



HOBBIES/INTERESTS:

- Playing piano and trumpet
- Hiking

ART FORMS

- Film and television

JACKIE MARTINEZ

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

Growing up in the arts desert that is South LA, I had trouble finding any programs or opportunities [that allowed me to] explore the filmmaking industry. However, thanks to a program called Ghetto Film School, my world changed and so many doors opened to learn about and engage with this craft. At the time, I thought I wanted to be a film director, but ultimately, my passion evolved towards creative a more inclusive entertainment industry by increasing representation and belonging. Of course, I also continue playing trumpet and piano!

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

I remember looking up programs that were related [to filmmaking] through high school, but I would often encounter programs that [cost] thousands of dollars. It wasn't until Ghetto Film School that I encountered a program that was not only of high quality, but also FREE. It was throughout GFS, that I was able to learn about the jargon used in the industry, the power players, [how to] think about film/TV as an art, and ultimately access this industry that had seemed so out of reach.

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 my younger self to trust the process and go with my gut. Life really is too damn short to waste it not doing something that makes you feel alive.

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

Responsible allocation of funds, more conscientious power players who know what it's like to receive the short end of the stick, and more movers and shakers among those decision-makers.