

Arts for Learning San Diego

A Young Audiences Affiliate

Summer 2021

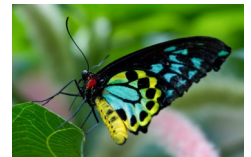


Dear Friends,

Anyone who knows me knows that I am obsessed with butterflies. I am in awe of their beauty and the process that it takes to go from caterpillar to butterfly - it's truly a miracle every time it happens. In some cultures, butterflies are symbolic of endurance, change, hope, and life. Fun Facts: did you know that caterpillars actually liquify when they are in their chrysalis? And that the DNA of a butterfly is different than the DNA of the same caterpillar? Even so, studies suggest that a butterfly will remember its "caterpillar days" and return to the same plant where it began its life journey.* Isn't that fascinating??

At A4LSD, we're seeing the same transformative effects that the arts can have on our young people. Read on to learn more about how we're using the arts to positively change lives.

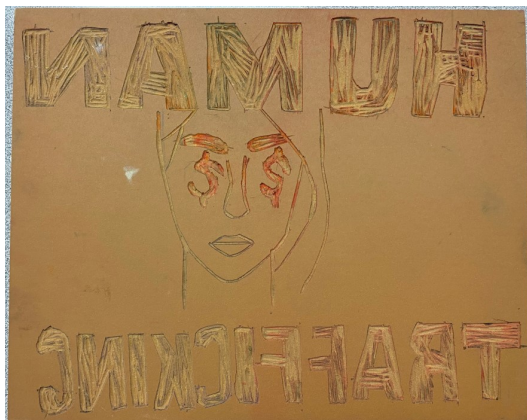
*Source: Science Insider



Program Spotlight—Juvenile Court and Community Schools

Over the past three years, Arts for Learning San Diego has built a robust arts partnership with San Diego County Office of Education's Juvenile Court and Community Schools (JCCS).* Students in these schools are credit deficient because of inconsistent school attendance or prior drop out. Services are provided to students who are incarcerated, pregnant or parenting, in foster care, expelled, chronically truant, in drug treatment centers and group homes for neglected or abused children, and students experiencing homelessness. These students have experienced challenges that most of us will probably ever know or understand. Still, they show **resiliency, endurance and hope** for their future.

Teaching Artists Diana Cervera and Lorain Khalil Rihan work with these teens by teaching them positive self-expression through poetry and printmaking. They explore difficult subjects such as animal welfare, pollution, gang violence and human trafficking. They learn not only the techniques and concepts behind the art form, but also the history and how people throughout the ages have communicated through art. Visit [Notes from the Field: ArtWorks: A Visual Arts Career and Technology Education Program \(artsforlearningsd.org\)](https://artsforlearningsd.org) to learn more about this program through the eyes of Program Manager, Keri Jhaveri.



*This program is generously funded by the California Arts Council, a state agency, and the Ruth and Joseph C. Reed Foundation for the Arts.

Our students need art as a means to express themselves. Even though they may be detained, their voice is free. ~Amanda Wallace, Arts Technician, JCCS

"I Am" Poem by JCCS Student Kimberly

I'm Kimberly

I am made of a place of heat, of beauty, and the history of my past.

*My mom who always fought for our future to be better
always advised us and supported us
to become good people like now.*

*She always tells us that everything is difficult,
That life is difficult but not impossible, and those tips make me
try harder to achieve my goals.*

*I am made of memories, photos, happiness, unity and
understanding.*

My roots are of respect and of being successful in life.

I am Kimberly.



Changes are coming!

In our last newsletter, I mentioned that there are some exciting changes in the works at A4LSD. Many of our long-time supporters may remember that we are part of the Young Audiences network, with affiliate offices across the country. We joined this network in 1967, so it's a big part of our history. However, it comes with a cost - and the annual dues that we pay to remain an affiliate have become unsustainable for our organization. The pandemic affected us greatly and so we have found it necessary to take every action to remain financially viable and ensure that we can continue serving our community. With that as our goal, we have decided to leave the YA network this summer, and will be announcing a new name and logo (both our name and the "sun" logo are licensed to us by the national office)! Please note that **this change will not affect our mission**—we remain committed to providing quality education programs for students throughout San Diego County.

To close out this newsletter, I thought I'd share a little about myself. A few months ago, **ShoutOut So Cal** did a feature on my journey in the arts. Visit <https://shoutoutsocal.com/meet-adrienne-valencia-executive-director-arts-administrator/> to learn how the arts have impacted my life.



Thanks so much for staying with us as we press on towards greater impact in the coming months!
Stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay creative.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Adrienne Valencia".

Adrienne Valencia, Executive Director
Arts for Learning San Diego



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