



ARTS EDUCATION CONNECTION

— SAN DIEGO —

Our Commitment to Transparency & Trust

At Arts Education Connection San Diego, our staff and Board of Directors are deeply committed to financial transparency, ethical leadership, and full legal compliance. We value the trust our donors, partners, and the community place in us, and we take that responsibility seriously.

To ensure the highest standards, AECSD follows best practices outlined by the National Council for Nonprofits. For the past six years, we have proudly maintained the Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar, recognizing our commitment to open and accurate nonprofit reporting.

AECSD has earned a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator since 2024, further affirming our strong financial health and accountability.

Your support fuels meaningful, high-quality arts education across San Diego County, and we're honored to steward every dollar with integrity and care.



A Mother's Day Gift That Gives Back

Looking for a meaningful way to celebrate Mother's Day this year? We're excited to partner with Kendra Scott for a special giveback event, where your purchase supports arts education across San Diego.

Join Us In Person
Westfield UTC
Tuesday, May 6
5:00–7:00 PM

Prefer to Shop Online?
May 6 & 7 (all day)
Use code: GIVEBACK-LPUQN

20% of all sales will be donated to Arts Education Connection San Diego—helping us bring the joy and richness of the arts into schools and communities across our region.

Your support helps us:

- Pay our teaching artists a livable wage
- Keep programs accessible for schools, libraries, and community partners
- Expand creative opportunities for students of all backgrounds

Celebrate the moms and mother figures in your life with something beautiful—while investing in creativity, confidence, and connection for San Diego students.



San Pasqual Academy

We're excited to showcase a new student art exhibition at the San Diego Central Library, featuring artwork created by students from San Pasqual Academy as part of our partnership with Juvenile Court and Community Schools (JCCS).

Opening May 22nd and running through June 22nd, this exhibition is supported by a generous grant from the Prebys Foundation and reflects the power of arts education to support identity development, confidence, and creative expression.

A special reception with the students will take place on June 4 at 12:15 p.m.

Join us in celebrating these young artists and the vital role the arts play in strengthening our community.



Cheers to Community Support 

Last month, we teamed up with our friends at Ponce's Mexican Restaurant and Mijenta Tequila for a special Arts in Education Month fundraiser, and our community showed up in a big way. Through the "Las Artes" margarita, supporters helped us raise over \$500 to bring arts education programs to students across San Diego County.

We're incredibly grateful to Ponce's, Mijenta, and everyone who participated. Partnerships like these help us continue delivering high-quality arts experiences in schools, libraries, and community spaces, ensuring students have access to creativity, connection, and self-expression.

Want to get involved? Support our mission by making a donation, attending an upcoming event, or partnering with us to bring arts experiences to your school or organization.

Together, we're transforming learning through the arts. 🍷✨



Stand Up for Arts & Culture in San Diego

San Diego's arts and culture community is facing a critical moment. Proposed City budget cuts threaten funding that supports local arts organizations, working artists, and the programs that bring creativity, connection, and opportunity into our schools and neighborhoods. These cuts don't just impact organizations; they impact students, families, and communities across our region.

Last week, our Program Director, Deirdre Moore, stood alongside our teaching artists and fellow arts advocates at a public rally calling for the City to protect funding for arts and culture. We showed up, and now we need our community to do the same. At Arts Education Connection San Diego, we see firsthand how vital this support is. City funding helps make it possible to:

- Pay teaching artists a livable wage in San Diego
- Keep programs affordable (or free) for schools, libraries, and community partners

- Ensure students, regardless of zip code, have access to arts education

We need your voice. Here's how you can take action:

Contact City Leadership

- Mayor Todd Gloria - mayor@sandiego.gov | (619) 236-6330
- You can also contact your City Council representative:
<https://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil>



Contact the Media

- The San Diego Union-Tribune
- letters@sduniontribune.com

Let them know: **Cuts to arts and culture funding are not acceptable.**



Show Up in Person

- City Budget Hearing
- May 6 at 9:00 AM
- City Administration Building (202 C Street, San Diego)

Arts & culture funding will be discussed, and this is a key moment to be present and visible.

This is bigger than a line item in a budget.

It's about protecting opportunities for young people, sustaining working artists, and investing in San Diego's creative heartbeat. Your voice matters. Your presence matters.

Stand with us. Show up for arts & culture. 🎨



Reconnect Your Team Through Creativity

In today's fast-paced work environment, teams need more than standard meetings and routine team building; they need connection, joy, and space to think differently. AECSD's Corporate Creativity Workshops offer engaging, hands-on arts experiences that strengthen communication, reduce stress, and spark fresh ideas.

Through rhythm, storytelling, and movement, teams build empathy, collaboration, and shared purpose, creating meaningful experiences that last beyond the workshop.

👉 Learn more about our Corporate Creativity Workshops and explore options for your team at our [website](#).

We're grateful to be a community partner with San Diego Gas & Electric and appreciate their continued investment in the well-being of our region. In their April message, SDG&E announced that customers will receive a California Climate Credit on their energy bills, a meaningful step to support households while advancing a more sustainable future for all.

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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