



HOBBIES/INTERESTS, AND ART FORMS:

- Pencil drawing
- Acrylic on canvas
- Silkscreen
- Graphic Design

MARCUS TAPIA

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

Ever since a kid I have I could never concentrate in school, so I would draw. I would get in trouble for drawing. Teachers would look at it like it was bad! When I was in middle school, they took me out because of my grades. When I was 15, I started drawing holiday cards for some of the homies that I was with and that started to impact the way.

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

[My involvement with] WeRise LA and being able to be a featured artist when I was two months out of incarceration. First, they had me look at art. They believed in me when I did not believe in myself. It made me recognize that art could help people and heal people. Being in the environment made me think about art from a bigger point of view, [as did] The painting that I put into the exhibit. Fabian also played a big role in [helping me] think about art education.

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 15 year old self advice on whatever I was going through in the moment, just pull through it, and let it be known, whether it is poetry, or song, or tattooing because if I didn't I would not be where I am today. Keep pushing. Keeping doing art. If people don't like it, there will be people who will here our story.

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

Provide more opportunities for youth to learn different ways they can make a living [through] their art.