



A Year of Arts, Impact, & Connection

As we close out the year, we want to thank you for being part of the AECSD community. With your support, we brought joy-filled, high-quality arts education to students across San Diego County; inside classrooms, after school, and out in the community. From January through May alone, AECSD engaged 50+ schools through school day and after-school residencies, professional development for teaching artists and classroom teachers, and workshops spanning dance, music, theatre, visual arts, and interdisciplinary learning.



Program Highlights

Just a snapshot of where our teaching artists made an impact this year:

- National School District school day & afterschool programs
- Boone Elementary dance residency
- CPMA Grade 8 visual art workshops & professional development
- Audubon Elementary music residency

- Freese Elementary visual art residencies
- Edison Elementary mural club & dance programming (generously funded by Price Philanthropies)
- Finney Elementary theatre residency & professional development Workshops (in collaboration with Turnaround Arts California)

**Each of these partnerships represents more than a program;
it's a shared commitment to ensuring students experience the arts
as a vital part of learning, expression, and community.**



Student Art Beyond the Classroom

This year, student voices were uplifted through inspirational public exhibitions across San Diego:

- Creative Café Series
 - Little Lemon Learners (TK) shared early-childhood artwork at Lemon Grove Coffee, celebrating creativity at its very beginning
 - Creative, Performing & Media Arts (CPMA) Middle School students exhibited abstract visual art at Clairemont Coffee, highlighting professional-inspired, process-based work
- Juvenile Court & Community Schools (JCCS) Exhibitions
 - Student sculpture work from Career Technical Education Center (CTEC) students was showcased at the Pauline Foster Teen Center at the San Diego Central Library
 - "Creating New Paths," an exhibition featuring linotype prints, assemblage, wire sculpture, and poetry by JCCS students, was displayed at the University Club atop Symphony Towers, offering reflections on identity, resilience, healing, and hope

These exhibitions remind us that art builds connection, dignity, and new pathways forward.



Inclusion, Wellness & Access

AECSD continued to deepen its commitment to inclusive and equitable arts education by:

- Hosting inclusion trainings with Kids Included Together (KIT) to better support learners of all abilities
- Serving as a community partner in the Prebys Sparx Grant, integrating arts education with youth mental and behavioral health initiatives

This work strengthens our classrooms and reinforces our commitment to ensuring every student feels seen, supported, and empowered through the arts.

🕊️ In Loving Memory: Poet Jim

We want to honor James Vincent Hornsby (Poet Jim/Jim Moreno), a beloved former AECSD teaching artist who joined our roster in 2004. Jim taught poetry in Juvenile Court & Community Schools as well as traditional school sites, using language as a tool for dignity, reflection, and voice.



A Vietnam veteran, gifted poet, and lifelong advocate for justice, Jim believed deeply in young people, especially those navigating the most challenging circumstances. His presence was gentle and magnetic, his words rooted in kindness, truth, and hope. Jim passed away on December 2, 2025, and his legacy lives on in the countless students he inspired to believe their stories mattered.

Looking Ahead to 2026!

With support from school districts, foundations, and community partners, we're heading into the new year with momentum:

- Expanded Creative Café and student exhibition partnerships
- Continued growth of our Corporate Creativity work
- Deeper engagement with Veteran communities
- New school and district partnerships are already in development

✨ **Together, we create brighter futures through creativity.**
🎨 **Donate today and help keep the arts thriving in San Diego!**

Please consider donating to Arts Education Connection San Diego!

Your gifts support our teaching artists who bring meaningful programs that inspire and educate students through workshops, performances, and multi-week residencies. These programs enrich the lives of students and foster a life-long love for creativity and learning.
Join us in making a positive impact on the lives of students by contributing today!

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