



Dear Friends,

We hope that you and your family are well and staying healthy. Here are a few updates on what's been happening: We are so grateful for our school and community partners who value arts education as we do!

Honoring Our Military

"Arts for Learning San Diego has always provided us opportunities to be together & hear amazing stories by amazing people! These programs are so beneficial, especially while my husband is deployed."

As we just observed Memorial Day, I'm reminded of how important our military families are to our community here in San Diego. We love connecting with our active military through our arts programs at

LINCOLN MILITARY HOUSING

Every Mission Begins at Home®

Through our partnership that started in 2009, families have found new ways of bonding with creativity. Here is a great video that shows you all the fun and impact of this outreach in 60 seconds!* <https://vimeo.com/418529293>



Program Spotlight—Virtual Dance Class!

Rowan Elementary (San Diego Unified School District) is a Title 1 school, meaning that a high percentage of their students qualify for free or reduced-priced lunch. We have been working with Rowan for a few years now, providing year-long residencies - 10 weeks of visual art, 10 weeks of dance, and 10 weeks of drumming – to their entire student body.

"My kids were excited when they found out this was going to happen today! Their dad even set up a web cam on the TV so Ms. Kanna would show up on the TV. Thanks for setting this up!"

With the support of Principal Nicole Weber (who, by the way, only joined the school in February), dance teaching artist Kanna Burch began teaching students via Zoom a couple of weeks ago. Kanna electronically meets with 10-15 kids twice a week for 40 minutes, teaching them the basics of hip hop dance. She also teaches modified dance to special education children each week for 30 minutes. If students aren't able to join the class in real time, she provides a recorded video, so that all students can keep up with their dance lessons. She is able to do this from her home studio that her handy husband, Tyger, created for her!

*"My daughters had fun! Thanks Ms. Kanna and Rowan staff."
-Mrs. Sanchez, Rowan Parent*

That's creativity, innovation and collaboration at work.





Support from State and Local Funders

Did you read the good news? You might have seen our [Facebook \[link\]](#) announcement about the five fantastic grants we received from the California Arts Council, our state arts agency. Through a fiercely competitive process, we were awarded funding that will allow us to:

- bring meaningful programs to students in the **Juvenile Court and Community Schools**,
- provide year-long residencies at **Ocean Beach Elementary**,
- share the art form of tap dance through performances of our enthusiastic ensemble **California Rhythm Project in various schools (or online)**,
- work with a strategic planning expert to help plan our future, and
- continue the professional development of our amazing staff.



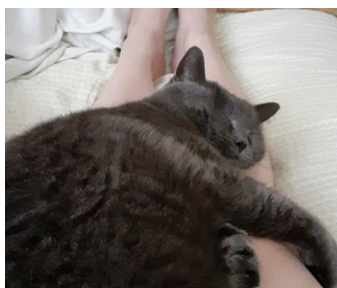
Thank you, California Arts Council!

In addition, we are very excited to announce that we are a recipient of The San Diego Arts + Culture Challenge Fund of the San Diego Foundation! With this funding we will be able to continue to move our programs online, serving students and families in San Diego and beyond. Many thanks to the San Diego Regional Arts and Culture Coalition, San Diego Foundation, and The City of San Diego! **These grants plus your generous donations have helped us be agile and kept us vital through an extraordinary time. You have helped us transform.**



Can You Relate?

So many people are working from home now and let's face it – it's challenging. But there are also some unanticipated benefits. I've been able to have meetings not just with my co-workers but their spouses, children, and pets. My own cat Coalette has been known to make a cameo appearance in many Zoom calls! I recently had a great phone call/catch-up session with my colleague Bridget Cavaiola, the Director of Learning at the La Jolla Playhouse. Here's a funny window on our text exchange afterwards:



If we had been on Zoom, this is what you would've seen.



Same.

What would we do without our fur friends?? **And what would we do without you?** I'd like to extend my gratitude for your time, attention and donations to this little arts organization that could. We are small but mighty and committed to serving our community. Thanks for being in this with us!