Count<sup>3</sup>. Please see Attachment 2 for a list of grantees and projects completed during the 2023-24 school year.

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<sup>2</sup> The Countywide average is 71.6% which was calculated based on the California Department of Education (CDE)'s Unduplicated Pupil Count data from 2022-23, as data from 2023-24 was not yet available when Advancement Grant applications were being reviewed.

<sup>3</sup> Unduplicated count of pupils who (1) are English learners, (2) meet income or categorical eligibility requirements for free or reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program, or (3) are foster youth. "Unduplicated count" means that each pupil is counted only once even if the pupil meets more than one of these criteria.



All 33 grantees completed their projects, but four grantees came under budget on their grant-funded projects by a total of \$21,492.80.

Districts who encountered implementation challenges with their grant-funded projects attributed these challenges to:

- A shortage of substitute teachers across several districts was and has been an issue since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Staff turnover or project transferring to new staff at the start or mid-year



*Student artwork for Hispanic Heritage Month at Saugus Union School District*



*Collective artwork by elementary students at Azusa Unified School District*



*Norwalk-La Mirada students with instruments purchased with Advancement Grant funds*

### **Overview of Investments**

With a confirmed cash match of \$2.07M from grantees, the 2023-24 program yielded nearly \$2.8M in total investments in school-based arts education. Grant awards and matching funds supported projects in the following six programmatic categories:

	<b>Cash Match</b>	<b>Grant Award</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
Direct Services to Students <sup>4</sup> (42%)	\$822,975	\$340,523	\$1,163,497
Instruments, Equipment, Instructional Supplies, and Materials (38%)	\$859,408	\$207,579	\$1,066,987
Professional Development (10%)	\$195,784	\$90,288	\$286,072
District Arts Coordination (5%)	\$107,615	\$24,594	\$132,209
Curriculum Development (4%)	\$73,423	\$38,519	\$111,941
Other (1%)	\$15,095	\$20,446	\$35,541
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$2,074,299</b>	<b>\$721,948</b>	<b>\$2,796,247</b>

### Impacts to Students and Educators

<b>DIRECT SERVICES TO STUDENTS</b>	<b># OF STUDENTS</b>	<b># OF INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS<sup>5</sup></b>
Teaching Artist Residencies	21,106	5763.5
Assemblies and Workshops	8,656	75.5
Field Trips	3,421	124

<sup>4</sup> Out of \$1.1M in direct services to students, \$682,352 went to arts nonprofits working in school sites as part of teaching artist residencies.

<sup>5</sup> Two districts are excluded from this analysis because their data on instructional hours could not be confirmed in time for this report.

Other	12,863	1,654.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46,046</b>	<b>7,617.5</b>

	<b># OF TEACHERS</b>	<b># OF INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS</b>
<b>Teacher Professional Development</b>	850	1,453

### Year-to-Year Comparisons

"Direct Services to Students" has remained steady as the top investment category, and the 2023-24 cycle shows roughly the same investment in Direct Services to Students compared to last year (44% in 2022-23). There was also a significant increase in "Instrument, Equipment, Instructional Supplies, and Materials" (38% in 2023-24) from past years (28% in 2022-23). However, fewer students and teachers were impacted by Direct Services compared to last year (71,236 students in 2022-23). "Professional Development" dropped to 10% (despite rebounding to 16% in 2022-23) as school districts have continued to navigate staff turnover and substitute teacher shortages that make it difficult to free up teacher time for professional development or curriculum development projects.

### Arts Education Funding: A Conversation for Funders and School Districts

On February 7, an in-person panel conversation hosted by San Gabriel Unified School District (SGUSD) took place at Gabrielino High School to discuss the impacts of the Advancement Grant Program and Prop 28, as well as how these funding sources can be leveraged to improve equity and be responsive to school district challenges. Moderated by Jacqueline Chun (The Carl & Roberta Deutsch Foundation), the panel featured Sarah Lyding (The Music Man Foundation), Samantha Theisen (SGUSD), Vicki Tessier (Pomona Unified), and Mariana Astorga-Almanza (Lynwood Unified). The day also featured opening remarks by Keelia Postlethwaite Stinnett (program specialist for the Advancement Grant Program), Kristin Sakoda (Arts and Culture director), and Hilda Solis (LA County Second District Supervisor); performers from Roosevelt Elementary School's Amazing Roosevelt String Ensemble; and a showcase of artwork by Gabrielino HS visual art students.



L to R: School Board Members Dr. Gary Scott and Cheryl Shellhart, LA County Second District Supervisor Hilda Solis, VAPA Coordinator Samantha Theisen, and Superintendent Jim Symonds of San Gabriel Unified School District



Roosevelt Elementary School's Amazing Roosevelt String Ensemble, directed by brothers Albert and Anthony Burrola



### Advancement Grant Funds in Action: Site Visit to Arcadia Unified School District

On March 28, Arcadia Unified School District hosted a site visit to showcase the myriad of ways the Advancement Grant Program has helped to sustain and enhance K-12 arts education. Through arts-rich facilities, instruction, and student engagement, guests observed vibrant arts learning across multiple disciplines (e.g., music, dance, theatre, stagecraft, media arts, visual arts) at Camino Grove Elementary, Dana Middle School, First Avenue Middle School, and Arcadia High School.



### **Celebrating 10 years of the Advancement Grant Program**

The 2023-24 fiscal year marked the tenth year of the Advancement Grant Program. Over the past decade, the program has invested \$6.7M in grant funds and leveraged \$16.8M in matching funds for arts education at 60 school districts across LA County. For an overview of the past ten years and how the program has evolved, please see Attachment 3.

*The 2023-24 Advancement Grant Program received dedicated support from the Herb Alpert Foundation, Colburn Foundation (specifically for classical music education), The Carl and Roberta Deutsch Foundation, Sony Pictures Entertainment (specifically for projects related to Creative Career Pathways and CTE), Stuart Foundation, and LA County's Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative (CEII).*

## Arts Coordinator Network

The [Arts Coordinator Network](#) is part of a wide-reaching strategy to help LA County's 80 school districts build infrastructure for expanding and sustaining equitable arts education across their schools. Through quarterly gatherings, school district arts coordinators connect with each other to share expertise, strategies, and helpful tools and resources. Established in 2006, the Arts Coordinator Network convenings are currently co-designed and co-produced through partnership between the Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture), LA County Office of Education (LACOE), and Arts for LA.

Three school district arts coordinators convenings took place during 2023-24. These convenings featured discussions on key strategies and shared areas of focus for arts education, with a particular emphasis on Prop 28, as 2023-24 was the first year of implementation. Presentations and professional learning opportunities were also shared by Jessica Catalan (Greater LA Education Foundation), Abe Flores (Create CA), Ricky Abilez and Yamily Pardio (Arts for LA), and Jeannine Flores and Shan Tu (LACOE).

Convening Dates	Participating Districts (37)	Co-Presenters	Topics/Resources Covered
September 21, 2023 February 22, 2024 April 25, 2024	Acton-Agua Dulce Unified Antelope Valley Union High Arcadia Unified Azusa Unified Baldwin Park Unified Beverly Hills Unified Centinela Valley Union High Claremont Unified Culver City Unified El Segundo Unified Glendale Unified Green Dot Public Schools Hacienda-La Puente Unified Hawthorne Unified ICEF Public Schools iLEAD California Las Virgenes Unified Long Beach Unified LACOE Los Angeles Unified Lynwood Unified Magnolia Public Schools Manhattan Beach Unified Monrovia Unified Montebello Unified Norwalk-La Mirada Unified Paramount Unified Pasadena Unified Pomona Unified San Gabriel Unified Santa Monica-Malibu South Whittier Elementary Sulphur Springs Union Torrance Unified Whittier City Elementary Whittier Union High Wiseburn Unified	Arts for LA Create CA Greater LA Education Foundation LACOE	<a href="#">Create CA's Arts and Music in Schools (Prop 28) Advocacy Tools and Resources</a>  <a href="#">Creative Careers Online</a>  Creative Career Pathways for Youth Opportunities  <a href="#">Creative Wellbeing Curriculum Guide</a>  Creative Wellbeing Opportunities  Discussions with school communities about Prop 28 implementation goals and expenditure plans  <a href="#">LACMA's Introduction to Arts Integration</a>  <a href="#">In-person and online resources curated by LACOE</a>  LACOE <a href="#">Arts &amp; STEAM</a> Webpage  <a href="#">LA County Land Acknowledgment</a>

## Community-Based Arts Education

*Embeds arts-based youth development across LA County systems of care to help young people, families, and the adults who work with them to heal and thrive.*

Since the Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture) began partnering with the Probation Department to serve incarcerated youth in 2014, arts-based programs/services have expanded across multiple County systems, fueled by demand from other County departments and input from youth advocates and systems-impacted young people. Together, we work to prioritize services that can reduce youth incarceration and support arts-based, healing-centered youth development for young people in detention (including those who have been transferred from the state's now-shuttered Department of Juvenile Justice facilities), foster youth, and communities identified by LA County's [Trauma Prevention Initiative](#) (TPI) as facing high rates of policing, violence, and trauma.

### Highlights

- In-school arts instruction prototype at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall launched in February 2024
- 26 community-based organizations (CBOs) provided arts instruction for 2,555 systems-impacted youth, professional development for 27,108 adults who care for them, and community arts events for 3,158 youth and families in historically underserved neighborhoods at 120 sites across LA County
- The Creative Wellbeing approach to fostering wellness and creativity in systems-impacted youth and youth-serving adults implemented in partnership with three school districts, two charter school sites, five short-term residential treatment programs, two temporary shelter care facilities, and four foster family agencies.

### Services for Youth in Institutions

*(Intervention Strategy in Partnership with the LA County Probation Department)*

Type	Site	Youth Served (2,555)	Arts Partners (19)
<b>Juvenile Detention Facilities (8)</b>	Camp Afflerbaugh (La Verne)	109	The Actors' Gang The Advot Project
	Campus Kilpatrick (Malibu)	66	Arts for Healing and Justice Network Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory Center for the Empowerment of Families
	Dorothy Kirby Center (Commerce) and Camp Scott <sup>6</sup> (Santa Clarita)	128	Give a Beat
	Camp Paige (La Verne)	61	Homeboy Art Academy Inner City Youth Orchestra of LA
	Camp Glenn Rockey (San Dimas)	62	InsideOUT Writers Jail Guitar Doors
	Central Juvenile Hall <sup>7</sup>	124	Returning Home Rhythm Arts Alliance Street Poets Inc.
	Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (Downey)	1,186	Spirit Awakening Foundation Theatre of Hearts
	Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (Sylmar)	245	Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company Versa-Style Dance Company WriteGirl

<sup>6</sup> Camp Scott was absorbed into the Dorothy Kirby Center in March 2022, when the Scott Scudder campus in Santa Clarita closed. It remained as Camp Scott up until this year and then became officially part of the Dorothy Kirby Center.

<sup>7</sup> Central Juvenile Hall closed in July 2023, after which the youth population was moved to Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, which reopened after having been shut down in 2019.

<b>Juvenile Day Reporting Centers (3)</b>	Adams High (Los Angeles)	35	Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory Give a Beat Rhythm Arts Alliance
	Long Beach High - Intensive Learning Program (Long Beach)	4	
	Boyle Heights Technology Youth Center (Boyle Heights)	27	
<b>Continuation / High Schools (5)</b>	Central High Tri-C (Los Angeles, 90021)	58	Spirit Awakening Foundation
	Frontier Continuation High School (Whittier)	68	
	Whittier High School (Whittier)	356	
	Horace Mann UCLA Community School (South LA)	20	Street Poets Inc.
	Panorama High School (Panorama City)	6	

### Secure Youth Treatment Facilities

Youth who reside at Secure Youth Treatment Facilities (SYTFs) are 18 to 24 years of age and have been convicted of severe crimes with longer sentences. Since September 2022, SYTF youth are housed at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall (Sylmar) and Campus Kilpatrick (Malibu). When youth first arrive at Nidorf, they are kept isolated to reduce violence. Over time, if they maintain a standard of behavior, they move out of single rooms into dorm-style housing units. After completing their rotations without issues, SYTF youth eventually move to Campus Kilpatrick. Healing-centered arts engagements for SYTF youth focus not just on identity and self-expression, but also on developing skills and experience needed to work in the creative industries upon their transition. Community-based organization (CBO) partners such as Jail Guitar Doors facilitated a sound production re-entry program, and the Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory facilitated their re-entry program focused on mural work.

### Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

In July 2023, when [youth were relocated](#) from Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall and Central Juvenile Hall to Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (Downey), Arts and Culture worked with new Probation leadership (as well as the Office of Child Protection [OCP], Department of Youth Development [DYD], LACOE, and arts providers) to ensure arts programming transitioned to Los Padrinos with as little disruption as possible. Following the relocation, CBO partners engaged in the planning, expansion, and delivery of healing-centered arts programs to offer continuity with programming at prior facilities. In September 2023, Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory began facilitating weekly professional development and self-care workshops for LACOE teachers and staff. By December 2023, CBO partners were providing a total of 51 arts lessons to young people each week, with most youth receiving arts instruction three or more times per week.

### *Launch of In-Schools Prototype*

Arts and Culture collaborated with LACOE to expand arts programming in LACOE classrooms at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall. Launched in February 2024, the prototype tested approaches and mechanisms for delivering arts-integrated lessons as part of in-school instruction. Teaching artists from Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory (BHAC) collaborated with classroom teacher Mr. Louis Mejia (American History / Social Studies) to co-create and implement an arts-integrated curriculum designed to achieve learning objectives from the [Common Core American History standards](#) and guided by themes from Los Padrinos' Road to Success Academy: discovery, empowerment, transformation, and resilience.



BHAC intentionally wove in the perspectives of marginalized populations into the curriculum design. As these perspectives are often left out of the Common Core standards for American history, their inclusion acts as an avenue to decolonize how American history is traditionally presented, and make the curriculum relevant to the students' cultures.

During a learning module about Christopher Columbus and the American Revolution, BHAC tied in how Indigenous peoples were negatively impacted, and tasked students to create pictorial dioramas based on their individual interpretations. This process allowed history to come alive for the students. Students gained broader perspectives and understanding of how they fit into these historical narratives, as well as the differences between how history is written by the "victors" versus the people who are negatively impacted. Instructors observed that overall class morale improved and continued to grow significantly over the course of the year, demonstrated by students' excitement and participation.



### *Day of Collaboration*

In addition to Probation, several youth-serving agencies at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, such as LACOE and the Department of Mental Health (DMH), have increasingly expressed interest in and valued arts-based professional development as a significant element for cultivating and enabling a culture of collaboration. In response to this interest, and with an understanding that CBO partners and arts agencies are strong proponents of systems change in the culture of the facility, the Arts Ed Collective coordinated a "Day of Collaboration" event on March 14, which brought CBO partners and County agencies together. CBOs presented on their services and programming for youth, helping to provide a deeper understanding of arts-based healing centered services for the County agencies who attended, and to support a shift from corporate culture towards a more collaborative environment in facilities.

### Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory @ Camp Afflerbaugh (La Verne)

Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory (BHAC) are equipping youth with employment readiness skills, through their Bridge Academy Movement (bam!) and Mural Workforce Academy programs. Youth learned how to dress for job interviews and respond to interview scenarios, as well as how to prepare and understand the process for creating murals. Youth are also learning how to do backline and sound production, equipping them with the skills needed for live show experience. As part of their participation, youth will receive stipends once they are released and are in re-entry.

### Inner City Youth Orchestra Drum Corps @ Nidorf

In response to a [Board motion by LA County Supervisors Lindsey Horvath \(Third District\) and Holly Mitchell \(Second District\)](#), Arts and Culture and Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles (ICYOLA) began their Drum Corps Program at Nidorf Juvenile Hall in March. Despite initial challenges, the program has been a huge success, as youth participation grew over the course of the year, coupled with notable enthusiasm from the youth. In a letter to Supervisor Holly Mitchell, expressing gratitude for being able to provide programming for the youth at Nidorf, Executive Director and Conductor of ICYOLA, Charles Dickerson, wrote:

“We are honored to serve them, and we are grateful to you for making it possible for us to do so. What we are doing is life-changing—not just for the young men at Nidorf, but for our instructors too.”

### Dorothy Kirby Center Mural Unveiling

In February, a new mural was unveiled at Dorothy Kirby Center (Commerce). Led by Spirit Awakening Foundation’s Akuyoe Graham and their team of artists, the group worked with Kirby students to ideate, design, and support the entire mural making process. This mural was a collaborative installation attached to brick wall and built with marine plywood treated by Tri-C Community Day School students. Camp Kirby students co-designed the mural with Probation director Victor Banuelos.

*Artists from Spirit Awakening Foundation, led by Akuyoe Graham (center), pose in front of the new mural at Dorothy Kirby Center*





*Youth performance at Camp Joseph Paige*

#### Youth Performances at Camp Joseph Paige (La Verne)

On May 10, youth at Camp Joseph Paige presented three original plays on the gymnasium stage. The performance was developed via partnership between LA County Probation, Department of Arts and Culture, and teaching artists from [The Advot Project](#). Over seven weeks, youth studied storytelling, writing, and acting. The resulting three plays focused on the theme of “truth” and were based on true stories involving friendship, betrayal, and the challenge of making hard decisions.



*Teaching artists from AHJN member organization, Versa-Style, facilitate a movement-focused professional development session for Probation staff.*



## Services for Youth in Communities

(Prevention Strategy in Partnership with the Department of Parks & Recreation and Department of Youth Development)

Type	Site	Youth Served (3,158)	Arts Partners (17)
<b>County Parks (19)</b>	Amelia Mayberry Park (Whittier)	132	African Soul International Arts for Healing and Justice Network Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory (BHAC) Center for the Empowerment of Families Give a Beat Homeboy Art Academy Jail Guitar Doors Justice for My Sister LA Commons No Easy Props Project Knucklehead P.S. Arts Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural Versa-Style Dance Company
	Belvedere Community Regional Park (East LA)	208	
	Charter Oak Park (Covina)	34	
	City Terrace Park (LA, 90063)	123	
	Earvin "Magic" Johnson Park (Willowbrook)	337	
	East Rancho Dominguez Park (Compton)	142	
	El Cariso Community Regional Park (Sylmar)	75	
	Eugene A. Obregon Park (East LA)	11	
	Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (South LA)	88	
	George Washington Carver Park (South LA)	30	
	Lennox Park (Inglewood)	21	
	Loma Alta Park (Altadena)	33	
	Mona Park (Compton)	135	
	Pamela Park (Duarte)	56	
	Ruben F. Salazar Park (LA, 90023)	48	
	San Angelo Park (La Puente)	61	
	Stephen Sorensen Park (Lake Los Angeles)	9	
	Ted Watkins Memorial Park (South LA)	361	
	William Steinmetz Park (Hacienda Heights)	4	
<b>Diversion (6)</b>	Asian Youth Center (Hawthorne and San Gabriel)	15	artworxLA Jail Guitar Doors Justice for My Sister No Easy Props P.S. Arts Street Poets Inc.
	Flintridge Center (Pasadena)	40	
	Project Caring & Sharing Family Services (Pomona)	3	
	Rancho San Antonio (Chatsworth)	2	
	Soledad Enrichment Action, Inc. (East LA)	67	
	William Tell Aggeler High School (Chatsworth)	19	
<b>Trauma Prevention Initiative Projects (8)</b>	Ánimo Watts Charter School (Willowbrook)	395	African Soul International
	Gil Garcetti Learning Academy (Florence-Firestone)	483	
	Life Source International Charter School (Lancaster)	100	



Westmont/West Athens, East LA, Lancaster, Hawaiian Gardens, Long Beach and virtual	20	Arts for Healing and Justice Network (with the MILPA Collective)
BHAC, Belvedere Park, Chicano Resource Center (East LA and Puente Valley)	40	Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory (BHAC)
Crete Academy (Los Angeles)	7	Center for the Empowerment of Families
New Jerusalem Congregation, Compton Wellness (Compton) (Westmont, Willowbrook, and Unincorporated Compton)	45	Justice for My Sister
Carver Park (Willowbrook)	14	LA Commons (with Willowbrook Inclusion Network)

Since 2019, Arts and Culture has collaborated with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to provide year-round, after-school, and arts-based youth development in County parks that offer teen programming specifically aimed at addressing community violence / gang prevention. Over the past year, our collaboration has continued to include community events for youth, families, and community members more broadly.

In partnership with DPR, and through the expertise of its community-based organization (CBO) partners, the Arts Ed Collective brings a wide range of arts disciplines and cultural practices to County parks through the following approaches:

- *Our SPOT* is a free after-school enrichment program for teens ages 12-18 that runs Monday through Friday. Programming provides safe and supportive spaces for youth all year long, where they can explore their interests through the arts and social action projects, connect on societal issues, and collaborate through peer-to-peer leadership.
- *Parks After Dark* (PAD) programming is designed to provide children and families opportunities to participate in free arts workshops and live performances, all throughout the summer. Programming ranges from concerts in the park to movie nights, summer Olympics, art classes, gardening classes, sport clinics, and others.



*LEFT: An activity during the Willowbrook Art Hop, where youth created prints with stencils inspired by LA Commons' Safe Passages mural in George Washington Carver Park. The Willowbrook Art Hop took place in August 2023 across three local parks in the area: Earvin "Magic" Johnson, George Washington Carver, and Mona Park.*

- *Community Engagement* is part of PAD programming, and can take place at any of the 34 County parks throughout the year, but is not necessarily limited to park spaces. A highlight from this year was the October 2023 Girls Empowerment Conference held at East Los Angeles

College (ELAC), where Arts Ed Collective partners provided arts programming throughout the day-long event for girls ages 12-18.

*RIGHT: At the Girls Empowerment Conference in October 2023, attendees wrote uplifting messages for an activity set up in the quad at ELAC.*



- *Diversion* takes place in collaboration with the Department of Youth Development, and provides healing-informed arts instruction and arts-based professional development for youth and staff at five sites that host young people enrolled in diversion programs across the County. These efforts divert young people away from involvement in the justice system (i.e., arrest or citation) by offering them programs and resources (e.g., therapy, rites of passage, life skill development, arts programs) that build on their strengths and address their unique needs and interests.
- LA County's [Trauma Prevention Initiative](#) (TPI) is led by the Department of Public Health's Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) to support community-driven approaches to public safety in our highest need communities.

This year, our collaboration in this effort supported a model, developed by the [Arts for Healing and Justice Network](#) (AHJN) and the [MILPA Collective](#), that centered Indigenous and culturally relevant practices to "welcome home" youth transitioning from detention back into community. Members of the AHJN and MILPA Collective co-trained one another in intergenerational mentorship, group facilitation, and leadership development. By blending the practices of elders, racial equity narratives, and movement-based strategies, participants were able to tailor best practices in cultural and relational approaches for addressing trauma.

In working with the MILPA Collective, AHJN's Director of Youth and Community Justice, Zoë Rawson, shared that this TPI project allowed participants to cultivate a sense of shared power, an element not often seen in community spaces. Participants built connections based on their experiences receiving or being a part of Indigenous circle practices, which helped to grow a deeper understanding of frameworks and tools to address issues like substance abuse.

[Justice for My Sister](#) (JFMS) trained six organizations contracted by OVP in crisis care and healing-centered arts engagement strategies. JFMS also facilitated trainings at New Jerusalem Church (South LA) in meditation, grounding, and healing-centered arts engagement during prayer circles, in response to difficult and tragic circumstances in the community. The teaching artists also helped to co-create a toolkit that those affected could use to navigate grief and trauma.



*JFMS workshop in Compton*

JFMS coordinated and facilitated healing-centered arts engagement and training for OVP staff and community members in Willowbrook and unincorporated Compton. Workshops utilized drumming, meditation, talking circles, and group work to best support communities that had recently experienced violence and traumatic events. JFMS teaching artists also trained County staff at OVP's Compassion in Crisis Care Summit.

*Funding for Youth in Institutions and Youth in Communities is provided through the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act and Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (administered by the LA County Probation Department).*

## Creative Wellbeing

Creative Wellbeing is a strategic collaboration between the LA County Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture), Office of Child Protection (OCP), Department of Mental Health (DMH), Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and the [Arts for Healing and Justice Network](#) (AHJN). In 2023-24, five additional arts organizations were contracted to provide services, including: African Soul International, Center for the Empowerment of Families, Justice for My Sister, Homeboy Art Academy, and Spirit Awakening Foundation. In the past year, two new County agency partnerships with the Department of Health Services (DHS) and Department of Public Health (DPH) emerged as a result of ongoing collaboration with the OCP, DCFS, DMH, and LA County Office of Education (LACOE).

As a strengths-based, whole-systems approach to nurturing creativity, wellbeing, and mental health protective factors in schools and communities, Creative Wellbeing offers healing-informed arts instruction for youth as well as arts-based professional development for educators and other adults who work with young people.

The intentional, parallel focus on supporting both young people and the adults who serve them is central to the model. As young people engage in weekly healing-informed arts instruction, they explore identity and self-expression and discover ways to connect with each other and caring adults. Similarly, as youth-serving adults engage in arts-based professional development and self-care sessions, they increase their understanding of healing-informed approaches, mental health protective factors, self-attunement, and the preventative significance of their own self-care.



*Students and teachers at Pasadena High School (Pasadena Unified) experienced a Creative Wellbeing and Creative Careers workshop led by Dr. Ernest Harrison, conductor of the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles. This workshop was one of a series of five where participants experienced healing-centered art activities and opportunities to meet artists who have built careers in healing-centered work.*



Type	Scope of Services (710 youth and 3,717 adults directly served)	Arts Partners (27)
<b>School Districts</b>	Antelope Valley Union High School District <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>East Side High School</li> </ul>	Arts for Healing and Justice Network (AHJN): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Actors' Gang</li> <li>artworxLA</li> <li>Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory</li> <li>ClayDD</li> <li>Fostering Dreams Project</li> <li>Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles</li> <li>Give a Beat</li> <li>Green Arrow</li> <li>Jail Guitar Doors</li> <li>No Easy Props</li> <li>Rhythm Arts Alliance</li> <li>Street Poets Inc.</li> <li>The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company</li> <li>Upward Together</li> <li>Versa-Style Dance Company</li> <li>WriteGirl</li> </ul>
	Pasadena Unified School District <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pasadena High School</li> <li>Rose City Continuation High School</li> <li>McKinley School</li> </ul>	
	Whittier City School District <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lou Henry Hoover Elementary School</li> <li>Lydia Jackson Elementary</li> <li>Orange Grove Elementary</li> <li>Mill School and Technology Academy</li> <li>Virtual Learning Academy</li> </ul>	
	Crete Academy (charter school under LAUSD)	
	Alliance Morgan McKinzie High School	
<b>County Agencies</b>  <b>Community Partners</b>  <b>Foster Care Service Providers</b>	Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy, Leadership, and Staff Development Division</li> <li>Out-of-Home Care Management Division</li> <li>Dream Home Care (STRTP)</li> <li>Sycamores-El Nido (STRTP)</li> <li>The Virtuous Woman (STRTP)</li> <li>ZOE House (STRTP)</li> <li>Haskell House (TSCF)</li> <li>Wilbur House (TSCF)</li> <li>Aviva Children and Family Services (FFA)</li> <li>Extraordinary Families (FFA)</li> <li>Families Uniting Families / Project Fatherhood (FFA)</li> <li>Optimist Youth Home (FFA, Transition Age Youth Temporary Housing)</li> </ul>	Arts Partners outside of AHJN: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>African Soul International</li> <li>Budding Artists</li> <li>Center for the Empowerment of Families</li> <li>CONTRA-TIEMPO</li> <li>Homeboy Art Academy</li> <li>Justice for My Sister</li> <li>New Hope Grief Support Community</li> <li>Pure Arts Solutions</li> <li>Spirit Awakening</li> <li>UCLArts &amp; Healing Initiative</li> <li>WisdoMania Foundation</li> </ul>
	Department of Mental Health (DMH): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School-based Community Access Point (SBCAP)</li> <li>Partners in Suicide Prevention (PSP)</li> <li>Los Angeles Suicide Prevention Network (LASPN)</li> <li>Sheila Kuehl Family Wellness Center</li> <li>Take Action for Mental Health Campaign</li> </ul>	
	DMH / UCLA Prevention Center of Excellence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wellbeing4LA Learning Center</li> </ul>	
	Office of Child Protection (OCP)	
	Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)	
	Department of Health Services (DHS): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Edward R. Roybal Comprehensive Health Center</li> <li>Alvarado Health Center</li> <li>Claude Hudson Comprehensive Health Center</li> <li>Ambulatory Care Network (Town Halls, Primary Care Physicians' PD)</li> </ul>	
	Department of Public Health (DPH): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office of Violence Prevention (OVP)</li> <li>Rise, Reclaim, Restore Youth Mental Health Summits</li> <li>Pomona Wellness Community</li> </ul>	

### Services in Partnership with School Districts

Creative Wellbeing services took place at three school districts (Antelope Valley Union, Pasadena Unified, and Whittier City), and two charter school sites (Crete Academy and Alliance Morgan McKinzie High School) during the 2023-24 school year. In total, 12 community-based organizations (members of the Arts for Healing and Justice Network [AHJN] and non-AHJN organizations) provided 22 healing-centered teaching artist residencies (275 sessions total) for 83 students at Pasadena Unified, 306 students at Whittier City School District, 19 students at Crete Academy (View Park, Los Angeles), and 32 students at Alliance Morgan McKinzie High School (near East Los Angeles). These organizations also

facilitated arts-based professional development (29 sessions total) for 10 educators / youth-serving adults in Antelope Valley Union, 142 educators in Pasadena Unified, 18 educators in Whittier City, and 30 educators at Crete Academy.

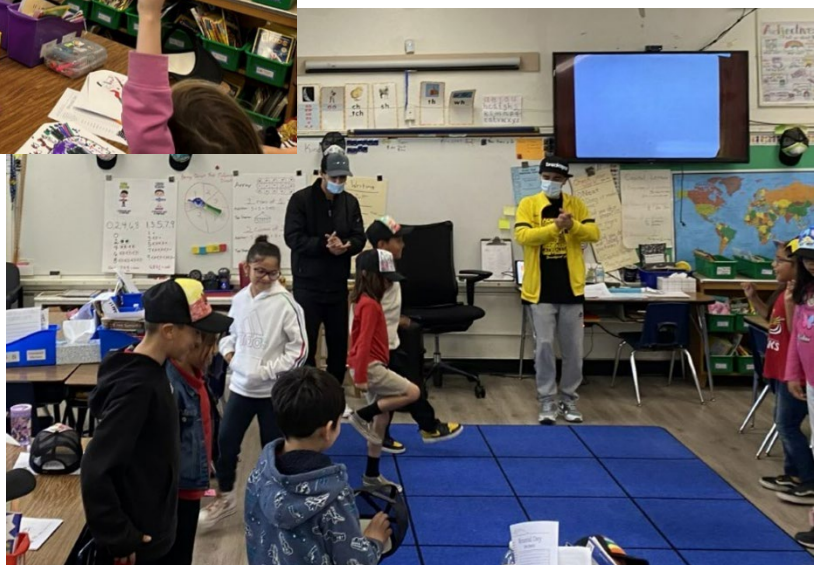
At Antelope Valley Union: Starting in February 2024, a cohort of Eastside High School teachers experienced twice-weekly sessions focused on self- and community care, and healing-informed strategies and activities for daily use in the classroom and interactions with colleagues and students. Services for students will be added in 2024-25.

At Pasadena Unified, Creative Wellbeing workshops were incorporated into district-wide professional development (PD) days during fall 2023. Artist residencies occurred at Pasadena High School, specifically for CARES / special education program students, as well as PD sessions for their teachers. Rose City Continuation High School received PD sessions and artist residencies; and one Rose City class received mentorship and guidance to curate the March 2024 district-wide art exhibition, *No Boundaries*.

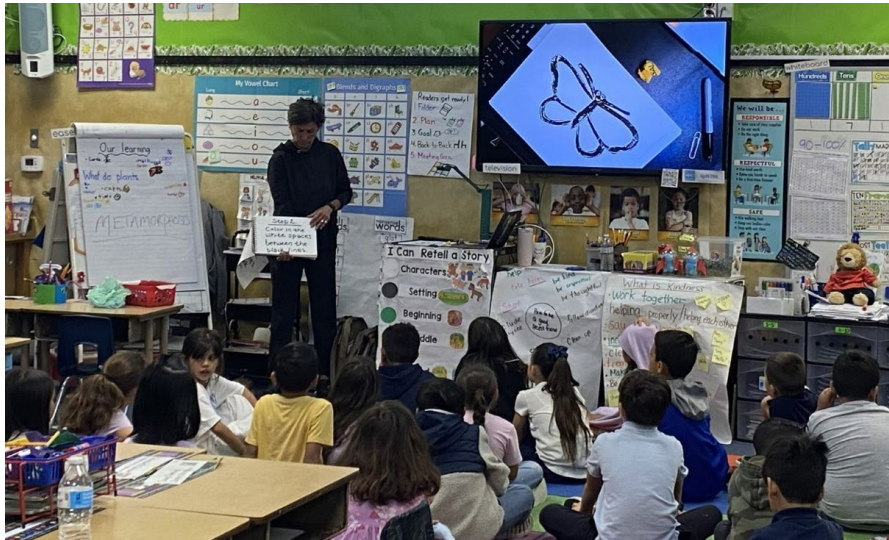
During a site visit in May, Arts and Culture staff visited several elementary schools in the Whittier City School District. Teaching artists Sowmar "Somar" Aljaafari and Steve "Gremz" Roybal from No Easy Props (AHJN member organization) worked with third grade students at Lou Henry Hoover Elementary School. Through learning the elements of hip hop culture, the teaching artists shared that it was inspiring to witness students grow their self-esteem and confidence over the course of the school year, demonstrated by many students becoming less shy and eager to participate and share their self-expression.



Teaching artists Sowmar "Somar" Aljaafari and Steve "Gremz" Roybal from No Easy Props (AHJN member organization) share out student work and facilitate a classroom dance-off with the students from Lou Henry Hoover Elementary School.



At Mill School and Technology Academy, Sara Harris Ben-Ari of Green Arrow Co-Lab (AHJN member organization) created a character, "Millie the Monarch Butterfly," to connect with second grade students, a majority of whom come from monolingual immigrant households. As a migrant herself, Millie was a relatable character for students and an effective vehicle to introduce gardening and cultivate trust, love, and joy in the classroom. Sara involved teachers, parents, and students to co-design the school's community garden, a process which helped students learn about healing urban soil, including elements required for seeds to thrive. Students also learned that like their garden, their wellbeing can flourish through a cycle of care.



*Teaching artist Sara Harris Ben-Ari (Green Arrow Co-Lab) speaks to students about metamorphosis, before explaining a coloring activity that focuses on monarch butterflies.*



*Mill School and Technology Academy students give a walkthrough of their garden just outside of their classroom, pointing out the seeds and plants they have cultivated together over the course of the school year with guidance from Sara Harris Ben-Ari.*





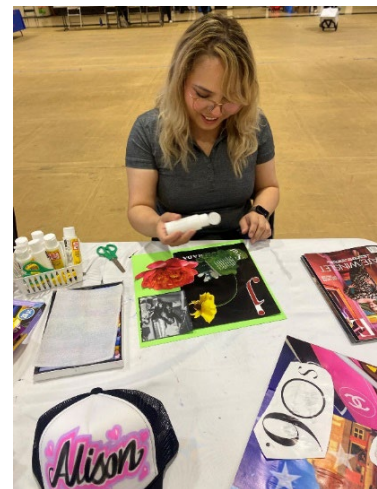
*Crete Academy students during a ceramic making session facilitated by the Center for the Empowerment of Families*

Therapeutic grief and loss sessions, for students who have recently lost parents and caregivers (from COVID-19, community violence, or other causes), took place at Crete Academy, a public charter school in South LA. This model was then adapted for Alliance Morgan McKinzie High School, a public charter school in East LA.

### Services in Partnership with Foster Care Service Providers

During the summer, the Department of Arts and Culture and OCP convened the DCFS Policy, Leadership, and Staff Development unit to discuss ways to embed Creative Wellbeing into DCFS and provide the foundation for integrating healing-centered arts strategies within the organization. These convenings led to DCFS including Creative Wellbeing trainings and materials in their Monthly Training Catalog through a partnership with the Wellbeing4LA Learning Center. DCFS staff now receive training credits for attending live (virtual) and asynchronous Creative Wellbeing sessions.

The Department of Arts and Culture and OCP collaborated with the DCFS Out-of-Home Care Management Division to design an introductory Creative Wellbeing workshop for contracted Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) and Foster Family Agencies (FFAs). The workshop included testimonials from teaching artists and STRTP / Temporary Shelter Care Facilities (TSCF) staff, experiential art activities, and an invitation to request Creative Wellbeing services for their sites' caregivers and youth. Arts and Culture received interest from 35 STRTP and FFA sites for Creative Wellbeing services. After working with DCFS to prioritize these requests, Arts and Culture reached out to eight sites for potential partnership. To date, partnerships with five new sites were cultivated and received services in 2023-24, bringing the total number of foster care service provider sites served to ten.



*A caregiver from Aviva Children and Family Services, who participated in a workshop activity led by AHJN member, Upward Together*



During the year, teaching artists providing Creative Wellbeing services requested additional support and trainings to help them more successfully engage with youth who have experienced complex trauma. Arts and Culture partnered with AHJN, DMH, and [The Wall Las Memorias Project](#) to provide two LGBTQ+ affirming care trainings for teaching artists in Winter 2024. Trainings included a section on substance use, harm reduction, and how to deliver Naloxone. Both trainings were at full capacity, and there is strong interest for more trainings to be provided in the future.

### Open Cohorts and Special Events

Open cohorts (virtual and in-person) allow participants to cultivate relationships with LA County agencies, pilot ideas for embedding the arts into their daily work, and engage in self and community care practices to prevent burnout. External events hosted by Arts Ed Collective partners also provide opportunities to disseminate and embed the Creative Wellbeing approach through healing-centered, arts-based workshops and engagements. A total of 10,683 youth and 23,391 adults were served through open cohorts and special events. See Attachment 4 for a list of Creative Wellbeing special events.



ABOVE: Moments from the 13th Annual LA Suicide Prevention Summit. The day featured a keynote speech by Dr. Ernest Harrison from Gay Men's Chorus of LA, as well as various breakout sessions and activities led by Creative Wellbeing partners.



L to R: LA Suicide Prevention Network (LASPN) Youth Advisory Board Liaisons, Irma Rose Viera and Britany Flores, worked on the launch of a podcast project focused on suicide prevention for youth.



*DMH Take Action event at Belvedere Park (East LA): All woman-identified East LA ska band El Collectivo Sabinas (affiliated with Justice for My Sister). Their songs navigate issues like community violence, intimate partner violence, substance abuse, and addiction, among other themes.*

## Wellbeing4LA

In partnership with the UCLA Prevention Center of Excellence and the [Wellbeing4LA Learning Center](#), the virtual offerings below provide year-round engagement opportunities across the Creative Wellbeing network, which is comprised of educators, mental health professionals, advocates, youth content advisors, youth development workers, teaching artists, LA County staff, and others.

- *Learning Community*: Four quarterly gatherings (Oct 4, Dec 6, Mar 6, and Jun 5) nurtured community-building and provided structured ways to help individuals and groups adapt and implement a healing-centered arts approach into their work, healing journeys, and systems-change efforts.
- *Renewal Retreat*: Retreats are offered bi-annually and structured as a three-part, interactive series of workshops that cover the foundational concepts of the Creative Wellbeing approach, the impact of culturally relevant engagement on mental wellbeing, and strategies for incorporating healing-informed arts into interactions with youth and families. The 2023-24 retreats included a Winter 2024 retreat focused on educators supporting youth in school-based settings and a Spring 2024 retreat centered on infusing art into child welfare settings.
- *Self & Community Care Open Sessions*: This monthly series created space for adults who dedicate their time, hearts, and energy to support young people in LA County to explore creativity, build community, connect to their joy and purpose, and support their own healing and wellbeing. Each session was led by a different guest artist among our contracted arts organizations, including those from AHJN's 25-member (and growing) network.

### Multi-Year Public Investment

In September 2023, a three-year grant (\$1.3M annual, FY24 through FY26) from the California Mental Health Services Act (via Department of Mental Health) was made possible through ongoing partnerships with the Office of Child Protection (OCP), Department of Mental Health (DMH), and Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). In addition, three-year funding (\$2.9M annual) from the LA County General Fund (via Care First Community Investment) was approved by the Board of Supervisors in September 2023, which speaks to the County's growing interest and investment in Creative Wellbeing's work and expansion.

### Accolades

Creative Wellbeing was awarded the following in the past year:

- [2024 National Association of Counties Achievement Award](#) (under Children and Youth category)
- Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission's [Striving for Zero](#) Suicide Prevention Innovative Partnership Award

*Creative Wellbeing received dedicated support from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the LA County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council via funding from California's Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act, and the Mental Health Services Act (administered by the LA County Department of Mental Health).*

### **Creative Career Pathways for Youth**

*Addresses systemic barriers within creative industries and supports young people of color in entering and shaping LA County's creative economy.*

The Arts Ed Collective works to expand opportunities for young people to access careers in the arts and creative industries. With the goal of cultivating a more diverse and inclusive workforce, our focus is on those who have historically been excluded from, and underrepresented in, these fields. In 2018, the Department of Arts and Culture published the [Building Creative Careers for Youth](#) field scan report, which includes research interviews with arts organizations, school districts, industry professionals, and young people. This field scan offers 23 recommendations to remove barriers and improve access to creative careers for LA County youth.

### **Highlights**

- Creative Careers Online launches its Program Finder tool
- Selection of implementation partner and evaluator for Media Career Pathways Prototype
- Local education agencies engaged in strategic plans for arts education, including approaches to expanding career pathways and CTE (see page 11)
- Eight Advancement Grant projects related to Career Technical Education (CTE) and Creative Career Pathways for Youth (see Attachment 2)

### **Creative Careers Online**

[Creative Careers Online](#) (CCO) is a collaborative project of the Department of Arts and Culture, Gladeo Inc., and Create CA. This no-cost, online career navigation platform is designed to inspire young people to discover, prepare for, and pursue careers in the arts and creative industries. It provides exposure to a variety of creative careers, information about what is needed to land a first job, and interviews with diverse professionals who speak frankly about how to succeed in their field. Most importantly, its content is specifically tailored to support youth of color who are underrepresented in the creative sector, identifying important steps they can take within and beyond their communities to pursue creative jobs in high-growth industries.

The Department of Arts and Culture and Gladeo Inc. continue to refine and pilot Creative Careers Online as a tool for young people of color, parents, educators, and other youth-serving adults to learn about



creative careers and training programs that prepare them for industry jobs. CCO currently spotlights more than 50 creative careers and features interviews with diverse professionals who speak frankly about how to succeed in these fields. Funding was secured in August 2023 to develop and launch a Program Finder that will allow youth to easily find local accredited training programs, community college courses, internships, or apprenticeships related to creative careers of their interest. The Program Finder officially launched in Spring 2024, and is a prominent feature of the homepage. It currently features a growing directory of more than 12,000 creative career programs and courses.

Young people will also participate in work-based learning opportunities to help develop and promote CCO by researching community resources; supporting outreach efforts; and creating new job profiles, video spotlights on creative career professionals, and social media assets. Since June 2024, Jeffrey Acevedo<sup>8</sup> has come on as a youth advisor to support data collection for CCO, and further refinement of the Program Finder.

*Creative Careers Online received dedicated support from LA County's Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative (CEII) and the Snap Foundation.*

### **Media Career Pathways Prototype**

In May 2023, the Department of Arts and Culture, building on and in complement to the LA County Department of Economic Opportunity's Film and Digital Media Initiative, began inviting proposals from organizations that can provide a comprehensive Media Career Pathways Prototype (MCP) for LA County opportunity youth, youth in or transitioning out of foster care, youth impacted by the justice system, and low-income youth of color, all of whom face significant structural and social barriers to entering family-sustaining careers in the media professions.

Qualified organizations were those currently providing services to BIPOC, systems-impacted, and/or opportunity youth in East LA, South LA, or Antelope Valley. Proposals were due in July 2023, and reviewed by a panel of creative industry specialists, CBO partners, and young adults with lived experience. In fall 2023, Arts and Culture also reviewed proposals for a research partner to monitor and evaluate the prototype, and to provide recommendations for replication across the County.

After a thorough review process, in May 2024, the [Watts Labor Community Action Committee \(WLCAC\)](#) was selected as the lead implementation partner, and MCP activities will officially launch in 2024-25.

MCP will engage approximately 20 opportunity youth and/or systems-impacted transitional age youth (TAY), ages 16-26, who will participate in industry-aligned, hard skills training in Media Arts (post-production and editing, visual effects, gaming, animation, music production, digital communications, and/or multimedia production) and general career soft skills training in a community setting. The prototype will use healing-centered approaches, connect youth participants with mentors, and provide wraparound services. Participants will be provided with technology, equipment and a stipend for completing at least 80% of the program.

WLCAC's partners in this work are:

- [The Alliance for Media Arts + Culture](#) will implement:
  - Arts2Work Creative Studio: a two-year program of technical, creative, and project-based media career exploration, skills development, and mentorship for youth.
  - Arts2Work Pre-Apprenticeship: a one-year program of paid, work-based learning in digital media production and post-professional creative technology certifications, and financial literacy and entrepreneurship training.

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<sup>8</sup> 2019 Arts Ed Collective Youth Advisory Council alum and current UC Riverside doctorate student in Higher Education and Policy

- [Heart of Los Angeles \(HOLA\)](#) will lead a professional development workshop for teaching artists and a Leadership Enrichment Program that helps youth participants develop their sense of purpose and agency. Students will explore engagement with their community, develop leadership skills, and learn project management.

[Harder+Company Community Research](#) (Harder+Co) was selected as the evaluation partner for MCPP, and will work closely with WLCAC to monitor and evaluate the prototype during its first year of implementation. By gathering qualitative and quantitative data, they will identify success factors, challenges, and considerations for replication and scaling.

## Shared Learning

Department of Arts and Culture staff and community arts partners work together to help inform young people, educators, and the youth development field about the viability of creative careers and regional/statewide efforts to remove structural and social barriers to family-sustaining jobs in the creative industries. The following are event highlights from the past year in which Creative Career Pathways for Youth and Arts Ed Collective partners were featured:

### *Los Angeles County Careers in Entertainment Expo*

On May 16, the [Entertainment Equity Alliance](#) (of which Arts and Culture is a co-founder) hosted their first LA County Careers in Entertainment Expo at Exposition Park. More than 1,500 high school students, college students, and early career professionals attended this groundbreaking event to explore interactive exhibits, network with entertainment industry professionals, and discover new career opportunities. The Expo featured Arts, Media, and Entertainment workforce training organizations, postsecondary career education programs, labor union training programs, and employer-sponsored internship and early career programs from across the entertainment industry.

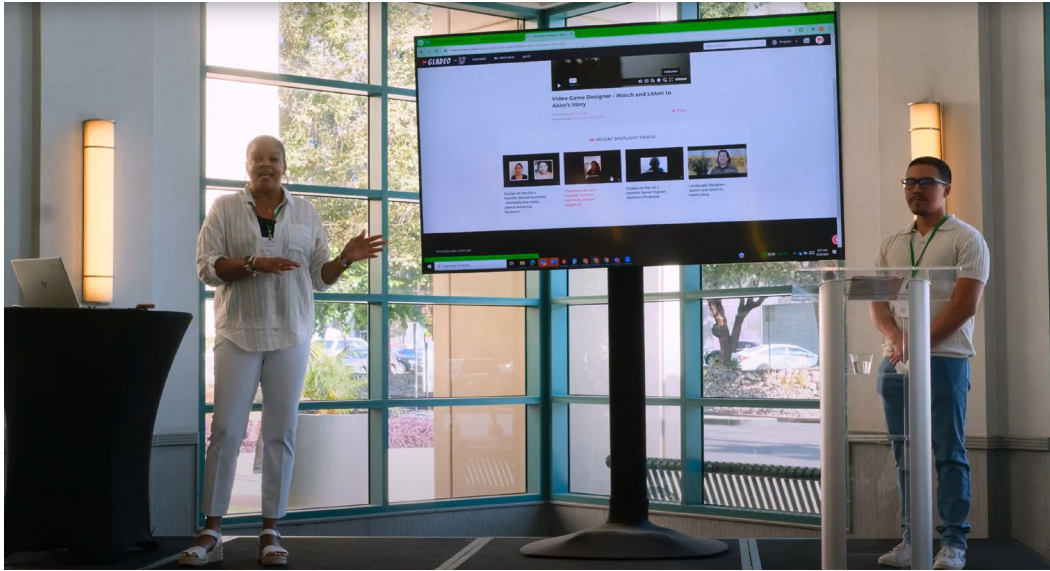
Students and educators were introduced to Creative Careers Online's no-cost career navigation tool and the Arts Ed Collective worked with youth from the [We Uplift the World Foundation](#) and Funders Council Youth Advisor, Rudy Torres, who helped filmed the event and [capture the overall student experience](#).



*Youth documentarians, Genesis Star Taylor and Johnny Gutierrez, from We Uplift the World Foundation*

### *Arts Media Entertainment (AME) Institute*

Arts and Culture staff exhibited at the [AME Institute Burbank](#) at the end of June, and provided 30-minute demos for educators to learn about [Creative Careers Online](#) (CCO) educator resources, as well as a call to action for educators to use the CCO tool in their classrooms. Funders Council Youth Advisor, Rudy Torres, helped to document and capture a [recap of the event](#).



*CCPY Program Manager, Meia Johnson, and youth advisor, Jeffrey Acevedo, give an overview of Creative Careers Online at the AME Institute Burbank.*

*Creative Career Pathways for Youth received dedicated support from LA County's Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative (CEII), the Snap Foundation, and the Stuart Foundation. The Media Career Pathways Prototype received dedicated support from the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (administered by the LA County Probation Department).*

## Shared Learning & Leadership

*Enables practitioners and advocates to pool resources and leverage expertise for greater impact while cultivating diverse leadership within communities, across sectors, and at all levels of experience.*

### Highlights

- 27,953 individuals engaged at 337 stakeholder convenings for learning, sharing, and collaboration
- Continued collaboration with Flourish Agenda to develop a shared understanding of arts-based, healing-centered engagement
- 19 young people engaged as paid advisors and representatives of the Arts Ed Collective

### Convenings

Between July 2023 and June 2024, the Arts Ed Collective hosted 337 events for learning, sharing, and collaboration. Attendance counts estimate 27,953 unique participants and a total attendance of 28,992. Attendees represented 62 LA County school districts, 4 charter networks, 14 LA County government agencies, and 189 community-based organizations. These convenings support each of the Arts Ed Collective's strategic priorities with content for targeted audiences and the broader public:

- *Councils* are bodies that guide the work of the Arts Ed Collective. The Funders Council and its subcommittees were active during this period.
- *Workgroups* meet consistently over time to focus on implementation of specific, systemic strategies for arts education. The Healing Centered Engagement (HCE) Working Group was active during this period.
- *Professional Learning Communities* (PLC) establish consistent learning networks for educators, arts coordinators, teaching artists, and strategic planning coaches. Each PLC determines its own learning agenda. The Arts Ed Collective's strategic planning coaches, school district arts coordinators, and Creative Wellbeing PLCs were active during this period.
- *Conversations* promote learning and collaboration centered on specific topics.
- *Workshops* provide standalone, interactive learning opportunities. The Arts Ed Collective offered a Community Arts Partners Convening and Creative Wellbeing workshops during this period.
- *Forums* are half-day or day-long multi-topic learning events for a specific sector or group of stakeholders.

Please see Attachment 4 for a detailed summary of all Arts Ed Collective convenings in 2023-24.



*Abe Flores from Create CA (center) shares closing reflections at the Community Arts Partners Convening.*

### **Community Arts Partners Convening @ Plaza de la Raza**

On February 2, Arts and Culture convened community arts partners working with youth in school and community settings to connect, share ideas and resources, and uplift the contributions made by arts partners to arts education and arts-based youth development across LA County. Several breakout discussions took place, on topics like Prop 28 implementation challenges, accessing workforce development funds, dealing with youth developmental setbacks in post-pandemic arts engagement, the impact of healing arts, and connecting community-based organizations with school districts.

### **Arts-Based Healing Centered Engagement**

Since May 2022, a diverse, intergenerational group of community-based practitioners have convened and collaborated as a workgroup to develop a shared understanding of arts-based, healing-centered engagement (ABHCE). Flourish Agenda, a national consulting firm founded by Dr. Shawn Ginwright and Nedra Ginwright, facilitated the working group based on their [Healing Centered Engagement \(HCE\) Practitioner Certification](#) curriculum.

On August 26, 2023, the Arts Ed Collective's HCE Working Group (see Attachment 5 for roster) held a public event, *¡Presente! Coalition Building Through Storytelling and Shared Healing Practices*, to share excerpts from a draft framework for ABHCE in LA County that builds on Flourish Agenda's approach, supports a shared language and community of practice, and honors unique culturally- and community-specific approaches. This work was born out of convenings facilitated by the Flourish Agenda during fiscal year 2022-23.





*HCE Working Group participants, Flourish Agenda, and Arts and Culture staff with the cover of the draft framework*

Following the August convening, Flourish Agenda and HCE Working Group members continued to host public HCE workshops to generate community feedback. Learnings and concepts developed by workgroup members also informed a HCE Wisdom Guide, to be released in fiscal year 2024-25.

On February 24, Flourish Agenda and the HCE Working Group gathered community artists and other creatives to activate dialogue and collaboration around how ABHCE can play a role in our personal lives, in our work with young people, and in communities at large. The day featured three breakout sessions:

- 1) Artist and activist [Carlos Eduardo Gacharná](#) facilitated gentle stretching, mindful breathing, and a watercolor project to frame a larger conversation about the ways we can democratize self-care practices in arts education.
- 2) Somatic practitioner and music therapist [Stacie Aamon Yeldell](#) led a session on how to utilize music mindfulness tools to help participants cultivate healthy "energy hygiene" and engage in healing work joyfully, without absorbing the trauma of others.
- 3) Composer, musician, and educator [Derrick Spiva](#) introduced foundational skills in arts-based activism, as a way to empower youth leaders to explore how art can be harnessed to address critical social issues and foster a sense of agency among students.



*During an opening activity, participants at the February 24 ABHCE event added their own creative touches to each puzzle piece, worked together to connect the pieces, and came to consensus on a larger shape.*

On May 17, Flourish Agenda hosted a Community Lunch & Learn event, “The Relationship and Future of Arts & Healing in LA County” where HCE workgroup members gathered to discuss definitions of ABHCE. The discussion focused on why art and healing are needed in LA County, and what a collective vision for art and healing might look like. The next day, Flourish Agenda facilitated the third installment of the *iPresente!* ABHCE Event series at Green Pines Creative Coworking & Events in Long Beach. Highlights include musical performances by King Jaybo and Stacie Yeldell, illustrations by [Jameah Palmer](#), spoken word by Daniel Bisuano, and a panel conversation with healing-centered practitioners and young people who shared their experience and perspectives on the impacts of ABHCE.





*The Healing Centered Engagement Working Group received dedicated support from the Wallace Foundation and the Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (administered by the LA County Probation Department).*

### **Arts Ed Collective Leadership Circle**

During the 2022-23 fiscal year, the Department of Arts and Culture and [Presencing Institute](#) began the process to re-imagine a new leadership body for the LA County arts education ecosystem. They convened the Arts Ed Collective Leadership Design Team, a group of County and community stakeholders who authored a set of recommendations offering a shared vision of a new community-based advisory body for the Arts Ed Collective.

From summer to fall 2023, Arts and Culture staff synthesized the work of the Leadership Design Team and articulated a process to nominate, recruit, and onboard new Leadership Circle members who are representative of LA County's diverse communities. After review by department leadership, Arts and Culture will launch the Call for Members of the Leadership Circle in Summer 2024, to be followed by member onboarding in 2025.

## Youth Engagement

The Arts Ed Collective embeds youth voice and leadership into its activities by engaging youth and young adults as paid consultants, advisors, artists, and panelists across its strategic priorities. In 2023-24, a total of 19 young people supported Arts Ed Collective programs and/or served as representatives at external events. Our network of community-based organizations, school districts, and youth leadership bodies across LA County helped connect these individuals to the Arts Ed Collective.

Strategic Priorities	Roles / Scope of Work	Individuals Engaged	Partner Organization
School-Based Arts Education	Grant review panelist for the 2024-25 Advancement Grant Program	Alyssandra Lachica Rudy Torres	MUSE/IQUE (by way of Arts and Culture's Arts Internship Program)  Arts Ed Collective Funders Council
Community-Based Arts Education	Facilitator, advisor, and/or storyteller for Creative Wellbeing Professional Learning Community	Danie Benard Chelsea Dong Britany Flores Mora Greer Paige Guzy Augustine Herrera Sophie Lee Jonas Rios Irma Rose Viera	Arts for Healing and Justice Network (AHJN)  Department of Mental Health (DMH)  Los Angeles County Suicide Prevention Network (LASPN)  UCLA  Wellbeing4LA
Creative Career Pathways for Youth	Youth advisor for <a href="#">Creative Careers Online</a> Program Finder tool	Jeffrey Acevedo	2019 Arts Ed Collective Youth Advisory Council alum
	Documentarians for Entertainment Equity Alliance's <a href="#">Careers in Entertainment Expo</a>	Johnny Gutierrez Genesis Star Taylor Rudy Torres	We Uplift the World Foundation  Arts Ed Collective Funders Council
Shared Learning & Leadership	Youth Advisor serving on the <a href="#">Arts Ed Collective Funders Council</a>	Autumn Taylor Maritza Lopez Rudy Torres	
	Participant in a working group to develop a shared, arts-based Healing Centered Engagement (HCE) framework	Daniel Bisuano Gloria Gonzalez Jared O'Brien (Jaybo)	
Research & Evaluation	RFP Evaluator for Media Career Pathways Prototype Evaluation	Jeffrey Acevedo	

## Communications & Advocacy

*Builds public will and accountability for expanding youth access to the arts in school, after school, and within communities.*

### Proposition 28

Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture) staff continue to participate in Prop 28 implementation conversations alongside key partners Arts for LA, Create CA, and the LA County Office of Education (see page 12). They also serve on Create CA's Policy Council and Austin Beutner's Prop 28 Implementation Advisory Council, which are both focused on supporting short- and long-term implementation of Prop 28.

Distribution of Prop 28 funding began in the 2023-24 school year, and supports the hiring of thousands of new arts teachers in LA County, accelerating progress toward the goal that all students receive arts instruction—all year, every year—as set forth in the Arts Ed Blueprint.

According to [EdSource](#), many school districts feel apprehensive about the state's projected budget deficit and are experiencing cuts to arts classes and teacher positions, despite Prop 28 funds being earmarked for arts education. Coupled with declining student enrollment, this raises concerns that some districts may be misspending their Prop 28 funds on existing classes or programs, rather than expanding the scope of arts education and hiring new arts teachers. Students, parents, and teachers statewide are pushing for more transparency on how Prop 28 funds are being spent and asking for clear guidance on Prop 28 spending from the California Department of Education (CDE).

The infusion of funding from Prop 28 has encouraged more school districts to engage with the Arts Ed Collective through strategic planning, which helps establish priorities, build consensus, and address inequities in arts instruction across school sites, grade levels, or disciplines. As districts continue to navigate the challenges of Prop 28 expenditure plans, Arts Coordinator Network convenings are serving as an additional forum for districts to share practices around equitable implementation.

For up-to-date information on Prop 28 implementation, please refer to Create CA's [Prop 28: What We Know \(So Far\)](#) page.

## Research & Evaluation

*Collects and analyzes data to inform strategies, identify Countywide trends, and educate the public about systemic inequities and the impacts of arts education.*

### Highlights

- Harder+Co selected as part of RFP for evaluating Media Careers Pathways Prototype (see page 37)
- Planning underway for a proposed 10-year comparison study of the Arts Ed Profile
- Second Creative Wellbeing evaluation report published in June 2024

### Los Angeles County Arts Education Profile

A key evaluation tool for the Arts Ed Collective is the [LA County Arts Ed Profile](#). Established in 2017, it is an online data visualization platform that measures the quality, quantity, and equity of arts instruction in public schools. With customizable reports, and an interactive online tool for navigating the data, the Profile helps school districts prioritize specific areas for improvement in their five-year strategic plans to expand arts education. Findings from the Profile also help galvanize efforts to make arts instruction more accessible and to provide higher quality arts instruction for students of color, students eligible for free/reduced-price meals, and English learners.



To date, 49% of all public schools in LA County have submitted data. Every year, the Department of Arts and Culture works with school districts to help them add or update their data, so that the Profile continues to provide a snapshot of arts instruction offered, and suggests areas for improvement in LA County public schools.

Planning is underway for a proposed 10-year comparison study that will replicate the 2017 Arts Ed Profile's data collection and analysis. The Arts Ed Collective plans to refine the 2017 survey instrument and online tool to reflect shifts in public education and document any changes to school-based arts education since the COVID-19 pandemic and passage of Proposition 28.

### **Creative Wellbeing Evaluation**

Over the past year, Arts and Culture worked with [Harder+Company Community Research](#) (Harder+Co) to complete a second evaluation of Creative Wellbeing. Built upon the [first program evaluation published in 2020](#), this second evaluation compares past iterations of Creative Wellbeing with current implementation. To measure the impact of Creative Wellbeing, Harder+Co collected data from participating youth, teaching artists, educators, and County and community site staff via methods such as focus groups, surveys, interviews, and Ripple Effects Mapping<sup>9</sup>. The evaluation captures promising practices and lessons learned from the 2022-23 program year, and concludes with recommendations to inform future phases of programming.

As part of this evaluation, Harder+Co also conducted a literature review of evidence-based mental health supports that align with the work of the Arts Ed Collective, in an effort to identify potential sustainable sources of public funding that might allow LA County agencies to fully integrate and sustain arts-based, healing-centered practices within their service delivery models, long term.

Published in June 2024, the [second Creative Wellbeing evaluation](#) by Harder+Co features the following highlights:

- *Impact on Youth:* While participating in Creative Wellbeing, young people experienced positive emotions, such as happiness and increased confidence, and learned about the arts practices of other cultures. Young people also reported feeling less anxious and more enjoyment interacting with other youth and adults in the classroom.
- *Impact on Adults:* Creative Wellbeing has helped adults to build stronger connections with their colleagues, and use healing-centered arts activities to grow their capacity to empathize with youth and support youth wellbeing.
- *Expanding Reach:* Creative Wellbeing's customizable and healing-centered design has led it to be integrated in non-traditional settings like special education classrooms, mental health clinics, foster family agencies, and workplace meetings.
- *Shifting Cultures Within Systems:* County agencies like Department of Mental Health (DMH), Department of Health Services (DHS), and Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) are now incorporating Creative Wellbeing concepts into their meetings and trainings, as well as including Creative Wellbeing as a professional development opportunity for their staff.

To meet the data collection and evaluation requirements of state Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding dedicated to the program, Arts and Culture continues to work with Harder+Co to survey youth

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<sup>9</sup> Harder+Co used this interactive evaluation method to engage Creative Wellbeing partners, teaching artists, and educators in guided reflection and collaborative identification of the impacts or ripple effects of Creative Wellbeing at multiple levels (e.g., individual, family, school, system).

and adults participating in Creative Wellbeing on mental health protective factors, including stigma reduction, social supports, and social-emotional competence.

Survey responses for adults show that those who participated in a Creative Wellbeing activity increased their capacities across all outcome areas. Notably, they experienced the greatest increases in their ability to provide social support to young people they are serving. Survey responses for young people show that they improved their capacity in nearly all outcome areas after participating in a Creative Wellbeing activity. The most notable increase was in the protective factor area of social-emotional competence.

Before engaging with Creative Wellbeing, only 49% felt comfortable talking about their feelings, but this increased to 67% afterward. Similarly, 58% indicated they could manage their emotions before the activity, and this number rose to 74% afterward. In the social support domain, more young people felt connected to their classmates (58% at the pre-survey, 74% at post) and able to help others when they needed help (72% at the pre-survey, 88% at post). Overall, Creative Wellbeing is positively impacting the reduction of mental health stigma and the increase of protective factors for young people.

*The Creative Wellbeing Evaluation Report received dedicated support from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.*

## Looking Ahead

In 2024-25, we enter the second year of Prop 28 implementation. There are lots of lessons to learn, as school districts continue to navigate budget cuts and staff shortages while making plans to spend Prop 28 funds. The Arts Ed Collective and its statewide partner Create CA continue to provide expertise and resources to ensure school districts utilize Prop 28 funds in ways that expand, rather than replace, existing funding sources of arts education.

Thanks to the work of our community-based organization (CBO) partners, promising practices are emerging out of juvenile camps and halls around employment readiness skills for incarcerated youth (we will be sharing more in the next year). The Department of Arts and Culture will also launch the Media Career Pathways Prototype, led by the Watts Labor Community Action Committee and evaluated by Harder+Company Community Research. This prototype will innovate and expand on existing workforce development programs by integrating a suite of place-based approaches, industry-aligned media arts education, apprenticeships, certifications, soft-skills training, and long-term mentorship for up to 20 opportunity/systems-involved youth in South LA.

In the next year, we look forward to launching the inaugural Arts Ed Collective Leadership Circle, which will recruit 15 community leaders across LA County to champion promising practices, surface opportunities and challenges, consider systems-level solutions, and put forward recommendations for improving our ecosystem in ways that will expand opportunities for young people to engage in transformative arts experiences.

And after a two-year hiatus, we are excited to welcome the return of the Arts Education Forum in October 2024, in partnership with SoCal Grantmakers and the Center for Strategic Partnerships' Foster Together Network to build awareness about the intersections of arts-based youth development, child wellbeing, and foster care. We invite all our partners to join us in our deep commitment to ensuring young people have access to the arts—all year, every year—as a core part of their growth and development.



## Co-Chairs

Katherine Bonalos, Director, Grants & Initiatives  
**The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation**

Matty Wilder, Senior Program Officer  
**Herb Alpert Foundation**

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**Herb Alpert Foundation**  
Rona Sebastian, President  
Jennifer Garratt, Grants and Operations Manager

**The Philip & Muriel Berman Foundation**  
Nancy Berman, President & Executive Director

**The Louis L. Borick Foundation**  
Lauren Johnson, Program Director

**Vladimir and Araxia Buckhantz Foundation**  
Diana Buckhantz, Director

**John N. Calley Foundation**  
Shawn Kravich, Executive Director

**Colburn Foundation**  
Allison Sampson, Executive Director

**The Carol & James Collins Foundation**  
Cathy Hession, Executive Director

**The Carl & Roberta Deutsch Foundation**  
(Formerly) Jacqueline Chun, Chief Programs & Operations Officer

**Fox Foundation**  
Kristen Paglia, Executive Director

**The Rosalinde & Arthur Gilbert Foundation**  
Sean Ostrovsky, Chief Program Officer  
Robyn Wasserman, Program Officer

**Max H. Gluck Foundation**  
Jessica Kaswick, Executive Director

**The Green Foundation**  
Julianne Green, Vice President, Programs & Operation

**The Greenberg Foundation**  
Susan Steinhauser, President

**Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation**  
(Formerly) Emily Garvie, Program Officer

**The William & Flora Hewlett Foundation**  
Tom DeCaigny, Program Officer  
Performing Arts Program

**Conrad N. Hilton Foundation**  
Angela LoBue, Senior Program Officer, Foster Youth  
Angelina Soll, Program Officer, Foster Youth

**LA County Department of Arts and Culture**  
Kristin Sakoda, Director

**The Music Man Foundation**  
Sarah Lyding, Executive Director

**The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation**  
Jennifer Price-Letscher, President & CEO

**Perenchio Foundation**  
Stephania Ramirez, Chief Executive Officer

**Reissa Foundation**  
Caitlin Scott, Board Member

**Snap Foundation**  
Joel Arquillos, Executive Director

**Sony Pictures Entertainment**  
Lani Monos, Vice President  
Global Corporate Social Responsibility & Community Impact

**Stuart Foundation**  
Sophie Fanelli, President  
Delia Reid, Senior Manager,  
Communications & Partnerships

**Dwight Stuart Youth Fund**  
Wendy Chang, Director

**Founding Chair**  
Janice Pober, (Former) Senior Vice President  
Global Corporate Social Responsibility  
Sony Pictures Entertainment

Attachment 2  
2023-24 Advancement Grant Recipients

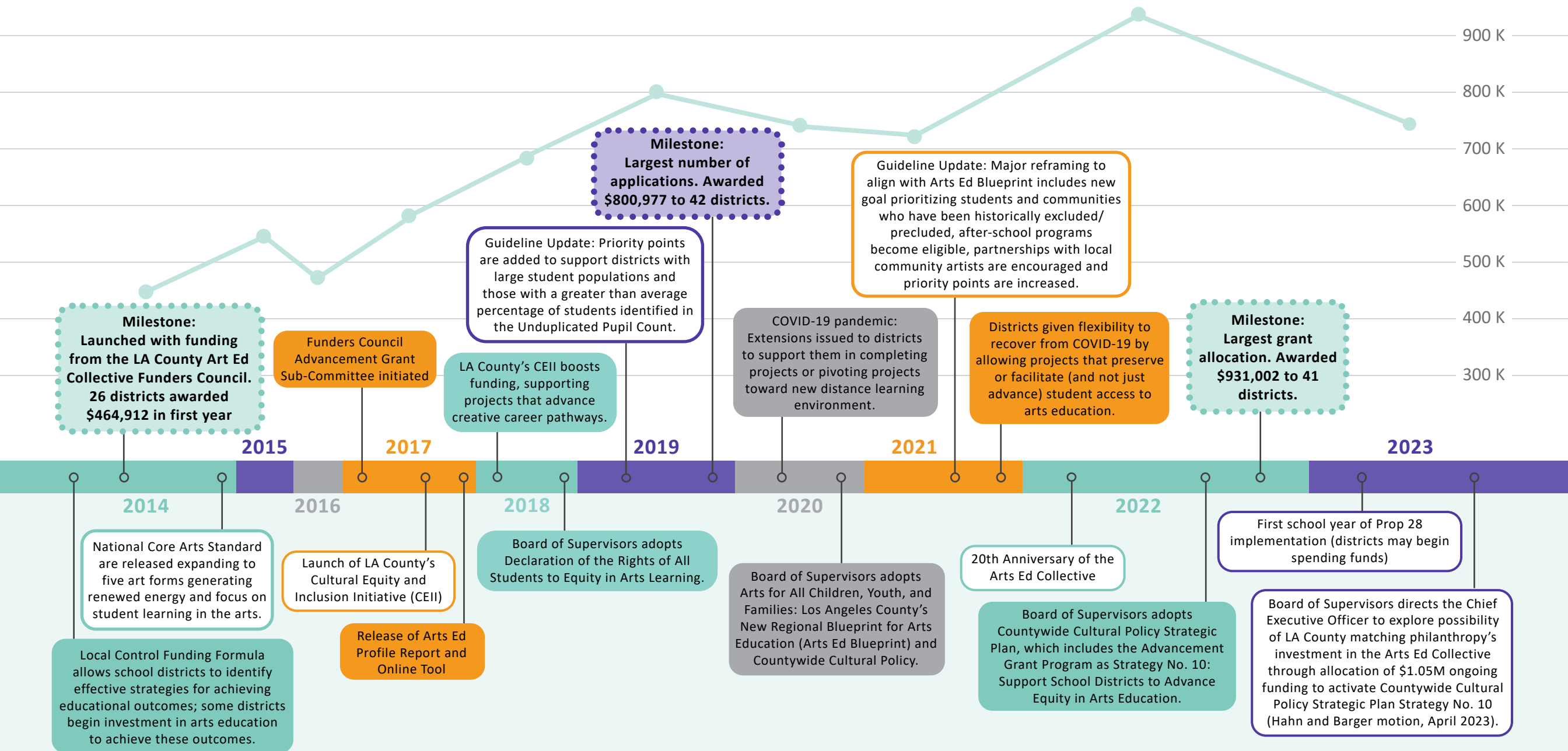
District	2023-24 Project Description
Acton Agua Dulce School District	to support district-wide weekly music instruction, the expansion of a district Arts Lead position, culturally relevant teacher professional development, and the purchase of musical instruments and media arts equipment
Arcadia Unified School District	to support the purchase of equipment, instruments, technology, and instructional materials for visual, performing and media arts classes
Azusa Unified School District	to support three full-time teachers for the expansion of district-wide elementary visual arts instruction
Burbank Unified School District	to support the preservation of the secondary music mentor program, teacher professional development (including Adobe certification training), curriculum development planning time for VAPAM teachers, and the purchase of equipment and instructional materials
Castaic Union School District	to support the purchase of books and instructional materials for a visual arts resource library at each site
Centinela Valley Union High School District	to support performances for students with pre-performance teacher professional development, curriculum development for arts integration, and audiovisual equipment training for performing arts teachers
Claremont Unified School District	to support culturally responsive arts integration with social-emotional learning through teacher professional development, teacher collaboration time, family engagement, community arts collaboration, and the purchase of instruments, instructional materials, and supplies
Compton Unified School District	to support the expansion of artist residencies and field trips, and teacher professional development in Meet the Masters
Covina-Valley Unified School District	to support the purchase of middle school visual arts equipment and instructional materials and teacher professional development in culturally responsive arts instruction
Culver City Unified School District	to support a district-wide shared arts education leadership model, district arts coaching, and TEAL teacher professional development at El Rincon Elementary
Garvey Elementary School District	to support professional development in the arts standards by the California Arts Project, curriculum development, arts workshops, the district arts showcase, and the purchase of instructional materials and arts supplies
Hacienda La Puente Unified School District	to support arts integrated teacher professional development, the preservation of the Arts Showcase, the expansion of the Read Across HLPUSD collaboration, and the purchase of supplies, materials, digital technology, and software
Hawthorne School District	to support arts integrated professional development and curriculum development for elementary teachers, Arts Leads stipends for planning and collaboration, and the purchase of instructional materials for the Arts Docent program
ICEF Public Schools	to support a full-time visual arts teacher at ICEF Innovation and after school music programs at View Park and Inglewood Academy
iLEAD California	to support the expansion of the CTE Media Arts Pathway, the addition of a photography course at iLead Antelope Valley, and an 8-week teaching artist series at iLead Exploration Action Learning Studio
Lawndale Elementary School District	to support district-wide professional performances for students with teacher professional development, arts integrated curriculum development, and the purchase music software for middle school
Lynwood Unified School District	to support teacher participation in arts strategic planning, preserve teacher professional development and coaching for the Arts Advocacy Team
Magnolia Public Schools	to support professional development, curriculum development, and leadership coaching for the district arts team, and the purchase of instructional materials and equipment
Monrovia Unified School District	to support a full-time music instructor for district-wide elementary music instruction with social emotional learning integration
Montebello Unified School District	to support the expansion of visual arts teacher professional development by the California Arts Projects and additional coordination support hours for the Arts TOSA
Mountain View School District	to support the expansion of dance artist residencies for transitional kindergarten district-wide
Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District	to support the purchase of musical instruments for secondary schools district-wide
Paramount Unified School District	to support the expansion of arts integration professional development and coaching by P.S. Arts, in-studio art classes for all TK-2nd grade students, access to field trips and assemblies, and the initiation of a district-wide PLC for arts teachers
Pasadena Unified School District	to support the purchase of production equipment and professional mentorships in sound design, costume design, lighting design, and scenic design
Rosemead School District	to support district-wide teacher professional development in arts integration and artist residencies by the Music Center
San Gabriel Unified School District	to support teacher participation in arts strategic planning, elementary arts lead stipends, and professional services in branding and design to update of the district arts website
Saugus Union School District	to support the expansion of resources for Meet the Masters, professional development for classroom teachers, the purchase of instructional materials and supplies, and field trips for students
South Pasadena Unified School District	to support the purchase of technology and equipment for the digital photography lab



District	2023-24 Project Description
Sulphur Springs Union School District	to support the expansion of district-wide elementary music instruction, teacher professional development, and the purchase of instruments and instructional materials
Torrance Unified School District	to support district-wide arts and social emotional learning residencies for transitional kindergarten and special education students, and district arts coaching
Whittier City School District	to support district-wide field trips for elementary and middle schools
Whittier Union High School District	to support intra-district collaboration for arts articulation, collaboration time for curriculum development of ethnic studies course, arts field trips, and district arts coaching (which include course updates that embed AME standards)
Wiseburn Unified School District	to support district-wide elementary dance instruction and teacher professional development, instrument maintenance, the purchase of instructional materials, and Music and Media technology

# Advancement Grant

## 10-Year Timeline



Strategy	Event Name	# of events	Attend- ance	Objective
School-Based Arts Education	<b>Arts Ed Collective Coaches Professional Learning Community</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16</b>	Strategic Planning Coaches engaged in co-learning and collaboration as they shared field experiences and received training and mentorship.
	<b>School District Arts Coordinator Professional Learning Community</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>87</b>	School district Arts Coordinators from across the County gathered with Strategic Planning Coaches to network, share strategies, and hear updates with and from their colleagues and the field.
	<b>Arts Ed Collective Strategic Planning Orientation (Workshop)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	District arts coordinators meet to develop an understanding of the strategic planning process, engage in peer learning, and build community.
	<b>District Arts Leadership Team Workgroups*</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>976</b>	Strategic Planning Coaches convene school district leaders and practitioners to develop a strategic plan or support implementation of an existing plan.
	<b>Arts Ed Funding Community of Practice (Professional Learning Community)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>102</b>	Presented in collaboration with the LA County Office of Education, Strategic Planning Coaches supported school district leaders looking to advance equity via new Proposition 28 funding by aligning strategic planning efforts with dissemination of resources, key learnings, and best practices.
	<b>Celebrating Arts Education with Equity &amp; Vision (Forum)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>278</b>	Presented in collaboration with the LA County Office of Education, this event concluded the Arts Ed Funding Community of Practice series with panel presentations from three school districts (Lynwood, Inglewood, and Claremont), as well as discussions on emerging Prop 28 challenges, possible solutions, and how to leverage community partnerships.
	<b>Building Effective Arts Ed Programs (Conversation)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>171</b>	Presented in collaboration with the LA County Office of Education, this event brought together arts and school district leaders from across Southern California to discuss effective implementation of arts education rooted in the California Arts Education Framework, and how to leverage new Prop 28 funding.
	<b>San Gabriel Unified School District Site Visit (Conversation)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>35</b>	On February 7, panel conversation hosted by San Gabriel Unified School District (SGUSD) took place at Gabrielino High School to discuss the impacts of the Advancement Grant Program and Prop 28, as well as how these funding sources can be leveraged to improve equity and be responsive to school district challenges.
	<b>Creative Wellbeing School District Professional Development (Workshops)</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>240</b>	Creative Wellbeing provides professional development for adults who support systems-involved young people, or young people at heightened risk of systems involvement. The training focuses on weaving together four key elements, including healing-centered arts engagement, culturally relevant/sustaining pedagogy, self-care, and mental health promotion concepts. Adult participants include educators, school administrators and support staff, mental health clinicians, social workers and support staff, school counselors, and foster youth congregate care site staff. School districts participating include Antelope Valley Union, Pasadena Unified, and Whittier City Elementary.
Community-Based Arts Education	<b>Creative Wellbeing Wellbeing4LA Self &amp; Community Care Open Sessions (Workshops)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>465</b>	The Arts Ed Collective partnered with the UCLA Prevention Center of Excellence and the Wellbeing4LA Learning Center to provide self- and community-care open sessions for adults who support young people in LA County. These one-hour sessions featured experiential, healing-centered arts activities led by teaching artists contracted under Creative Wellbeing.
	<b>Creative Wellbeing Wellbeing4LA Virtual Learning Community Gatherings (Professional Learning Community)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>201</b>	In partnership with the UCLA Prevention Center of Excellence and the Wellbeing4LA Learning Center, a Creative Wellbeing Learning Community was launched, including quarterly virtual gatherings and a virtual hub on the Wellbeing4LA Learning Center platform for ongoing, asynchronous networking. The hub houses a library of resources, including recordings of virtual gatherings and a directory of the 783 (and growing) learning community members.
	<b>Creative Wellbeing Caregiver Sessions (Workshops)</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>84</b>	Creative Wellbeing professional development was provided by Spirit Awakening for caregivers at Aviva Wallis House, a residence for women and children experiencing homelessness.
	<b>Creative Wellbeing Community Sessions (Workshops)</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>217</b>	These community sessions primarily took place at the DPH Pomona Wellness Community and included yoga and food art activities led by Center for the Empowerment of Families, Inc. Other community sessions included LA Suicide Prevention Network's (LASPN) Leadership Retreat and African Soul International's Culture Conference.
	<b>Creative Wellbeing Special Events (Workshops)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1170</b>	Creative Wellbeing professional development workshops were embedded throughout various partner events in LA County. These events included the 13th Annual Los Angeles Suicide Prevention Network Annual Summit, African Soul International Culture Conference, DHS Youth Art Planning Summit, Aviva Foster Care and Adoption Holiday Celebration, and DHS Metro Holiday Celebration, among others.
	<b>Creative Wellbeing Professional Development for County Departments (Workshops)</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1456</b>	Staff from LA County departments participated in Creative Wellbeing professional development throughout the year. These departments included the Dept. of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Dept. of Health Services (DHS), and Dept. of Mental Health (DMH).
	<b>Creative Wellbeing for Arts and Culture Contracted CBOs (Workshops)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>164</b>	The Arts Ed Collective partnered with DMH, DPH, and LASPN to provide professional development for teaching artists including Youth Mental Health First Aid, Suicide Prevention, and Beyond Safe Spaces-LGBTQIA+ Affirming Care.
	<b>Creative Wellbeing for DCFS Contracted Agencies (Workshops)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>123</b>	Creative Wellbeing provided professional development for adults who support young people in child welfare settings as part of DCFS-contracted foster care service organizations. The trainings focused on weaving together the Creative Wellbeing curriculum guide's four foundational concepts (healing-centered arts engagement, culturally-relevant and sustaining pedagogy, self-care, and mental health promotion). Adult participants included site administrators and staff, mental health clinicians, social workers, and volunteers.
	<b>Creative Wellbeing for DMH Contracted Agencies (Workshops)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>91</b>	Creative Wellbeing provided professional development for adults who provide mental health services to young people in public school settings as part of DMH-contracted community mental health organizations. The trainings focused on weaving together the Creative Wellbeing curriculum guide's four foundational concepts (healing-centered arts engagement, culturally-relevant and sustaining pedagogy, self-care, and mental health promotion). Adult participants included site administrators and staff, mental health clinicians, and social workers.
	<b>Creative Wellbeing End of Year Reflection Session (Conversation)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>38</b>	Contracted arts organizations, partner sites, County and community partners, and youth advisors/leaders were invited to reflect upon and celebrate the past year of Creative Wellbeing implementation.
	<b>Creative Wellbeing DCFS Special Events (Workshops)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>159</b>	These special events included Creative Wellbeing sessions provided at celebrations held by Aviva Family and Children Services.

	<b>Creative Wellbeing DHS Special Events (Workshops)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>320</b>	These special events included Creative Wellbeing sessions provided at a virtual DHS Town Hall and the DHS Ambulatory Care Network's Client Holiday Celebration.
	<b>Creative Wellbeing DMH Special Events (Workshops)</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>20,514</b>	These special events included self and community care sessions provided for Take Action for Mental Health in LA County as well as Creative Wellbeing provided at Juneteenth and Pride celebrations.
	<b>Creative Wellbeing DPH Special Events (Workshops)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>736</b>	These special events included primarily Creative Wellbeing sessions provided at OVP's Mental Health Literacy Summit, which took place in various County parks.
	<b>Creative Wellbeing Pasadena Unified <i>No Boundaries</i> Exhibition Opening</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>417</b>	Creative Wellbeing sessions were provided at the Pasadena Unified School District's <i>No Boundaries</i> exhibition opening reception. <i>No Boundaries</i> was curated by students from Rose City High School and featured over 350 artworks from all 24 Pasadena Unified schools.
	<b>Creative Wellbeing TAY Community and Staff Sessions (Workshops)</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>27</b>	Creative Wellbeing provided self- and community-care sessions for Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) in foster care, those living independently under DCFS care, and the staff who support them.
	<b>Creative Wellbeing Wellbeing4LA Retreat (Workshops)</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>435</b>	In partnership with the UCLA Prevention Center of Excellence and the Wellbeing4LA Learning Center, Creative Wellbeing designed and facilitated a retreat series on the topics of Healing-Centered Arts Practices for School-Based Settings and Infusing Healing-Centered Arts into Child Welfare. The retreats offered Continuing Education (CE) credits for mental health professionals and are available as asynchronous courses for CE credit on the Wellbeing4LA Learning Center.
Shared Learning & Leadership	<b>Funders Council</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>143</b>	Quarterly meetings of the full membership, as well as subcommittee meetings, provided a forum for funders to expand their knowledge and provide strategic guidance. Additionally, on March 28, Funders Council members were invited to a site visit at Arcadia Unified School District.
	<b>SoCal Grantmakers Spotlight on Arts Education (Conversation)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>40</b>	In October 2023, philanthropic representatives were invited by SoCal Grantmakers, the LA Arts Funders Group, the Arts Ed Collective Funders Council, and the LA County Department of Arts and Culture to a special convening on the state of arts education. Attendees had the opportunity to discuss lessons learned from 20 years of progress and philanthropy's role in ensuring all young people, especially those historically excluded, have access to the arts in schools, in communities, and across government systems, as a core part of their growth and development and as preparation for their future contributions to the vibrancy of our region.
	<b>¡Presente! Coalition Building Through Storytelling and Shared Healing Practices (Workshops)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>96</b>	Facilitated by Flourish Agenda and hosted by members of the Arts-based Healing Centered Engagement (ABHCE) working group, the <i>¡Presente!</i> series brought together community artists and other creatives to activate dialogue and collaboration around how ABHCE can play a role in our personal lives, in our work with young people, and in communities at large. These community gatherings also helped build a framework towards a shared language and community of practice, and to honor unique culturally- and community-specific approaches to arts-based healing-centered engagement.
	<b>Los Padrinos Day of Collaboration (Conversation)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>70</b>	On March 14, the Arts Ed Collective brought together our CBO partners and County agencies to showcase the arts-based healing centered services and programming that CBO partners are providing to youth in the facilities.
	<b>Arts Ed Collective Community Arts Partners Convening (Conversation)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>55</b>	On February 2, we gathered colleagues who work in school-based arts education and arts-based youth development across LA County at Plaza de la Raza. Breakout discussions featured topics like Prop 28 implementation challenges, accessing workforce development funds, dealing with youth developmental setbacks in post-pandemic arts engagement, the impact of healing arts, and connecting community-based organizations with school districts.
Research & Evaluation	<b>Creative Wellbeing Evaluation Ripple Effect Mapping Session and Reflection Session (Conversation)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>49</b>	As part of evaluating Creative Wellbeing programs in 2023, Harder+Company Community Research gathered teaching artists and partners in August for an interactive online gathering using a method called Ripple Effects Mapping. In this session, participants reflected on and identified various impacts and ripple effects of Creative Wellbeing. In a follow-up Reflection Session, participants were presented with findings from the evaluation and discussed recommendations and implications for the future of Creative Wellbeing implementation.
<b>Totals</b>		<b>337</b>	<b>28,992</b>	

\*attendance is estimated



HEALING CENTERED ENGAGEMENT (HCE) WORKING GROUP

Participant	Background
Alyssa M. Garcia	Artist Director of Education & Programs, Las Fotos Project
Amy Ruvalcaba	Artist Director of Operations, Side Street Projects
Anu Yadav	Playwright, actor Creative Strategist (Artist-in-Residence), LA County Department of Mental Health
Aya Seko	Workshop Coordinator, artworxLA
Barbara Fant	Poet, performer Artistic Director, Street Poets
Bosco Maltez	Artist, writer, educator
Briauna Holmes	yoga instructor Project Manager, Center for the Empowerment of Families
Carlos Eduardo Gacharná	Artist Youth Development Specialist, artworxLA
Daniel Bisuano	LA County Youth Commissioner
Da'Shaunae Marisa Jackson-Lewis	Artist, photographer
Derrick Spiva	Composer and musician Artist-Educator, LA Chamber Orchestra
Edgar Jimenez	Teaching Artist, Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory radio show host, KQBH 101.5 FM
Elida Ledesma	Executive Director, Arts for Healing and Justice Network
Gloria Gonzalez	Youth Development Coordinator, Youth Justice Coalition LA Youth Uprising
Gustavo Alberto Garcia Vaca	Artist, writer
Irina Contreras	Artist Program Associate, LA County Department of Arts and Culture
Izell Watkins	Lead Mentor / Case Manager, Center for the Empowerment of Families
Jared O'Brien (Jaybo)	Musician, songwriter Freedom Arts Director, Youth Justice Coalition
Jess Gudiel	Artist Artist-in-Residence, Watts Towers Arts Center
Joel Garcia	Artist, arts administrator, cultural organizer Director, Meztli Projects
Johnny "J.T." Torres	Gang interventionist
Kate Cervantes	Artist 2019 Arts Ed Collective Youth Advisory Council alum
La Tisha Conto	Writer, filmmaker Directing Change
Lauren Saint-Danic	Associate Marriage and Family Therapist, Bay Area Community Resources Group Facilitator, Dance for All (UCLArts & Healing)
Mildred (Milly) Correa Hernandez	Graphic designer, illustrator Communications Manager, Armory Center for the Arts
Monica Juarez	Artist Teaching Artist, Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural 2019 Arts Ed Collective Youth Advisory Council alum
Myriam D. Savage (Mimi)	Drama therapist Associate Professor, California Institute of Integral Studies Podcast Host, The Creative Psychotherapist
Natalie M. Godinez	Artist, educator Community Engagement Manager, Self Help Graphics & Art
Nneoma Duruhesie-Ogudoro	Founder, Wazobia Dance
Olga Koumoundouros	Artist Creative Strategist (Artist-in-Residence), LA County Office of Violence Prevention
Omar G. Ramirez	Artist, educator Restorative Cultural Arts Practitioner, Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory
P. Valerie Dauphin	Teaching artist, fitness instructor, life coach Founder, Feel Good Kick Ass
Ping Ho	Founder and Director, UCLArts & Healing
Reginald Johnson	Founder, Willowbrook Inclusion Network
Stacie Yeldell	Singer-songwriter, composer, music psychotherapist Founder, Amöntra
Stephanie Monte	Educator, multimedia journalist Program Manager, Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory
Vojislav Radovanović	Artist, filmmaker Artist-in-Residence, Lancaster Museum of Art & History

## REGIONAL, STATE, NATIONAL MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

Arts Ed Collective Stakeholder Presentations and Attendance

### Sharing Our Work with the Field

*Presentations, workshops, and panels to disseminate models and resources from the Arts Ed Collective*

#### **Los Angeles County Suicide Prevention Network (LASPN)**

##### **[13th Annual Suicide Prevention Summit - We Are Better Together: Weaving Connections and Supports](#)**

September 14-15, 2023, In-person (California Endowment) and Online

Dept. of Arts and Culture, Arts for Healing and Justice Network, Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, Spirit Awakening, UCLArts & Healing Initiative, and WisdoMania Foundation facilitated Creative Wellbeing workshops

#### **Arts for LA**

##### **[Creative Jobs Collective Impact Initiative \(CJCII\) World Café Convening](#)**

September 8, 2023, NAVEL-LA

Dept. of Arts and Culture staff served in breakout conversations about creative sector jobs, living wage, and demographics of entry level workers in LA County

#### **SoCal Grantmakers (SCG)**

##### **[LA Arts Funders: Spotlight on Arts Education](#)**

October 5, 2023, Heart of Los Angeles

Dept. of Arts and Culture staff served on a panel about on the state of arts education and opportunities for philanthropy

#### **Community Works/CDE**

##### **[GRID Regional Summit](#)**

January 17, 2024, Inner-City Arts (Los Angeles)

Dept. of Arts and Culture staff facilitated a workshop for youth to learn about the Creative Careers Online platform

#### **Education Through Music-Los Angeles**

##### **[14th Annual Principals Leadership Conference](#)**

January 26, 2024

Dept. of Arts and Culture staff served on a panel about strategies for arts program growth across schools, districts, and local communities.

#### **Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture**

##### **[Arts Datathon: Discovery](#)**

May 7, 2024, Inner-City Arts (Los Angeles)

Dept. of Arts and Culture staff led a breakout group, "Artful Narratives: Learning Story Mapping with Public Art Data"

#### **Entertainment Equity Alliance**

##### **[EEA Careers in Entertainment Expo](#)**

May 16, 2024, Exposition Park

Dept. of Arts and Culture hosted a Creative Careers Online booth to introduce youth and educators to available tools

**LA County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, First District, Department of Arts and Culture, and Healing Arts**  
**[Arts and Health Week Summit](#)**

June 14, 2024

Dept. of Arts and Culture staff served on a panel about the role of the arts as a social determinant of health, and how arts can be integrated into quality of life.

**Arts Media Entertainment (AME) Institute**

**[AME Expo](#)**

June 26-28, 2024, Los Angeles Marriott (Burbank)

Dept. of Arts and Culture hosted a Creative Careers Online booth and provided 30-minute demos for educators

Workgroups and committees in which Dept. of Arts and Culture staff and partners serve as Arts Ed Collective representatives

**Americans for the Arts (AFTA) Inclusive Creative Economy Advisory Group**

**Arts For LA**

Creative Jobs Collective Impact Initiative (CJCII)

**BRIC Foundation**

Arts, Media, and Entertainment - High Road Training Partnership (AME-HRTP) Advisory Council  
Entertainment Equity Alliance (EEA)

**Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCD)**

Service Planning Area (SPA) 6 TAY Care Coordination

**Collaborating for Arts in Schools**

Department of Arts and Culture, Arts for LA, and LACOE

**Create CA Policy Council**

**Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH)**

LGBTQIA2-S Clinical Consultation Team

**Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH)**

Office of Violence Protection (OVP) Coordinating Council  
OVP School Safety Motion Workgroup  
Service Planning Area (SPA) 6  
Trauma Prevention Initiative (TPI) Advisory Committee  
Youth Suicide Prevention Pilot

**Los Angeles County GIS Users Council**

Data Committee  
Steering Committee

**Los Angeles County Office of Child Protection (OCP)**

Education Coordinating Council (ECC)

**Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)**

Arts Ed Funding Communities of Practice

**Los Angeles County Probation Department**

Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC)  
Monthly Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) Providers Meeting  
Probation Oversight Commission



**Los Angeles County Suicide Prevention Network (LASPN)**

Summit Planning Committee

Youth Advisory Board

Youth and Schools Workgroup

**Los Angeles County Youth Networking Group****Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Foster Youth Collaborative****South Bay Workforce Investment Board**

Southern California Apprenticeship Network

**Social Impact Advisory**

Foster Together Network

**Youth Justice Reimagined**

Decarceration of Girls and Gender Expansive Youth

## General Event Attendance

Partner and external events attended by Dept. of Arts and Culture staff  
to inform their work and cultivate partnerships in the Arts Ed Collective

### **Community Wealth Partners/Wallace Foundation**

Meeting the Moment: How Providers Are Adapting Their Approaches to Youth Engagement to Remain Relevant in the Post-Pandemic World

October 5, 2023, Online

### **UC/CSU Collaborative for Neuroscience, Diversity, and Learning & UCLA School of Education and Information Studies**

#### **[Arts and Music For All: A New Era in Creative Workforce Prep](#)**

October 12, 2023, UCLA

### **Los Angeles Institute for Right-Brain Practices & Research (LAIRP)**

#### **[North American Restorative Conference](#)**

October 12, 2023, UCLA

### **Arts for LA**

#### **[State of the Arts: Barriers to Bridges](#)**

October 24, 2023, Ebell of Los Angeles

### **Community Wealth Partners/Wallace Foundation**

Wallace AOA Workshop: Telling the Story of Your Impact

November 2, 2023, Online

### **Los Angeles County Department of Youth Development**

#### **[Youth Development Summit](#)**

December 1, 2023, Los Angeles Trade Tech College

### **Community Wealth Partners/Wallace Foundation**

Wallace AOA Workshop: Program Quality

December 7, 2023, Online

### **Partnership for Children & Youth, California School-Age Consortium, and ExpandLA**

#### **[It Takes All Of Us: Expanded Learning Workforce Summit](#)**

December 7 - 8, 2023, Omni Los Angeles

### **Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)**

#### **[Poetry Out Loud](#)**

February 1, 2024, Wilshire Ebell

### **California Department of Education**

#### **[Arts and Music in Schools \(AMS\) Webinar Series](#)**

February 1, 2024 and March 14, 2024, Online

**DMH + UCLA Wellbeing for LA Learning Center**

**[Indigenous Wellness and Health Models, Processes, and Healing](#)**

February 21, 2024, Online

**Education Through Music-Los Angeles**

**[14th Annual Music Unites the World Festival](#)**

March 6-7, 2024, Skirball Cultural Center

**BRIC Foundation**

**[6th Annual BRIC Summit](#)**

March 15, 2024, LA County Department of Economic Opportunity

**Mental Health America**

**[Youth in Crisis: Supporting Youth through School- and Clinic-based Mental Health Programs](#)**

April 3, 2024, Online

**Music Forward Foundation**

**[All Access Fest](#)**

April 10, 2024, Hollywood Palladium

**Center for Strategic Partnerships (CSP)**

CSP Semi-Annual Funders Briefing

April 11, 2024, Online

**University of California, Los Angeles / UCLA Semel Institute**

**[Project Unlonely: Healing Our Crisis of Disconnection](#)**

May 2, 2024, Online

**WisdoMania Foundation**

**[WisdoMania Fest](#)**

May 17 and 19, 2024, Griffith Park (Los Angeles)

**University of Southern California**

**[Research Workshop on Music, Health, and Policy](#)**

June 11, 2024, USC



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