



HOBBIES/INTERESTS:

- Opera
- Classical Music
- Cooking/Baking
- Running

ART FORMS

- Classical Voice
- Piano

WILLIAM BROOKS

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

Although I no longer am pursuing performance as a career, I sing and play the piano weekly, if not daily.

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

I don't know if I can pinpoint one moment. Starting at five years old with piano lessons, my whole life has been impacted by the arts. I found some of my best friends through choir, musical theatre, and opera. Many teachers have been a source of guidance and encouragement to me as I pursue a career in the arts. Without the arts, I would not be who I am today.

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

For your music making: Give up on the idea of being perfect the first try. Give 100% of effort into every attempt. Make mistakes and don't be afraid to be messy.

For your career in the arts: Explore all aspects and avenues in the arts. Try everything and experience as many available positions in the arts world as possible.

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

1. Knowledge. In Los Angeles County, there already exists an incredible web of resources, grant opportunities, and databases. However, there is a lack of knowledge of how to access and use these to communities' advantage. Often, the most connected individuals and organizations are receiving the funding, not out of inequity or discrimination, but simply knowing the right place to look. The internet is democratizing this data, but the process is sometimes slow to implement.
2. Funding. Right now, arts education funding is often cobbled together from money from organizations, businesses, and governments. There often [are] gaps in funding due to decreasing tax revenues and private donations. Even if the funding is [provided], often the funding is limited by time and does not guarantee a program's funding indefinitely.