



HOBBIES/INTERESTS:

- Community-based practices

ART FORMS

- 2-D works with an emphasis on photography
- Performance

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What drew you to arts education, and how do you practice the arts in your own life?

As a youth I had access to the arts since the 3rd grade, it kept me motivated. Although I didn't practice visual arts until the 8th grade, theater acting and music performance was a consistent skill that I built and enjoyed. This was especially important for me when it came to connecting to my friends at high school--enjoying seeing them progress in their art form and me in mine. Even [to] this day, I see them grow and I can't wait to see how they make better and better art.

Tell us about an impactful experience or association with the arts from your youth.

In the 9th grade I tried to get into the photography program, even though I was a theater student. My initial application was rejected, but I was able to convince the school to let me take the entry-level photography class. I had saved up to purchase my first camera, and was obsessed with it--my family and my friends encouraged me greatly to pursue it and I saw that I could bring joy to people with my practice. Whether it was simple portraits of them and their loved ones, or my own creative pursuits.

After a year in the photography class, my photography teacher Lorie Tancredi-Baese recommended for me to be directly accepted into the program. Since then, I've been in love with the arts and giving back to the community that supports me.

Is there anything you would tell your 15-year-old self with regard to the arts, if you had the opportunity to do so?

Your experience in art forms other than photography feeds into visual arts. Don't lose the skills that you gained through music and theater performance. You will find people to connect with over them, and they will be impressed that you are so well versed in many skills. Allow yourself to flourish, and continue uplifting your friends with you.

In your opinion, what are the biggest barriers to equitable arts education access in Los Angeles?

Lack of transparency and ease of use in the systems we participate in that fund and promote arts education. resources] can be allocated in order for proper education materials and tools to be given.