

2026 SPRING TERM CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Pre-register at
inner-cityarts.org/institutes

Mandatory Enrollment Day
February 7

INNER-CITYARTS

THE VISUAL MEDIA
& PERFORMING
ARTS INSTITUTE

6TH-12TH GRADES

SATURDAYS*

FEB. 14-MAY 2

Advanced Improv: Long-Form Improvisation

Grades 6-12 • 1:45-3:15 p.m.

Teaching Artist: Tom Simmermaker

This class will focus deeply on long-form improvisation, highlighting different show formats and the art of grounded scene work. You will learn many types of long-form improvisation from the East Coast to the West while continuing to uplevel your scene work and performance skills! The term will conclude in a student-hosted long-form show.

Prerequisites: This class is only for students who have already taken Intermediate Improv. If you have not taken Intermediate, you are not eligible to enroll unless specifically instructed.

Architecture and Design in Action: Rock On!

Grades 9-12 • 10-11:30 a.m.

Teaching Artists: Jen Lathrop and Nancy Deren Weingarten

This course builds on themes from the fall architecture class, welcoming both returning and new students — no prior enrollment required. You will advance your design skills through drawing, iterative model-making, material exploration, and small-scale prototyping. The class will partner again with Architecture + Advocacy to develop and construct the rock band drum kit travel cases designed in the earlier course. Join in to turn ideas into buildable concepts and understand how designers move from design to fabrication!

Beginners Hip Hop Dance

Grades 6-12 • 3:15-4:45 p.m.

Teaching Artist: Zion El-Amin

This entry level hip hop course builds foundational grooves, social dances, and cultural understanding while welcoming both new and returning students. We will review and expand foundation like the bounce, rock, wave, two step, and other party dances, developing expressive movement. Classes combine structured drills and technique with community-based practices like cyphers and partner exchanges. This term focuses on personal voice, confidence, and

creativity. The culmination will feature cyphers and friendly battles to showcase each dancer's growth and individual expression.

Beginning Rock Band: Section 1

Grades 6-12 • 12:30-1:45 p.m. SAT.

Teaching Artist: Matías Anaya

You will choose an instrument — guitar, bass, drums, or keyboard (based on availability) — and learn a song of the instructor's choice that will strengthen your foundational skills on the instrument. You will perform this song together with classmates at the end of term concert.

Section 1 meets Saturdays,
12:30-1:45 p.m.

For questions about enrollment or getting started, email programs@inner-cityarts.org



* Film Production meets both Wednesday and Saturday; Beginning Rock Band is offered either day.

With special thanks to our supporters who make this program possible:



Apple, BCM Foundation, Dwight Stuart Youth Fund, Edward A. and Al O. Shay Family Foundation, Joseph Brown Foundation, Pasadena Showcase House for the Arts, Ruth and Joseph C. Reed Foundation for the Arts, The Ahmanson Foundation, The Kathryn Caine Wanlass Charitable Foundation, The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, The Walt Disney Company

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FEB. 14-MAY 2

Beginning Rock Band: Section 2

Grades 6-12 • 4-6 p.m. WED.

Teaching Artist: Matías Anaya

You will choose an instrument — guitar, bass, drums, or keyboard (based on availability) — and learn a song of the instructor's choice that will strengthen your foundational skills on the instrument. You will perform this song together with classmates at the end of term concert.

Section 2 meets Wednesdays,
4-6 p.m.

Building Brands With Photography

Grades 6-12 • 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory

This class empowers you to build your confidence and voice through creative direction and brand-focused photography. Come learn to shape visual identities for real or imagined artists, businesses, and community projects while exploring self-expression, cultural pride, and personal storytelling. Rooted in healing, self-love, and creative agency, the class supports you in developing a professional-quality portfolio that reflects your lived experience, unique visions, and artistic power.

Film Production: Write it, Cast it, Produce it!

Grades 7-12 • 2:30-4:30 p.m. SAT.
and 4-6 p.m. WED.

Kids in the Spotlight (KITS)

Dive into an exciting script-to-screen journey with Kids In The Spotlight! Collaborate with industry professionals to create and produce a short film based on your personal stories! Choose between two work groups, writing or editing/production, and work together on acting and casting. Explore multimedia exercises while building skills for the film and TV industry. Enhance communication, leadership, and creativity. Create the story of a lifetime! Returning students are welcome.

Class meets WED. 4-6 p.m. and
SAT. 2:30-4:30 p.m.

**For questions about
enrollment or getting
started, email
programs@inner-cityarts.org**



Intermediate Improv: Elevating the Scene and Finding the Fun!

Grades 6-12 • 12:30-1:45 p.m.

Teaching Artist: Tom Simmermaker

This improv comedy class is perfect for you if you have prior improv experience and you're ready for the next step in your performance journey! We will hone the improv 101 fundamentals (acceptance, intuition, yes/and, and group mind) as we deeply explore scene work, form, and finding the fun in scenes. Focusing heavily on two-person and three-person scenes, this class is sure to bring your acting skills to the next level!

**Prerequisites: This class is for
returning improv students only.
You must have taken Intro Improv
OR Intermediate Improv in order to
enroll in this class.**

Intro to Ceramic Hand-Building

Grades 6-12 • 10-11:30 a.m.

Teaching Artists: Emily Buttner
and Christopher Suarez

In this intro class, you will learn the fundamental methods of ceramic hand-building through a variety of sculptural projects and glazing techniques.

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FEB. 14-MAY 2

Intro to Improv: Instant Acting for All

Grades 6-12 • 10-11:30 a.m.

Teaching Artist: **Tom Simmermaker**

Improvisation is the art of making things up on the spot. While this may sound intimidating, people improvise in real life all the time! Come explore improv comedy and its many forms to discover the foundations of performance. You will overcome shyness, play theater games, meet new friends, and build confidence for any situation in life. Improvisation is a must-have skill for anyone interested in acting!

Large-Scale Ceramic Hand-Building

Grades 6-12 • 3-4:30 p.m.

Teaching Artists: **Emily Buttner and Christopher Suarez**

In this intermediate class we will explore large scale sculptural projects that deepen your knowledge of ceramic hand-building. You will learn more advanced structural building techniques and develop conceptual frameworks for your pieces

Prerequisites: You must have taken at least one ceramics class at Inner-City Arts in the past to enroll in this class.

Music Production

Grades 6-12 • 10-11:30 a.m.

Teaching Artist: **Matías Anaya**

Come make beats! You will learn to create music using Soundtrap and learn the role of every instrument — from drums and percussion to bass, guitars, and sound effects. You will combine samples and digital instruments to create your own original track by the end of the term. Advanced students who have taken the course at least twice before will gain access to professional software and learn complex production techniques.

Protest Zines

Grades 9-12 • 1:30-3 p.m.

Teaching Artist: **Justine Adeboyejo**

In this course, you will learn about the history of zines and how they are used in social justice movements. We will use collage, printmaking, and bookbinding techniques to create a collection of zines that raise awareness on issues that are important to you and your community.

Sticker and Stamp Design

Grades 6-12 • 3-4:30 p.m.

Teaching Artist: **Ashley Margo**

Design and create your own stickers and stamps! In this graphic design workshop you will explore visual communication design, develop personal expression through icon and illustration studies, and form an understanding of the relationship of contemporary to classic graphic production techniques. You will experiment with handmade and digital techniques.

Wire Sculpture

Grades 6-12 • 1:30-3 p.m.

Teaching Artists: **Jen Lathrop and Nancy Deren Weingarten**

Come design and construct kinetic wire sculptures, combining artistry with three-dimensional design thinking. You will learn wire-bending, assembly techniques, and methods for shaping expressive forms. Through hands-on, experimental projects, you will strengthen your creativity, craftsmanship, and problem-solving skills. Returning students will take on new project challenges that further expand technical abilities and artistic voice.

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