



**HOBBIES/INTERESTS:**

- Music
- Poetry
- Community organizing

**ART FORMS**

- Music

## RUDY TORRES

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

I am a musician and I play in multiple bands. I'm also a community organizer and host open mics all over Los Angeles county to spotlight community-based artists.

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

I was a part of the Afterschool All-Stars of Rock program at my middle school. It was there that I formed my first band and caught the music bug.

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

I would tell myself to pursue it fearlessly. I gave it up for 6 years and regret not investing in my craft all that time.

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

The biggest barriers to access are money, access to information about the Department of Arts and Culture's offerings, access to art instructors / working artists in schools, access to art supplies, access to information about careers in the arts, and a paradigm shift around the value of art as a profession and tool for self-empowerment in immigrant and low-income communities