



#### Dear friends and supporters,

Each year Inner-City Arts builds on our story of creativity, resilience, and the unwavering power of community. In 2024-25 both joy and challenge shaped that story, and our staff consistently stepped up to ensure creativity could continue to thrive.

In the wake of the Eaton and Palisades fires in January, which deeply impacted the lives of many young people across our city, we did what we do best. Our team focused on art, assembling and distributing art kits to care camps for children to imagine and express themselves even in a time of crisis. When our federal funding was thrown into uncertainty in the spring, our commitment to students didn't falter. We kept our doors open, offered safe spaces, and made art. We taught. We learned. We created — because that's what our young people deserve.

Through it all, the heartbeat of our campus has stayed strong. With your support, we reached thousands of students and educators, offering not just instruction, but inspiration. Whether in using a bandsaw in our Creativity Lab for the first time, writing and recording original songs in our music studio, or building slab portraits in ceramics, creative expression bloomed through young people in every corner of our space.

This report is more than a summary of impact. It's a celebration of the transformative power of the arts and a tribute to the community that makes it all possible. Thank you for believing in our mission and for standing with us through every twist and turn. Because of you, Inner-City Arts continues to be a place where creativity leads the way.

With gratitude and hope,

Shelby Williams-Gonzalez

President & CEO

"Inner-City Arts is an oasis for the children of Los Angeles to learn and experience the arts with the highest-quality teaching artists producing the most creative programming. Inner-City Arts consistently shows up for our students, finding diverse and creative ways to deliver exceptional arts-based education that unlocks their imagination and provides both an outlet and another voice to express themselves. I continue to be amazed by the results we see in students' academic achievement when exposed to the arts."

Grant Withers
Board Chair 2022-2025



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4,573 students served

4,159

school-day students

414

students in Saturday classes 4,357

Rosenthal Theater attendees

34

Work of Art interns

87%

Title 1 schools served

156

Professional Development participants

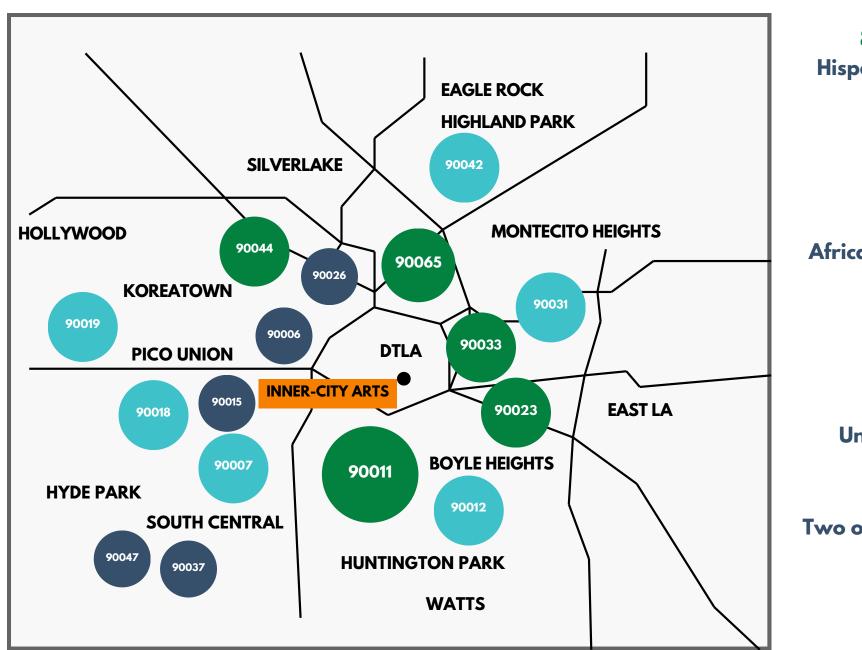
\$96,000+

earned by Work of Art interns

\$4,500

total scholarships for Work of Art graduates

# Inner-City Arts' diverse student population comes to us from many neighborhoods throughout LA county.



80.5% Hispanic/Latinx

**5.8%** White

5.4%

African American

4% Asian

2% Unspecified

1.7%
Two or more races

**0.6% Other** 



# Mutual joy in partnership

The remarkable shared benefits of meaningful collaboration were evident this spring as students from 186th Street Elementary School joined Inner-City Arts to participate in five art studios. These young learners enthusiastically engaged in illustration, ceramics, media arts, and music, revitalizing the creative spirit of our teaching artists. Their time with us embodied the transformative power of arts access, particularly with dedicated educators' fostering self-expression and collaboration to enhance learning across subjects.

A highlight of the term with 186th Street was our first-ever campus music tour, for which students in Mrs. Sepulveda's class composed and performed an original song, "The Stars in the Sky," with choreography. They performed for peers and staff across multiple studios, the courtyard, and in a music video. Their artistic contributions brought vibrancy to our campus and underscored the power of creative exploration.

Ms. Parks' class brought their study of the animal life cycle to our ceramics studio, building creatures inspired by California wildlife, developing character-driven stories, and composing scenes in mixed-media dioramas. This merging of art, literacy, and science grew from Ms. Parks' partnership with our ceramics team to design an inclusive, arts-based curriculum for her class of English learners. Our teaching artists felt inspired by Ms. Parks' dedication to creating a safe environment where students could learn with excitement, leading them to think more deeply about connecting art practice to what our students learn in school.

At the close of the term, Inner-City Arts teaching artists visited 186th Street to witness the energetic school community firsthand. "The students were eager to learn, enthusiastic, respectful, kind, and, above all, deeply creative," Visual and Media Arts Teaching Artist Cynthia Nava says. With gratitude and renewed inspiration, our team strengthened the resolve to build lasting bridges between Inner-City Arts and the communities we serve.

"Inner-City Arts is here for everyone. It's transformative for all who come here, whether that's an elementary or middle school student or even the teachers. When students first come here, they don't know that they are artists, but they are. They just need to practice their artistry."

- Karina Mata, teaching artist

#### **VIPS on campus**

In November we had a very special visit from LAUSD Superintendent Alberto Carvalho and his team, along with LAUSD Board Member Nick Melvoin.

Our school-day program was in full swing, with our longtime partners Quincy

Jones Elementary School filling every studio with creativity — a fitting tribute to the school's namesake. We are grateful to LAUSD for decades of collaboration. This affirmation of the arts as not just an "extra" but a crucial component of a complete education is essential to our young people's future.



# Based on teacher observation and reporting, we found that:

94%

Students displayed originality in their approaches and outcomes

89%

Students improved their understanding of their own personal strengths and challenges

**85**%

Students solved problems by asking critical questions and exploring multiple solutions

"I like doing art, so the Creativity Lab works out for me because we build lots of stuff. It's fun, energetic, and there's different teachers you can learn from."

- Esperanza, Quincy Jones Elementary student







flourished in new ways this year as enrollment bloomed and we deepened connections with students' families through vibrant end-of-term culminations to celebrate student creativity.

Each new term also included distinct art experiences,

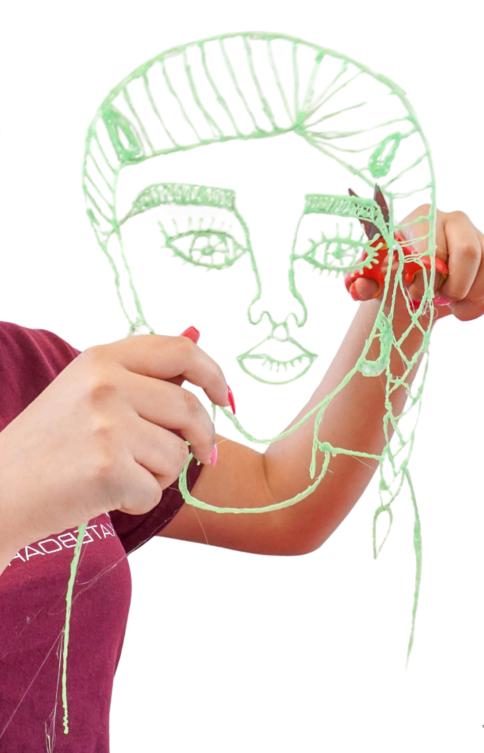
expanding our offerings to support students' enthusiasm. We are excited about these and many other ways our Visual, Media, and Performing Arts Institutes program has expanded creative understanding and possibilities for youth.

The joyful culmination showcases demonstrated the middle- and high-school students' growth with performances by our Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced Rock Bands, as well as Street Dance and Improv class demonstrations.

Inner-City Arts' campus transformed for each season's culmination into a gallery space for visual and media arts exhibitions, highlighting students' unique imagination, technical skill, and dedication.

Equally meaningful were lively shared meals in our rebirthed potluck tradition where families contributed beloved cultural dishes and favorite treats. These moments created space for storytelling, laughter, and cross-cultural exchange, strengthening our sense of community and reinforcing the idea that creativity thrives in an environment of care and belonging.

This year also included a major milestone: **our first dual-enrollment course, in partnership with Los Angeles Community College.** Introduction to Digital Art offered students foundational concepts, practices, and theories of digital art production, blending traditional design principles with contemporary digital tools. This college-level course prepared students to explore future pathways in art, graphic design, entertainment, marketing, and web design.



"The Institutes program allows students to turn their passion and interest into something tangible. They walk away with sculptures, 3-D designs, paintings, ceramic pieces, and more. Even our rock band and drama students get to perform in front of friends and family. It's truly something special!"

- Adrian Noriega, program coordinator

### Student self-assessments after program participation showed:

**79%** 

Saw an increase in their knowledge of the fundamental skills and practices related to their art form

**85**%

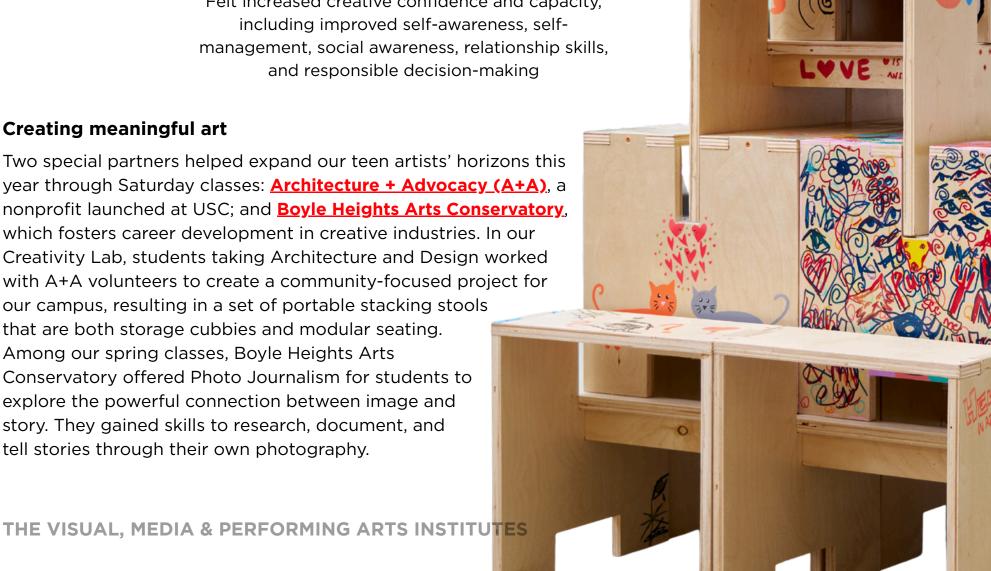
Improved their interpersonal and collaboration skills

86%

Felt increased creative confidence and capacity. including improved self-awareness, selfmanagement, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making

#### Creating meaningful art

Two special partners helped expand our teen artists' horizons this year through Saturday classes: Architecture + Advocacy (A+A), a nonprofit launched at USC; and **Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory**, which fosters career development in creative industries. In our Creativity Lab, students taking Architecture and Design worked with A+A volunteers to create a community-focused project for our campus, resulting in a set of portable stacking stools that are both storage cubbies and modular seating. Among our spring classes, Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory offered Photo Journalism for students to explore the powerful connection between image and story. They gained skills to research, document, and tell stories through their own photography.









# Ready for the spotlight

This year our Work of Art (WOA) interns participated in a record number of public-facing engagements, from performing for supporters on campus and at community events across LA to creating visual art that made its way into major galleries and corporate brands. This engagement with the professional community outside our organization is a crucial part of the unique career preparation WOA provides.

A major highlight of the year for our visual arts interns was <u>Mattel's 80th Anniversary Group Exhibition</u>, "Toys As Art, Art Inspired By Toys," at the Corey Helford Gallery in Downtown LA's Arts District. As contributors of original work, the interns also participated in the exhibit's opening reception, interacting with Kim Culmone, head designer of Barbie, and Chris Down, chief design officer at Mattel, among others. "It was an honor to help guide their creative thinking and process," Justine Adeboyejo, Inner-City Arts visual arts teaching artist and mentor to the interns, says. "They poured a tremendous amount of care, dedication, and pride into each piece and were very grateful for the opportunity."

Four WOA alumni specializing in media arts had an extraordinary experience this year working with professionals from headwear company Flexfit to create <u>The Tomorrow Series</u>. "This project has been so meaningful for the alumni because they got to work with the supportive creative team at Flexfit and also had time and space to grow as creatives in real-world experience," Ashley Margo, Inner-City Arts' lead designer and teaching artist in media arts, shares. Experts at Flexfit guided our alumni through developing a brand, creating multiple iterations of their designs, and ultimately seeing the launch of their work on headwear in a dedicated Amazon shop. Beyond product design, the mentorship included marketing and PR support for each artist to learn how to promote their creations, shining a light on the extent of creative work opportunities in Los Angeles.

#### Creative takeover of the best kind

In a full-circle moment this spring for our Senior Program Coordinator Giselle Barrios Paiz, our biannual "T4: Teens Take the Theater" open-mic event expanded to a full-campus of activities under her supervision alongside Work of Art Intern Angel V. as youth manager. Having been a WOA performing arts intern herself during high school, Giselle is a passionate advocate for the camaraderie and creative preparation the program offers young participants. The latest season's T4, in partnership with artworxLA, hit both goals as "Kickstart Fest," a night of live music, games, improv, art galleries, and connection with other creative teens.

"Work of Art is a good opportunity to step out of your own comfort zone, to discover new things that you are comfortable with."

- Iris, Work of Art intern

### We found the following artistic, personal, and academic student-level outcomes as a result of participation:

# 100%

- High school seniors participating in the Work of Art program graduated from high school
- Graduating seniors were admitted to a two-year or four-year college or university
- Students report having skills in the arts and the creative process
- Students report confidence in expressing themselves creatively
- Students report actively envisioning and taking steps toward achieving an educational or professional objective
- Students report an aptitude for working collaboratively with others
- Students report awareness of pathways and opportunities in the creative sector and in postsecondary education

"Inner-City Arts is extremely connected to the creative industries of LA, and these relationships become accessible to the Work of Art interns in the program. The people they meet and experiences they have in the field help interns develop and grow their professional skills."

> Holli Hornlien, associate director of Work of Art





# Growing dynamic classrooms together

Our long-standing partnership with <u>Inner City Education Foundation (ICEF)</u> Public Schools grew even stronger this year, as the efforts of our Professional Development Institute program to build continuity and foster educators' growth truly came to fruition. As Jennifer Carroll, our associate director of Professional Development, explains, "We are getting even more effective at collaborating with schools to design differentiated experiences for adult learners to bring new aspects of the arts to their students."

Responding to student surveys pointing to a strong interest in animation, ICEF Arts Director Jamie Jauregui requested in 2023 that Inner-City Arts support training in that discipline for her arts teachers. By the most recent term starting in January 2025, we offered our third animation workshop for ICEF teachers and incorporated peer learning in which experienced ICEF teachers joined in training new participants. Karina Mata, Inner-City Arts teaching artist in media arts, also offered teaching demonstrations directly with students in the classroom this year to individualize modeling for teachers.

"Even our most hesitant teachers are now planning digital animation units," Jamie says.

"As a result of last year's workshops, two of our six art teachers collaborated with district leadership to successfully advocate for digital devices to support art-making and animation."

In both longevity and organic growth since we started teaming up in 2016, Inner-City Arts and ICEF have built an exemplary path for professional development in the arts. From our signature Creativity in the Classroom workshops and a photography workshop with Getty in past years to more recent integrated content for teachers and counselors, we are proud to have worked together effectively to build educator capacity and creativity.

# The goal of the Professional Development Institute is to enhance teacher skills in arts integration, social-emotional learning strategies, and create inclusive classroom environments. As a result of our offering, participants reported:

**74%** 

Saw increased learning outcomes (depth of learning) for students

**75**%

Improved classroom management strategies

92%

Increased their knowledge of strategies to implement artsintegrated or arts-enriched lessons

**74%** 

Saw an increased ability to create an effective learning environment using arts-based skills for practical application of workshop **74**%

Understand the connection between SEL and the arts





"Our partnership with Inner-City Arts for teacher training and mentorship has been instrumental in transforming the attitudes of our teachers and counselors toward integrating new art mediums into their curriculum."

- Jamie Jauregui, ICEF director of arts





"Being a professional actor, you have to be the role model for what [the interns] should aspire to ... It is about having good practices and having that communication and awareness to know how to work as an ensemble ... We're here as artists, and we're collaborating, and we're making beautiful things."

 Julián Juaquín, professional actor and USC acting professor

# The magic of a flexible, accommodating theater space was on full display this year in the wide variety of productions and events we held in The Rosenthal Theater.

Our partners at <u>HERO Theatre</u> presented the world premiere of *Luzmi*, a powerful story exploring themes of land preservation and indigenous wisdom amid the landscapes of Colombia and the Amazon rainforest. The production, part of HERO's Nuestro Planeta initiative for educating Latine communities about environmental justice, saw one of the highest attendances for a single show ever presented in our theater.

For the third year in a row, Inner-City Arts was proud to be a polling place for Los Angeles voters in the November election. Along with dedicating The Rosenthal Theater to this civic purpose for a full week, we were grateful to California Arts Advocates for providing a resource to share with our community featuring organizations in the field to talk with candidates about the arts during election season.

We delighted in sharing the work of one of our colleagues in February, as Ashley Margo, lead designer and teaching artist in media arts, exhibited "Los Angeles by Color." The series included 16 panels (ribbons) totaling 120 feet of digital collage, weaving together parts of the city that are not physically connected but exist as a spatial embodiment of how color shapes and connects LA's landscape.





## **OUR TEAM**

Shelby Williams-González,
President & CEO
Justine Adeboyejo
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Giselle Barrios
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Karina Mata
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Cynthia Nava
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Lidia Rodriguez
Wendy Roque
Esai Salas
Tom Simmermaker
Christopher Suarez
Matthew Sutphin
Rebecca Tager
Jessie Tucker
Rosanna Tullio
Sarah Tytus
Anabel Vallin
Alma Villegas
Nancy Weingarten

A fond farewell

Our beloved colleague Jessie Tucker retired in June 2025 after an incredible 36 years caring for Inner-City Arts' facilities. At a festive surprise party in Jessie's honor, current and former staff shared stories and celebrated all that his service and friendship have meant to our community over the decades. We are happy his schedule has opened up to pursue his gifts as a ceramicist, and we know Jessie's smile will keep lighting up lives everywhere he goes!



# **VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteer efforts are essential to sustaining our programs. These individuals together gave 878 hours to support our students' experience!

Nana Adu-Kofi Gale Barnum Summer Bernal Tassia Boatman Stephanie Brandon Sally Bricker Emma Britton Monica Chavez Jessica Chee Catherine Chen

Tanjhid Choudhury Tina Dahl Heidi Ford James Franklin Alexandra Gerrity Kern Maya Grajczyk Madaket Greenleaf Michelle Heo

**Drew Huntley** Cassandra Kaldor

Eliza Kamal

Dara Kang

Steven Lopez

Ali Mirashi

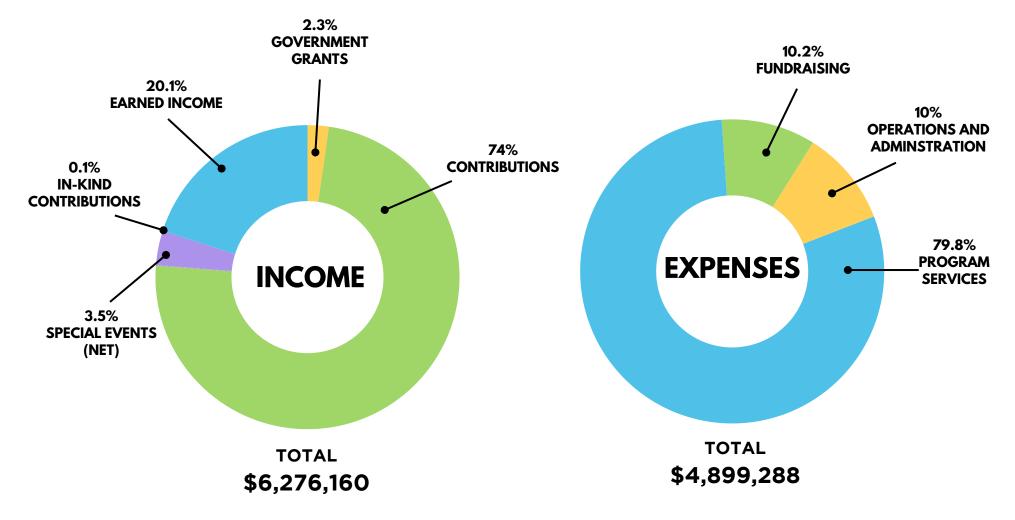
Kassandra Moran Rachel Packer Caitlin Reller Mila Rolston Amy Roy Abby Smidt Mia Silverstri Agnes Werbe Charles Woll

Grace Youn

"The arts had such a huge impact on me growing up, and I see that same spark in the kids. Inner-City Arts gives them a space to express themselves freely, and



## **2024-25 FINANCIALS**



Government grants	\$142,233
Contributions	\$4,641,625
In-kind contributions	\$4,118
Special events (net)	\$228,233
Earned income	\$1,259,951
TOTAL REVENUE	\$6.276.160

Program services	\$3,909,183
Operations and administration	\$491,310
Fundraising	\$498,795
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,899,288

Figures are based on unaudited financial records for FY 2024–25. The reported surplus primarily reflects a one-time accounting adjustment, as recommended by auditors, to recognize the full value of a multi-year grant in the current fiscal year. Related program expenditures will be recorded over the duration of the grant.

## **OUR DONORS**

### Thank you for helping us empower youth to discover their creativity and express their unique voices!

The list of individual donors reflects gifts made to Inner-City Arts between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025. If your records differ from ours, please contact Senior Director of Development Alma Villegas at alma@inner-cityarts.org.



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Melissa Darman

Alejandra de La Cruz

Caroline DeMar

Owen Demers

#### **Inner-City Arts Gala 2025**

Thanks to the vibrant energy of our guests, the spring's gala was an extraordinary success! Our student musicians and visual and media arts interns set the stage by sharing their gifts, and in our first auction of works by Work of Art interns, every piece sold. We honored two exceptional partners, Quincy Jones Elementary School Principal Elizabeth Arellano and Trader Joe's President Jon Basalone.

"Inner-City Arts really helps with children's social-emotional well-being. Anyone under my watch should be in a nurturing environment, not just for developing intellectually, but as whole people. They come here and shine."

- Elizabeth Arellano, Quincy Jones Elementary School principal



#### INDIVIDUAL DONORS cont.

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#### **Genesis celebration**

Genesis Motor America's unveiling in November of its redesigned SUVs included a beautiful exhibition of our students' artwork alongside the stunning cars. Inner-City Arts is among 50 grant recipients nationwide that the company's charitable foundation selected to support this year.





#### **OUR DONORS**

"When children are actively engaged in any art form – whether it's dancing, drawing, sculpting, or more – it unlocks creativity, it inspires, and it leads to greater achievement inside and outside the classroom."

-John Guastaferro, executive director of Genesis Inspiration Foundation

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Gabriel Young

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Siya Zhang

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Elizabeth Burrill

Coffee For The Arts

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Lauren and Chris DeVillier

Amir Ebtehadi

Daniel Goldstein

Beth Tishler and Tom Grond

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in memory of Rita Hollingsworth

Diane Keenan

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Maurice Suarez

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Will Ullman

**Andrew Young** 



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Mark Stanley, in honor of Link Neal
Haylee Strauser, in honor of Link Neal
Jennifer Trivedi, in honor of Link Neal
Alex Verhulst, in honor of Link Neal
Rose Wallace, in honor of Lindsey Cantrell
Gavin Warner, in honor of Link Neal

#### **Transformative giving**

We thank the <u>Perenchio Foundation</u> for its extraordinary dedication to and support of local arts organizations. The Foundation's recognition of the role of the arts in the lives of Angelenos, the transformative power of a creative experience, and the importance of freedom of expression are helping shape a new LA where underrepresented youth can see a path to personal development and commercial success in the creative economy.

We are deeply grateful to the Perenchio Foundation for their previous capital investments and their transformational multi-year general operating support. Their magnificent generosity is greatly impacting our immediate offerings and long-term planning, ensuring that thousands of underserved young people receive robust and uninterrupted arts education and mentorship during these unprecedented times and for years to come.

"Inner-City Arts exemplifies our core belief that access to quality arts education is not a privilege but a necessity for building equitable communities. Their proven model transforms individual lives while strengthening Los Angeles' creative economy."

- Stephania Ramirez, CEO, Perenchio Foundation

The Inner-City Arts family would like to express our sincere and profound gratitude to the Perenchio Foundation for its investments in our campus, work, and mission.

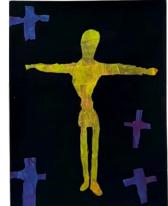












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CollinsKim LLP

Converse

Create LA

**Electronic Arts** 

Esperanza Ministries, Inc.

Film Independent

Genesis Inspiration Foundation

Genesis Motor America

GOAT

GPSN

Hauser & Wirth

Heart of Los Angeles

Hero Theatre, Inc.

Hoodzpah, Inc.

JPMorgan Chase

Lionsgate

Michael Maltzan Architecture

Mythical Entertainment

**NBCUniversal** 

Netflix

Nickelodeon

"In the early 2000s, I first got to visit Inner-City Arts and feel the electricity in the environment here. I would love for everyone to have the experience of stepping onto campus when students are here. It really gives a feeling of hope for the future."

-Jon Basalone, Trader Joe's president and vice CEO

Night Palm

NIKE

PARR3 LLC

PLUS1 x Adrianne Lenker

Ramo Law

SCI-Arc

Skadden

Snell & Wilmer L.L.P.

Sony Pictures Entertainment

Taskforce for Meaningful Change

- Universal Music Group

The Capital Group Companies

Charitable Foundation

The Walt Disney Company

Trader Joe's

Ubisoft Film & Television

Verve















#### **GOVERNMENT**

California Arts Council City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs City of Los Angeles Department of Economic and Workforce Development City of Los Angeles, Proposition K County of Los Angeles LA County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, 2nd District Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture



#### **FOUNDATIONS**

**Amity Foundation Ann Peppers Foundation** Anonymous (3) **BCM** Foundation California Community Foundation Dwight Stuart Youth Fund Edward A. & Ai O. Shay Family Foundation Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation Friars Charitable Foundation Getty Golden Family Charitable Fund Harman Family Foundation Johnny Carson Foundation Joseph Drown Foundation **K&F Baxter Family Foundation** Max H. Gluck Foundation **Mentors Foundation** Milton and Ruth Berman Family Foundation

Nancy E. Barton Foundation



#### **FOUNDATIONS** cont.

Our Little Light Foundation

P.C. & Rosana Hsu Chao Foundation

Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts

Perenchio Foundation

Peter & Masha Plotkin Memorial Foundation

**Robbins Foundation** 

Rosenthal Family Foundation

Ruth & Joseph C. Reed Foundation for the Arts

S. Mark Taper Foundation

Sheila, Dave and Sherry Gold Foundation

Sidney Stern Memorial Trust

**Snap Foundation** 

Suzan Hughes Education Foundation

The Ahmanson Foundation

The Canet Foundation

The Carl & Roberta Deutsch Foundation

The DEW Foundation

The Green Foundation

The Jaeger Family Foundation

The James Irvine Foundation Matching and Discretionary

Fund at the East Bay Community Foundation

The Kathryn Caine Wanlass Charitable Foundation

The Kenneth T. & Eileen L. Norris Foundation

The Kleiner Cohen Foundation

The Mark Hughes Foundation

The Morrison & Foerster Foundation

The Ray and Wyn Ritchie Evans Foundation

The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation

The Rose Hills Foundation

Thelma Pearl Howard Foundation

Vincent C. and Pamela A. Immordino Charitable Foundation

Walter and Holly Thomson Foundation, Bank of America, N.A.,

Co-Trustee

Wurwand Foundation

Wyatt Family Foundation, Monica Wyatt and Mark Horowitz

## There are many ways to stay connected to Inner-City Arts!

#### MAKE A DONATION

As a nonprofit organization, we rely on private philanthropy to fulfill our mission. If you believe that access to the arts is a universal right, please visit **inner-cityarts.org/donate** to donate today!

#### ATTEND AN EVENT

Visit our website at **inner-cityarts.org/events** to stay up-to-date on events and happenings at Inner-City Arts, which include:

- Creative Career Fair on 11/15/2025
- Workshop + Wine on 12/4/2025
- Inner-City Arts' Gala on 4/9/2026
- Free Arts Day (open studios for youth and adults) on 6/6/2026

#### **VOLUNTEER AT OUR STUDIOS**

If you would like to experience our mission in action, consider volunteering at one of our art studios to help students explore their creativity. Please contact Anabel Vallin for more information at **anabel@inner-cityarts.org** 

#### **BECOME A SPONSOR**

You can help empower young people through the transformative power of the arts by sponsoring one of our events! Contact Alma Villegas at **alma@inner-cityarts.org** to learn about sponsorship opportunities throughout the year.

#### LEASE PIECES FROM OUR PERMANENT COLLECTION

Our Permanent Collection comprises magnificent art pieces created by our Work of Art interns that can be leased for your office, business, or showroom. Intrigued? Please contact Alma Villegas at alma@inner-cityarts.org

If you are interested in other ways to get involved, please email us at **info@inner-cityarts.org**, and a member of our team will connect with you right away. Thank you!

