

Arts for Learning San Diego

A Young Audiences Affiliate

Spring 2021



Dear Friends,

Although we don't really get a true Winter in Southern California, we definitely feel the promise of new energy in the air here at Arts for Learning San Diego as Spring arrives. Our teaching artists continue to provide engaging lessons via distance learning, and staff members have been busy building connections for the future. Here are some highlights from the past couple of months:



Program Spotlight - Dance at Ibarra Elementary

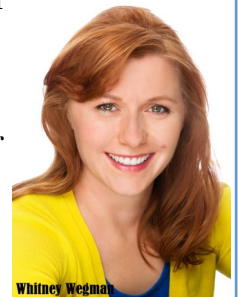


Teaching Artist Cybele Peña has been working with 3rd graders at Ibarra Elementary on connecting dance to multiculturalism, literacy, and science. Her classes help kids explore and understand a variety of cultures through movement and stories. They also get a chance to create original choreography, learning to express themselves through the medium of dance. This program is generously funded by the **Downtown San Diego Lion's Club Welfare Foundation** and the **Carrie Anne Fipps Memorial Scholarship Fund**. Carrie Anne was a founding member of *City Moves!*. She performed and was active in the organization until her untimely death in 1996 at the age of fifteen. In 1999, a scholarship was established in her name to give a deserving student the opportunity to study dance. This year, the fund will provide residencies in schools without dance programs. Through these classes, Carrie's legacy of dedication, passion, and leadership lives on.



Teaching Artist Spotlight—Whitney Wegman, Theater

Do you remember how you learned chemistry, the Periodic Table, and how elements interact? Probably by reading a textbook (boring) or experimenting in the classroom (more interesting but also more dangerous). Now, imagine using theater to embody the character of the elements and what happens when they come together. Theater teaching artist **Whitney Wegman** is doing just that! Fifth graders at Village Elementary in Coronado USD are enjoying lessons that create a unique blend of theater and science. They develop characters to portray the properties of different elements and demonstrate on video how they react with one another. One classroom teacher praised Whitney saying, *"I just wanted to express my appreciation for what you have given these kiddos! Their videos show so much personality. Some of them have made it a family affair, which is so heartwarming. Others have used their peers as part of their work, which is beyond valuable for a group of online learners. They show they have figured out a way to bond - there are no boundaries to relationships. I knew this would be fun, but it is so much more. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!"*



You can learn more about Whitney by visiting her website: www.whitneywegmanwood.com.

Want to learn a theater exercise yourself? Watch this two minute segment of Whitney teaching about how using tempo in your voice influences character.

Try it at home! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vHrUm6musVs>.

www.artsforlearningsd.org

619.550.3068

New Board Members - Welcome to the family!

We are thrilled to have recently welcomed six new board members to the A4LSD family. These community leaders bring not only great energy and support, but also a spectrum of diverse professional backgrounds, and perspectives that will help to guide us now and into our future.

Brian Cerasoli, MBA: Staff Accountant, Rady Children's Hospital

Joy Freeman, MHR: Manager, Human Resources, San Diego Airport Authority

Kristin Kurth, MA: Operations Manager, Thrive Public Schools

Karah Lain, MFA: Assistant Professor of Visual Art, Point Loma Nazarene University

Rein Townsend, MEd: Director of Admissions - Regional and Online Campuses, University of La Verne

"I am delighted to welcome such a stellar group of new Board members," says Board President Jamey Murphy. "Each person brings a wealth of experience in their fields and will be tremendous assets to our Board. I look forward to serving with each of them in the coming year as we continue to engage, elevate, inspire, and transform the community through arts education."



Brian Cerasoli



Joy Freeman



Kristin Kurth



Karah Lain



Rein Townsend

A Generous Gift from a Familiar Face

In January, we were awarded nearly \$10,000 from the Dr. Seuss Fund at the San Diego Foundation. This grant will benefit our Family Arts Workshops at the Encinitas Library, a series that encourages literacy, family bonding and community building through the arts. We're so grateful for this vital support!



We are partnering with SDG&E to help spread the word about important topics.

Did you know that certain medical needs may qualify you or someone in your home for savings every month on your gas and electric bill? Apply for SDG&E's Medical Baseline Allowance program if you need to use more energy due to a qualifying medical condition or to prevent an existing condition from getting worse.

Examples include:

- A requirement for permanent space heating or cooling due to paraplegia, quadriplegia, hemiplegia, multiple sclerosis, scleroderma, a compromised immune system or a life-threatening illness.
- Required use of a life-support device, such as an aerosol tent, apnea monitor, kidney dialysis machine, motorized wheelchair or respirator (devices used for therapy don't qualify; only medical devices that sustain life or are needed for mobility qualify).

To get a Medical Baseline Allowance application and more information, visit sdge.com/medical or call 1-800-411-7343. Eligibility requirements include having a physician sign your application to certify the medical need.

We have some exciting changes happening, so watch for future newsletters as we share our transformation -- and invite you to be a part of it!

Stay safe. Stay healthy. Stay creative.

Adrienne Valencia, Executive Director
Arts for Learning San Diego

