



HOBBIES/INTERESTS:

- Ceramics
- Baking
- Sculpture
- Video editing
- Animation
- Sewing

ART FORMS

- Sculpture
- Ceramics
- Video
- Drawing
- Zine-making

MONICA JUAREZ

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

I practice [the] arts every day in my life, whether it is in my own practice or teaching it to others. One of the most rewarding aspects of being a teaching artist is to be able to use what I have learned and teach it to others so that they can use art to inspire themselves and as a tool to express themselves. I have been drawn to both arts education and the arts since I was a child. I have been able to be an advocate for the arts and work in different organizations involving the arts because of others who are passionate about the same ideas as me.

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

One of the most impactful experiences of having arts as a youth was being able to take fashion design course in high school at an LAUSD school, I was given access to learn new skills that I could apply to a future career. Having this opportunity allowed me to visually express myself and challenged my creativity.

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 put in time and effort into my craft because even if it is 15 minutes a day, each day that one practices, one gets progressively better at that new skill. I think fear of failure is something that holds youth back from realizing their true potential. I think if [people] move without fear and puts in the effort they can slowly but surely achieve their dreams.

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

Some of the biggest barriers to equitable arts education access in Los Angeles [are] language, resources, and transportation. Language, because English is not everyone's first language. [With regard to access,] there are those with disabilities who lack access. Resources are [also] something that can create a barrier because some people may want arts education but lack the time or money to commit to a program. [Finally], transportation is a barrier because some arts programs are inaccessible to certain communities [or individuals] who may not have access to reliable transportation.