



ARTS ARE ESSENTIAL. LEARNING IS CRITICAL. ARTS IN LEARNING IS TRANSFORMATIVE.

For Immediate Release

July 15, 2022

Contact: Adrienne Valencia, Executive Director

adrienne@artsedsd.org

619.550.3068

**ARTS EDUCATION CONNECTION SAN DIEGO AWARDED CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL
JUMP STARTS GRANT**

State funds support programming in San Diego County Juvenile Court and Community Schools.

SAN DIEGO, CA - Arts Education Connection San Diego (AECSD) announces it has been awarded \$45,000 from the California Arts Council to support its Art Works and Theater Works Fellowship program in local Juvenile Court and Community Schools. These two programs provide at-risk youth with theater and visual arts training along with professional skill building to create a pathway to understanding the arts as a creative, fulfilling, and viable career.

The Art Works Fellowship uses the visual arts to prepare students for college and careers. Fellows enrolled in this program learn visual art skills in photography, drawing and printmaking. They meet artists from a variety of industries and are mentored by teaching and practicing artists to develop their capstone project. Once a week, students gather virtually to interview art professionals and learn professional development skills. Students from all three sites participate in three field trips to local cultural partners. Guest speakers provide real life work examples that support students' learning and production of capstone projects.

The Theatre Works Fellowship is a partnership between AECSD, JCCS' Monarch School, and the San Diego Repertory Theatre. Theatre Works is rooted in performance, connecting concepts and practical application to the business and industry of the Theatre. The lead teaching artist provides mentorship, guiding Fellows' exploration of the theatre arts to meet their specific interests, college major, and career focus. Fellows observe professionals at The Rep, including actors, costumers, directors, front of house manager, lighting specialists, prop and stage managers. Fellows attend rehearsals, performances, tech check, and job-shadowing at The Rep. Student cohorts meet twice a week, and individually with the teaching artist to receive feedback and support as they develop their exhibition, performances, and capstone projects.

"We are thrilled to receive this funding that allows us to continue our long-standing partnerships with the JCCS," says executive director Adrienne Valencia. "It allows us to grow our relationships with these students, helping them to become the next generation of artists and teachers."

Arts Education Connection San Diego was featured as part of a [larger announcement](#) from the California Arts Council, with grant awards for its Cycle A programming totaling more than \$31 million across more than 1,100 grants supporting nonprofit organizations and units of government

Arts Education Connection San Diego provides high-quality education programs that inspire students of all ages to reach their full potential through music, dance, theater, visual art and literary arts.



throughout the state. The dollar amount already marks the largest annual investment in the California Arts Council's 46-year history.

"We are elated today to be able to say that, with this first round of funds, we are placing a historic amount of money into the very worthy hands of California's arts and cultural workforce—and with more yet to come," said California Arts Council Chair Lilia Gonzáles-Chávez. "We have long since understood the value of our artists in this state, and we are incredibly grateful to our Governor and our Legislature for their support and sharing in a like-minded vision for a California where all people flourish with access to and participation in the arts."

Organizations were awarded grants across seven different program areas within Cycle A, focused on the CAC's efforts to address geographic equity, enable autonomy and sustainability for smaller organizations, and grow the strength of local arts agencies and their partnerships.

To view a complete listing of all California Arts Council grantees by county, [visit this link](#). For a complete listing of grantees by organization, [go to this link](#).

About Arts Education Connection San Diego

Since 1963, Arts Education Connection San Diego (formerly known as Arts for Learning San Diego, a Young Audiences Affiliate) has provided a wide array of arts-based education programs to students of all ages in schools and community venues. Arts Education Connection San Diego engages professional teaching and ensemble artists to provide high-quality arts based educational programs in all art forms for students, educators, families and communities; advocating, leading and advancing education through the arts. They envision a world where all students, families and communities imagine, create and thrive through the arts. www.artsedsd.org

About the California Arts Council

The **California Arts Council** is a state agency with a mission of strengthening arts, culture, and creative expression as the tools to cultivate a better California for all. It supports local arts infrastructure and programming statewide through grants, initiatives, and services. The California Arts Council envisions a California where all people flourish with universal access to and participation in the arts.

Members of the California Arts Council include: Lilia Gonzáles-Chávez, Chair; Consuelo Montoya, Vice Chair; Gerald Clarke, Vicki Estrada, Jodie Evans, Ellen Gavin, Alex Israel, Phil Mercado, and Roxanne Messina Captor. Learn more at www.arts.ca.gov.

The California Arts Council is committed to increasing the accessibility of its online content. For language and accessibility assistance, visit <https://arts.ca.gov/about/about-us/language-communications-assistance>.

###

Arts Education Connection San Diego provides high-quality education programs that inspire students of all ages to reach their full potential through music, dance, theater, visual art and literary arts.