EMPOWERING LIVES THROUGH THE ARTS

INNER-CITY ARTS
At Inner-City Arts, I discovered art means trying new things and never giving up.”

- Aurum, 7th Grade

OUR VISION
We believe that the arts and creativity are transformational. Inner-City Arts envisions a society that honors the human capacity for creativity, and values its cultivation in the education of young people.

OUR MISSION
Our mission is to engage young people in the creative process in order to shape a society of creative, confident and collaborative individuals.

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Dear Friends,

This is a call to action. Our country is in need of compassionate, creative thinkers, innovators, and changemakers. When public education, and more specifically arts education, remains drastically underfunded, it is imperative that all of us champion an education system that unlocks the creative potential of every student through art. At Inner-City Arts, I see the power of creativity in action. In our studios, hundreds of young people collaborate with each other, develop problem-solving skills, share bold ideas through art making, and think critically about their futures.

My desire is that as you read our Impact Report, you see the power of your support. By volunteering in our studios, attending our events, or making a contribution, you maintain and uplift our mission of providing a creative home for the young people of this city.

As we enter our 30th year, we celebrate the great vision of co-founders Bob Bates and Irv Jaeger which continues to fuel our work. We are grateful for the many teaching artists, volunteers, staff members, an incredibly strong board, and countless supporters who have brought the transformational power of art to more than 200,000 students since Inner-City Arts first opened. I look forward to honoring our history and celebrating our future with you as we bring this year’s Imagine Awards to campus for the first time in October.

Please be inspired about the work being done at Inner-City Arts, but more importantly, I encourage you to take action — become an advocate, vote for arts education, and use your platform to amplify the voices of our youth. High-quality arts education is not optional, it is an investment in our youth and in our future.

In partnership,

Bob Smiland
President and CEO
The arts and creative learning are essential in the development of a young person. Studies show that students flourish when presented with the opportunity to explore their creativity. They develop self-confidence, gain self-efficacy, show academic improvements, and learn how to better collaborate and communicate with one another—building a healthier, more inspiring society.

Still, inequity in education continues to create significant barriers to the arts. Students from low-income households and students of color receive less arts instruction and at a lower quality than their counterparts. Our work creates access, helping to level the learning field across socio-economic boundaries, because a creative education empowers young children and teens from under-resourced communities to thrive.

*From 2017 LA County Arts Commission’s countywide survey examining the state of arts education in K-12 public schools

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Research shows that economically disadvantaged students who are highly engaged in the arts are much more likely to graduate from high school and almost 2x as likely to graduate from college as their peers with no arts education.

Students who have an arts education are 5x less likely to drop out of school.

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Across all programs, Inner-City Arts serves a diverse population of students. Students come to Inner-City Arts from all across Los Angeles County. Here are a few examples of where large groups of our student population reside.
2018 HIGHLIGHTS

BIGGEST SUMMER ON SEVENTH TO-DATE

In June of 2018, we hosted our largest Summer on Seventh rooftop concert party yet with a special DJ set from Mark Ronson, a live performance by Mayer Hawthorne, open studios, food trucks, and more than 1,700 guests on our campus!

SUPPORTING COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS

Inner-City Arts awarded a total of $59,370 in scholarships to four Work of Art students, enabling them to pursue their first year of college debt-free. Thank you to Vera R. Campbell and members of the Founders’ Board for supporting students even after they leave this campus.

A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AT IMAGINE AWARDS

Chief Program Officer Beth Tishler was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award during the 2018 Imagine Awards at City Market Social House, alongside Philanthropic Leadership Award honorees Craig and Marion Benell, for her tireless leadership and dedication to the organization, our mission, and our students. Beth is a part of the indelible spirit of Inner-City Arts. For 26 years, she has enlivened this organization with her special tenacity and deep commitment to the students and communities we serve. Every day, Beth pushes Inner-City Arts forward.

- Bob Smiland, President and CEO

ONE YEAR AT CHILDREN’S INSTITUTE, INC!

For years, we have had the vision of bringing the spirit of Inner-City Arts into spaces outside of our campus and providing quality arts education to more students. We are pleased to celebrate one successful year of partnership with Children’s Institute, Inc (CII)! Since our launch in Fall of 2017, we have served nearly 900 new students in our visual and media arts satellite studios at the CII location in Historic Filipinotown.

LA SPEAKS MAKES ITS DEBUT

In the Fall, we introduced a new Rosenthal Theater event series called LA SPEAKS, a gathering and platform for voices in our community. In its inaugural formation, LA SPEAKS: On the Evolution of the Artist was presented in collaboration with the Work of Art student leadership team and welcomed a teen audience to engage with professionals and emerging creatives through a day filled with special guest keynotes, discussions, interactive workshops, and visual art exhibitions.

STEAM CONNECTIONS RE-LAUNCH

The Professional Development Institute re-launched STEAM Connections, a four-part series of experiential workshops for educators with a focus on engaging activities that integrate the “A” in STEAM.

CANET FOUNDATION GIFT

The Canet Foundation awarded Inner-City Arts with a 10-year $550,000 grant.

Inner-City Arts doesn’t just teach art. They teach creative thinking, a skill that kids will take into everything they do later in their life. It’s this dedication that makes Inner-City Arts unique and a model for the rest of the country. We look forward to a long partnership.

- Nick Torokvel, Director

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2018 INNER-CITY ARTS IMPACT REPORT

A THEATER COMMUNITY FOR TEENS

The Rosenthal Theater launched a new series of events under the title Teens Take the Theater, a space for high school theater engagement and a stage for student voices to be shared and heard.

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Each year, in partnership with LAUSD and local charter schools, we transport thousands of students to our campus for high-quality arts instruction in one of our eight studios, during the school day, two times per week, for seven to eight weeks. Each class is 75 minutes long and engages students—alongside their classroom peers and teachers—in a creative curriculum led by professional teaching artists. We offer the following art forms: ceramics, media arts, visual arts, creativity lab, music, dance, drama, and filmmaking.

Arts instruction and engagement for K-8 students during the school day

This year, we welcomed conceptual artist Marissa Sykes to our staff of teaching artists. She talks about what drew her to Inner-City Arts, what she’s learned, and what art teaches us:

“All people have creative capacity and nurturing those capacities, especially for young people, is good for humanity. I’ve been working in arts education for over a decade, and young people still continue to push my notion of what’s possible. We provide materials, access and instruction, but students take those same materials and do something radically different from what you would expect. I often find myself saying, ‘I wouldn’t have seen that! I wouldn’t have gone there!’ And, they go there. They do that. And it’s incredible. At Inner-City Arts, we offer exposure to so many different strategies of thinking, which are critical for dealing with life. It’s why I joined the Creativity Lab team. Students are allowed to come into a supportive environment and the insecurity surrounding not speaking up for fear of presenting the ‘wrong answer’ melts away. Our radical approach to problem solving and our warm validation during this period of their development — it will impact their lives forever and empower them to do bold things in the future.

Outside of creative critical thinking, students learn how to treat others. One of the cards we recently received thanked studio assistant Allie for her kindness, which they found inspirational. And that’s because, at Inner-City Arts, we teach with everything. How you speak to students has lasting impact on their lives. A brief, but powerful, encapsulation of our impact came on the back of an enormous handmade card from a group of 6th graders. Among sentiments expressed in colorful marker, a girl wrote, ‘Thank you for treating us like first class students.’"

WHAT ART TEACHES US

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This immersive program offers two three-week sessions designed to meet the unique learning and developmental needs of middle school students during the summer months when learning loss has been shown in studies to increase, especially amongst under-resourced student populations. Here, rising 6th, 7th and 8th graders are welcome to engage with their peers and explore their creativity in four different art forms across the visual, media, and performing arts. Students were invited to select from a unique offering of workshops, including: COMICS, DIGITAL MUSIC, DRUM RAP, IMPROV, SONGWRITING, TEXTILE PRINTING, AND MORE.

During Summer 2018, Inner-City Arts invited a host of Los Angeles creative professionals working in various fields to perform, talk, or work directly with our middle school students, providing a look at what it’s like to transform your creative passion into a professional career.

“I spent most of my life doing what you are doing right now—exploring and discovering,” said former NFL football player and current CEO of The Imagination Agency Martellus Bennett to a theater filled with students. “Creativity is something you can never discover enough of, so you always have to find new ways to explore your own imagination. Now, I get to be creative every day.” Martellus toured the campus, screened his new show, and answered questions from students about why he left professional football to write, direct, and animate full-time.

The American Contemporary Ballet conducted a special interactive performance and invited students to collaborate with performers to choreograph their own dance. The ballet dancers later answered questions and shared what motivated them to pursue such a physically-challenging and exhilarating career.

And thanks to Paradigm Talent Agency, Australian electronic recording artist GG MAGREE and her team paired up with middle schoolers in our Digital Music Production workshop to give feedback and listen to the students’ creations.
ART FORMS OFFERED

3D EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN
ANIMATION
CERAMICS
COMEDY & IMPROV
by Eastern Seaboard Comedy Project
COMIC BOOK DRAWING
CREATIVE WRITING
CREATIVITY LAB
DANCE
DIGITAL MUSIC PRODUCTION
DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY
by Red Hook Labs
DRAMA
DRAWING
EMBROIDERY & WEAVING
FASHION DESIGN
FILMMAKING & CINEMATOGRAPHY
GRAPHIC DESIGN
GUITAR
JEWELRY MAKING
MASK MAKING
MUSIC
PAINTING
PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT
PRINTING & LETTERFORMS
SONGWRITING
TEXTILE PRINTING
VOCAL INSTRUCTION
YOUTH PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLE
ZINE & BOOK MAKING
Through the Visual, Media and Performing Arts Institutes, 6th-12th grade students self-select from creative workshop offerings and explore a wide range of art forms. Each workshop offers students a valuable opportunity for creative exploration, self-discovery, collaboration, innovation, and skill development in the arts. Offered three sessions during the year, the program empowers hundreds of teens, sparking purpose, and passion in the next generation of creators.

New workshops offered in 2018:
- A PERFORMER AND THEIR CRAFT
- EMBROIDERY, JEWELRY MAKING, PERSONAL EXPERIMENTAL CINEMA,
- PRODUCTION DESIGN FOR FILM, SINGER/SONGWRITER BOOTCAMP,
- WEAVING, AND MORE.

937 TOTAL ENROLLMENT IN 2018
91% STUDENT RETENTION RATE
97% of students agreed "I AM ABLE TO EXPRESS WHO I AM THROUGH THE ARTS"

Each student received a minimum of 20 HOURS OF SEQUENTIAL ARTS INSTRUCTION

FROM STUDENT, TO ARTIST, TO CURATOR

Jared Fonseca, a 12th grader from East Los Angeles, joined Inner-City Arts two years ago and has since discovered that active engagement in the arts lends itself to more than just developing a skill. For him, it has sparked bold ambition and has grown his network in ways he didn’t realize were possible when he first signed up.

This past summer, Jared was empowered to organize and curate his first group art show—titled “Go-getter Tribe”—at a creative space in Echo Park, featuring live music and the work of seven local teen artists, including a couple of our very own students.

“What we represent is a fresh breath of artistic and ambitious talent,” he proudly shares. “I was mostly inspired by all of the Inner-City Arts Graphic Design Branding workshops I took, which helped me formulate my ideas and then bring them to life. I have become more confident in my ideas and Inner-City Arts has encouraged me to express them more freely.”

Whether it was in Graphic Design, Portfolio Drawing, Photography, or Textile Printing at Inner-City Arts, Jared believes that exposure to art-making vastly improves the quality of his life. “It gives me the chance to put anything I am feeling in a visual format, and serves as a form of therapy for me,” he says. “It teaches me a lot about my own perspective and allows me to interpret things I go through on a daily basis in a new way, which adds more beauty to the dark things in life, because everything can be inspiration.”
The Work of Art program proudly empowers diverse and vibrant LA teens to assume their place as future leaders and drivers of the creative economy. By connecting creative youth with partnering companies, internships, real-world opportunities, mentorships, portfolio building, career fairs, scholarships, college-prep workshops and resources, Work of Art supports the development of an abundant supply of young talent into the creative industries.

Partnering companies in 2018 included: BOEING, BUZZFEED, DISNEY, MICHAEL MALTZAN ARCHITECTURE, NICKELODEON, PARADIGM TALENT AGENCY, UNITED TALENT AGENCY, WARNER MUSIC GROUP, AND MORE.

59
STUDENTS ENGAGED IN WORK OF ART IN 2018

100%
OF PARTICIPATING SENIORS GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL

85%
OF WORK OF ART GRADUATES WENT TO A FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE

Calynn Watson Fields, a high school senior from South Central LA, didn’t have a lot of friends, didn’t know she could make people laugh, didn’t know she had something so important to share with the world – her story and vision. But that changed when she signed up for an Eamon Cannon Comedy workshop at Inner-City Arts five years ago. What she discovered after more workshops and, later through the Work of Art program was her own unique voice and a new confident self. She says it’s transformed her life.

“I’m not that shy kid I used to be,” she says. “I’m more goal-oriented now. I know how to create a resume, how to apply for scholarships, and it’s given me a lot of confidence – opening doors that were never open before. College hasn’t always been on my mind and now I’m focused on it.”

Because of Calynn’s interest in law and politics, the Work of Art program organized a shadow day for her at Los Angeles City Hall and paired her with the ACLU for a paid summer externship, which gave her the opportunity to also travel to Washington DC. Her experiences here have ignited a deeper interest in pursuing social justice work. Calynn plans to attend a four-year college, and intends to use her filmmaking, photography and creative writing skills to impact the world around her.

“I hope that I can use my art to shed a light on injustices in the world.” Reflecting on a film project she completed over the summer that brought a teaching artist to tears, she says, “I can never forget that feeling. It’s like something inside of me woke up and I realize now that I have a voice. Not just a voice for me to hear, but a voice to share with others.”
Recognizing the urgent need for students to be more deeply engaged in their education, the Inner-City Arts Professional Development Institute supports public education through programming designed to provide educators and administrators with meaningful strategies for integrating creativity into core curriculum. Each in-depth series focuses on various methods for engaging students in their own learning, enhancing each student’s ability to achieve academic and personal success.

Developing creative practices for educators

**EDUCATORS SERVED IN 2018**

- **1,556 educators**
- **252 educators in training**
- **1,117 administrators, classroom teachers, teaching artists, and community members**
- **187 K-8 classroom teachers**

Graduate-level students received up to 13 days of intensive arts training at Inner-City Arts as part of their graduate studies.

EDUCATORS IN TRAINING

Graduate-level students received up to 13 days of intensive arts training at Inner-City Arts as part of their graduate studies.

**BUILDING COMMUNITY IN THE CLASSROOM**

Amanda Tooley, a fifth grade teacher at Angeles Mesa Elementary School in Crenshaw, first engaged with Inner-City Arts in 2018 by participating in the Professional Development Institute’s Creativity in the Classroom series. Seeing the impact of the workshops on her own teaching practice propelled Amanda to later attend our Summer Creativity Practicum and STEAM Connections series.

“I’ve definitely focused in on teaching as a holistic practice,” said Amanda. “I’m now looking for connections in all areas of my curriculum and looking at art as a key part.”

In the Fall, she had the opportunity to return with her students. Here, Amanda observed her fifth-graders becoming more confident, asking questions more readily, and persevering when faced with challenges. Amanda herself pushed out of her comfort zone, growing closer to her class by creating alongside her students in our studios.

The strategies Amanda learned in our workshops have transformed the culture of her classroom. Drawing, bookmaking, creating mandalas, and exploring performing arts are just a few integrations that have deepened her students’ understanding of different subject matters, helping them express more freely.

“My students are encouraged to build community in the classroom. They better understand how to have conversations, own their work, and acknowledge each other. One day, after writing a collaborative poem, her students, unprompted, grabbed musical instruments and turned the poem into a song. Inspired by creative happenings like this in her classroom, Amanda now advocates for arts education and shares art-centered lesson plans with other educators.
We are proud to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of The Rosenthal Theater, a home for diverse and innovative performances. In its decade-long operation, the black-box theater has provided a stage for thousands of students’ voices, free performances for young audiences during the school-day, vibrant theater events and workshops for families and friends, monthly open-mic nights for the community, and a space for artists to develop and share their stories.

**92** PERFORMANCES AND THEATER EVENTS

**31** PERFORMANCES BY STUDENTS

**12,000+** TOTAL ATTENDEES IN 2018

A performance space for students, artists, and the community

In October 2018, The Rosenthal Theater produced *Fighting Shadows*, Richard Cabral’s one-man show, which follows his early life as a gang member in East Los Angeles through to his life-affirming story of transformation made possible by his will and the good work of Homeboy Industries and Father Greg Boyle.

Thanks to the generosity of the Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation, select performances were presented for the first time to local high school classes at no cost. During post-show conversations with Richard, the teen audience asked questions about his journey, learning from his creative practice as an actor, director, and storyteller. Adrian, a junior at Central City Value High School connected deeply to Richard’s story. “As a Mexican-American who has grown up in a poor neighborhood, I’ve had to experience gang violence firsthand. I had family members that were in gangs. It is important to hear Richard’s story because it tells a tale that is universal and highlights the struggles that Latinos go through,” said Adrian. “This play taught me that second chances are good, that one can leave that life behind and give hope to those that might be in a similar situation.”

*Fighting Shadows* allowed not only our young teen audience to engage in the profound questions the play raises about love, home, and justice, but also enabled community members to explore difficult themes in the safe, creative environment of our theater. Through creative writing engagements, audience members composed letters to currently incarcerated young people and adults.

Richard’s story brought 1,500+ audience members to The Rosenthal Theater with sold-out shows, and *Fighting Shadows* became an opportunity for hundreds to share their own stories and reclaim their spirit through storytelling and art.

“A MESSAGE OF HOPE

“I must pass the message that art saves. I believe storytelling saves lives.”

- Richard Cabral
We could not do it without you.

At Inner-City Arts, transformation in the lives of young children and teens is only possible thanks to our community of generous donors—individuals, foundations and companies—who, together, contribute 90% of the revenue necessary to fund our programming.

Just as essential is our committed staff and hundreds of volunteers, including our Board of Directors, who dedicate their time and heart in service to our mission and champion our cause.

“Being able to be there for critical moments super early is so important—to let children know that hey, it’s going to get better and Inner-City Arts is a safe environment to explore being emotional. Art gives you all of that.”

- Micah Lewis, Inner-City Arts Studio Volunteer

This page reflects preliminary unaudited financial data. The above expenses include $400,000 of non-cash depreciation expenses.
We are proud to recognize the many foundations, corporations, public agencies, event sponsors, and individual donors that contributed to make our work this year possible. The following donors have contributed between January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018.

CHAMPIONS OF THE ARTS
The following individuals, foundations, corporations and public agencies have each contributed a cumulative total of over $99 to Inner-City Arts.

AEG | Staples Foundation
---|---
AT&T Aspire
Ann Peppers Foundation
The Walt Disney Company
The Annenberg Foundation

$20,000 - $49,999
- The Walt Disney Company
- The Otis Booth Foundation
- The Lee Graff Foundation
- The Cheryl Saban Self-Worth Charitable Foundation
- The Deutsch Foundation

$50,000 - $99,000
- The Carl & Roberta Family Foundation
- Pacific American Group
- The Ray and Wyn Ritchie Evans Foundation
- The Louis L. Borick Foundation
- Los Angeles Magazine LLC

$200,000 AND ABOVE
- The Audrey and Sydney Irmas Charitable Foundation
- The Lasher Foundation, Inc.
- The Kleiner Cohen Foundation
- The Sirpuhe and John Conte Financial Group
- The TR Family Trust

$500 - $999
- Zinc Cafe & Market
- Dianna von Brockman
- Jay and Kathleen Mangel
- Jay and Kathleen Mangel
- Thomas McInerney

DONOR LISTING
The following donors have contributed between January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018.

**2018 INNER-CITY ARTS IMPACT REPORT**

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OUR SUPPORTERS

Stephanie Dergarabedian
Cynthia Delpit
Keno Deary
Daniel Dahl
Steve Crane
Rene Correa
Andrea Corpuz
Todd Cooper
Alyce Coleman
Andrew Cohen
David Churchill Stambaugh
Sarah Chenault
Sandra Nielsen
Stacy Linn
Mike Lester
Nadzir Hay Nhuch
David Levine
Jamie Lew
Mimi Moi
Scott Lippe
Nina Litzvak
Nina Hans
Connie Lockhart
Meghan Logue
Karin Longhurst
Samanta Longman
Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department
Jeri Longo
Vodafone

OUR 2018 PARTNERS

Partnerships and collaborations with schools, cultural organizations, researchers, community groups and funders are at the heart of Inner-City Arts mission and support our work.

Arts for LA
ArtCenter College of Design
Auntie National Center
The Broad Museum
Centers for Research on Creativity (CrC)
Central City East Association
Children’s Institute Inc.
The Colburn School
The Disney Company
DreamWorks Animation SKG
Geffen Playhouse
Goya Kaufman Dance Foundation
Hawker & Wirth
Hacienda La Puente School District (HLPUSD)

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“Having had the opportunity to volunteer in the studios and watch students develop their skills, it’s clear that Inner-City Arts is equipping them with the tools they need to thrive. The arts are not just about creativity; they’re about critical thinking, problem solving, and creating opportunities.”

- Vanessa Walker-Oakes, New Inner-City Arts Board Member, Joining in 2018
I’ve been more positive. I’ve become more of a loving and accepting person. Inner-City Arts makes me feel better about myself and about the people around me.

- Kaiden, 17