INNER-CITYARTS

2023-24 REPORT

FUNDAMENTALS, FORM, AND FREEDOM

Welcome &2.62 Introductions Tour Todays dejective Visual Arts Performing Jords Reflection



Dear friends and supporters,

As we reflect on another remarkable year at Inner-City Arts, I am filled with deep gratitude for the incredible community that continues to support our mission. This year's impact report, "Fundamentals, Form, and Freedom," captures the essence of our work and the transformative journey we offer to the youth of Los Angeles through art.

In our classrooms, every stroke of a brush, pinch of clay, and note of music begins with the fundamentals. Just as a foundation is essential to any structure, these basics are the building blocks of creativity. They are the starting point where our students first explore the vast potential within themselves.

But it is through form that these fundamentals take shape. Our dedicated instructors guide students through the nuances of each medium, helping them connect deeply with their chosen art forms. In this connection, our students begin to see the possibilities — where technique meets imagination and becomes a vehicle for their ideas.

And then comes freedom, the ultimate gift of creative expression. With a solid grasp of the fundamentals and a deep connection to their chosen art forms, our students are free to push boundaries, tell their stories, and explore new horizons.

This impact report, "Fundamentals, Form, and Freedom," is a testament to the power of art education and the profound difference it makes in the lives of our students. It is also a reflection of your unwavering support — because none of our work would be possible without you. Thank you for believing in our mission, for investing in the future of our youth, and for being a part of this vibrant community.

With gratitude and excitement for the future,

Shelby Williams-González *President & CEO*



"The work that Inner-City Arts does is no less than exceptional. For 35 years, over 200,000 lives have been enriched by art right here in our city. This takes time, this takes effort, and this takes money. To every staff member, board member, partner, and donor making it possible: thank you very much."

> - Grant Withers, Board Chair, in remarks at Inner-City Arts Gala 2024 celebrating 35 years of transforming LA

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* new member in 2023-24

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3,681

School-day students

425

Students in Saturday classes

Work of Art interns

266

Professional Development particpants

6,300

Audience members in The Rosenthal Theater

More than **3,000** hours of studio instruction.

11 of 14 LA schools served were Title I.

4 Work of Art interns received a total of **\$6,000** in scholarships.

Work of Art interns earned a total of **\$154,961.12**.

VISUAL Arts

MEDIA

Arts

Cartoon Portraiture, Ceramics, Creativity Lab, Illustration, Mixed Media, Photography, Sculpture Teacher observation (elementary level) and student self-reporting (grades 6-12) surveys showed our studio programs led to improvement in these skills in up to the following percentages of students:

> **79%** Knowledge of the art form

> > **84%** Critical thinking

87% Creative confidence

86% Interpersonal skills and collaboration

> 82% Self-efficacy

86% Communication

PERFORMING Arts

Dance, Drama, Comedy/Improv, Music Production, Rock Band

AI Soundscapes, Animation,

Film Production, Fonts/Logo Design,

Graphic Design, Transportation Design

Inner-City Arts students represent many backgrounds and neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles County:



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THE YEAR'S HIGHLIGHTS

A Saturday class partnership with ArtCenter College of Design gave students exceptional instruction in Transportation Design and Interactive Design, along with a field trip to tour the illustrious ArtCenter campus.

Our school-day program, Learning and Achieving Through the Arts, included high school students for the first time this year in partnership with both Options for Youth Charter Schools and Jordan High School!

Talented artists from Unicorns & Unicorns, a BIPOC women-owned studio working in the tech and advertising worlds, opened doors to our middle school students to create art for augmented reality platforms.



Our friends from Skid Row Arts Alliance brought the uplifting Holiday Called Home event back to our campus — celebrating with our neighbors is a great joy!

Work of Art interns in visual arts worked with gallery professionals, under the mentorship of our own teaching artists, to exhibit artwork at the Untitled Gallery in UCLA's Broad Art Center.

Our first immersive musical, *Maestro's Treehouse* by our Co-Artistic Director Michael Sample, appeared in The Rosenthal Theater, delighting audiences with music, dance, visuals from around the world, and a heartfelt story for the child in all of us.

FUNDAMENTALS

Perenchio Foundation brings comfort to campus

This year Inner-City Arts received a generous grant from the Perenchio Foundation to make facilities improvements for the comfort, health, and well-being of all who spend time on our campus. Thanks to the foundation's philanthropic support, Inner-City Arts upgraded the HVAC in the Visual Arts building from an outdated and noisy system that had been a big distraction for both students and staff.

"Inner-City Arts is vital to unleashing creativity in our region, and they play a key role in the community. Funding for this indispensable organization to make improvements to facilities is deeply needed and yet often difficult to obtain," Perenchio Foundation Chief Executive Officer Stephania Ramirez says. **"Our hope is that this support will bolster them in both the immediate and long-term future."**

Redesigning the heating and air and changing the model of the units significantly improved the learning environment in a building that welcomes hundreds of youth each week. Now that the racket of the old equipment is gone and our studio spaces are at a comfortable temperature even during extreme weather, the space is filled only with the joyful buzz of creativity it was designed for!



In May our friends from the <u>Cal Ripkin, Sr.</u> Foundation and <u>Niagara Cares</u> cleared out and updated our design studio and break room on campus. Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation Assistant Director of Programs & Grants Courtney Stephens says, "[Inner-City Arts does] such great work, and we're happy we could give your team that space!"



The ultimate intention in our mission is to shape a society of creative, confident, and collaborative individuals. This year highlights of Inner-City Arts' work appeared in multiple media outlets, affirming our goal to spread the power of exceptional arts education far beyond our city.

"[Inner-City Arts'] future forward approach [to arts learning] not only bolsters and supports the individual student, but also contributes to a more equitable and diverse arts industry, giving historically marginalized students the tools, experiences, and connections they need to navigate and ultimately thrive in the field."

Rachael Hip-Flores, "Making Friends With the Arts and Each Other" (American Theatre, Oct. 11, 2023)

"Inner-City Arts has built a network of more than 35 companies or artists ... When they focus on community thriving, arts educators and funders encourage coordination rather than competition between community institutions." Kylie Peppler, Maggie Dahn, Mizuko Ito (<u>The Connected Arts Learning Framework</u>, UC Irvine with funding from The Wallace Foundation)

"Inner-City Arts brings the benefits of a safe, creative environment to children in downtown neighborhoods, engaging young people in the creative process in order to shape a society of creative, confident and collaborative individuals." Stephi Wild, "Biddy Mason Comes to Inner-City Arts" (*BroadwayWorld*, May 9, 2024)

Immersing Jordan High School in creativity

A marvelous partnership with Jordan High School in Watts has grown this year like many of Inner-City Arts' endeavors — from a seed into a thriving plant of many branches. Inspired by a staff retreat on our campus for Jordan's educators in December 2023, the school engaged our Professional Development services this year for training in digital equipment, arts strategies, and creative support for a spring showcase celebrating the Watts centennial.

Jennifer Carroll, Inner City Arts' associate director of education who leads our Professional Development (PD) program, says, "I am most proud of our unwavering commitment to serve the students through adult engagement and play. Ongoing work over time is the best way to make a sustainable impact. Our relationship with administrators and teachers has become more tailored to their specific needs while still maintaining the integrity of what we do."

After our teaching artists provided multiple sessions of training in curation techniques, use of virtual reality equipment, improv games, and showcase preparation, the Jordan Visual and Performing Arts Magnet secured funding for twice the amount of PD in 2024-25 and an Inner-City Arts residency to teach their students as well. Jennifer explains the Jordan partnership has become an exemplary model for growth: **"It is my goal for Inner-City Arts to be a go-to organization for scaling arts integration efforts in schools and partnering artists with teachers to meet the social, emotional and academic needs of the youth of our city."**



High schoolers became filmmakers in our Visual, Media, and Performing Arts Institutes program this year, thanks to our friends from <u>Kids in the</u> <u>Spotlight</u> (KITS). The script-to-screen journey included collaboration with industry professionals to create and produce short films based on the students' own stories — plus a chance to be part of the KITS Film Awards at Paramount Pictures Studios! Inner-City Arts is grateful and proud to count KITS among our many partners who help us launch creative youth into the broader LA arts community.



These program partners joined us in delivering exceptional arts opportunities to youth with their time and talents this year. Thank you all for your generous dedication to young people!

ORGANIZATIONS

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"This is a wonderful new opportunity for us to open the doors of [our] studio and share the many possibilities for a life in the arts with a group of aspiring young students."

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS cont.

Street Symphony Stüssy TBWA/Media Arts Lab Tenderfoot TV The Creative Pack The Realist & the Dreamer The Los Angeles Education Consortium The Mill UTA Urban Voices Project Versa-Style Street Dance Company Wiseman Studios, LLC Wolf Entertainment

INDIVIDUALS

Rupal Banerjee Christina Benedetti **Tiffany Bratcher** Cache Dom Chanel John Conley Kealy Farra Ali Gallagher Kenny Keil Angel Kristi Williams Samuel Larsen Brenna Mallov Henry Phipps Adam Silver **Rich Ting** Tim Walsh David Wiseman





Guiding our Work of Art performing arts interns to turn Sophocles' ancient tragedy *Antigone* into a culturally relevant production for young audiences in our Rosenthal Theater was an adventure that decorated playwright Megan Tabaque handled with aplomb. *Antigone's Last Birthday*

packed the house in April and captured audiences as a contemporary Latine tale of power, resilience, and the relentless fervor of teenage girls as agents of change.

Music opens new worlds to all ages

Our teaching artists equip the young people in their studios with essential tools for creativity to take form, and this year, music classes under Matías Anaya's guidance have been a magical laboratory for testing those tools. Whether giving school-day students their first try at digital music production, helping a class explore cultures on strings and percussion, or diving into the math of rhythm with teens in a Saturday rock band class, Matías helps their music flow with endless enthusiasm.

Working with the youngest Inner-City Arts students in a kindergarten classroom at Crescent Heights Elementary School, Matías walked in one February day to find them rehearsing a dance routine to a medley by The Jackson 5 to celebrate Black History Month. With her agile creativity, Matías seized the moment and connected the Jacksons' "Do re mi, ABC, 123" to an impromptu solfège lesson on the musical scale.

That kind of magic-in-the-moment is rarely planned but happens often with music in the mix. Helping budding musicians make connections to the world around them, Matías has brought cumbia, a traditional Latin American music and folk-dance form to older students learning to play music as a group. In a heart-warming culmination of their study, one fifth-grade class performed "Cariñito" on ukulele and marimba (with their teacher on congas!) for a rapt audience of first-graders who had stopped in from their ceramics class on our campus.

As Matías puts it, **"A multitude of opportunities abound to blend art lessons** seamlessly into the day," whether working with students in their own schools or on our downtown campus. Judging by the growing waiting lists of middle and high school students eager for our Institutes rock band class each term, Matías is truly doing her part to help Inner-City Arts inspire a new generation of artists.

2023-24 FINANCIALS



TOTAL REVENUE	\$4,550,833.88
Investment income	\$630,511.21
Earned income	\$715,819.38
Special event (net)	\$256,044.97
In-kind contributions	\$504.00
Contributions	\$2,739,995.12
Government grants	\$207,959.20

Program services	. \$3,938,447.72
Operations and administration	\$485,214.99
Fundraising	\$460,558.29
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,884,221.00

Figures based on unaudited 2023-24 financial records. Deficit reflects auditor-recommended one-time recording of a multi-year grant with its related expenditures recorded in each subsequent program year. <u>2022-2023 audit linked here</u>

Young artists turn to Inner-City Arts for safety and creative guidance, seeking an outlet for healthy expression. Thank you for helping us support them! This list reflects gifts to Inner-City Arts between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024. If your records differ from ours, please reach out to Senior Director of Development Alma Villegas at alma@inner-cityarts.org.

INDIVIDUALS

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"Attending Inner-City Arts as a child was a wonderful experience for me. I took dance and music classes that really helped me come out of my comfort zone. Now my son has the chance to experience that same environment, and it's amazing to see him express himself through art."

- Pearl Rodriguez, former student and current parent

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"I have been an employee of Inner-City Arts for over 20 years. I enjoy working here because I know what we do here helps build lives that will stand the test of time, and every kid who comes through our doors is encouraged and prepared for college."

- Jessie Tucker, Facilities manager

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"We are lucky to have partners like Inner-City Arts to help nurture our students' creativity. By starting with the fundamentals of various mediums, their programming allows kids' imaginations to take flight. This freedom to explore different forms of artistic expression brings more than just enrichment into our classrooms — it gives our students the opportunity to imagine and create a brighter future."

- Ally Salvaria | Office of LAUSD Board Member Nick Melvoin



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Seeing students grow in confidence, creativity, and selfexpression as they explore their artistic voices is incredibly rewarding. The collaborative environment, where teaching artists work alongside classroom teachers, creates a vibrant and supportive community that thrives on innovation and passion for the arts.

- Eva Perez, Visual Arts lead teaching artist

Darshana Umakanth and Kyle Ribordy **Raven Richard** Shirley Rigdon Guadalupe Rivera David Robles Elena Roby **Bibiana Rosalia** Lauren Rosas Sigrid Rose David Rosenberg Alexis Rappaport and Michael Royce Daniel Rubenstein Sara Ruiz-Meza Maureen Ryan Vanessa Saavedra Katelin Safford Joel Safranek Mark Sandelson Elizabeth Sandoval Juliana Sankaran-Felix Jim Sarratori Vik Sasi Vanora Savig Su Sazama Ali Schnapp

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"Inner-City Arts taught me how to find resources and to dig a little deeper and polish what I already possess . I carry these lessons in my life and practice them when meeting people both in and out of casting. Everyone has the capacity to do amazing things; it's simply about helping them find it themselves."

- Sharon A., 2019 Work of Art graduate

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"Inner-City Arts aligns closely with the mission of the Snap Foundation by empowering underrepresented youth to explore and experience careers in creative industries. Their work is instrumental in breaking down barriers that have historically prevented young people of color from envisioning themselves as leaders in the arts community of Los Angeles."

- Joel Arquillos, Snap Foundation

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"Converse is delighted to support Inner-City Arts' Work of Art program ... to [help] youth explore and launch careers in the creative economy. The program is a phenomenal opportunity for LA youth to build the skills and experience they need to succeed as creative professionals."

- Judy Dunbar, Director of Social & Community Impact, Converse

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* Designates annual membership donor

"It was such a pleasure and a gift to share creative space with the interns. It's possible they taught me more about my work than I taught them. [For] a teaching artist, this program and the students it empowers are a dream."

- Megan Tabaque, playwright