



ARTS EDUCATION CONNECTION

— SAN DIEGO —

There's so much to celebrate as we welcome fall!

This summer was filled with creativity, learning, and joyful arts experiences for students across San Diego, and we're excited to share highlights with you. As we head into a new season, we also have plenty of good news, from renewed support for the arts through the City of San Diego's OSP program to new faces on our Board of Directors and some special anniversaries worth celebrating.

And with Giving Tuesday just around the corner, it's also a wonderful time to reflect on what makes all of this possible: the artists, educators, partners, supporters, and friends who believe in the power of the arts to transform learning.

We hope you'll enjoy catching up on what we've been up to and celebrating what's ahead!



Cultural
Affairs



PREBYS
FOUNDATION

Grateful for OSP Support and Looking Ahead

We are grateful to once again receive support through the City of San Diego's Organizational Support Program (OSP), which helps nonprofit arts and culture organizations like Arts Education Connection San Diego continue bringing meaningful arts experiences to schools and communities throughout our region.

This support is especially meaningful after a period of uncertainty surrounding arts and culture funding in San Diego. We are also deeply grateful to the Prebys Foundation for stepping forward to help support the arts community during this challenging time. Their commitment helped organizations like ours continue our work while reinforcing how important a strong, vibrant arts and culture sector is to San Diego.

Receiving our OSP grant is wonderful news, but more work remains. Short-term solutions provide critical support, but San Diego's arts organizations need stable, sustainable public investment to plan for the future, support working artists, retain talented staff, and make arts experiences accessible to communities across the city.

We're celebrating this important step forward, and we remain hopeful that it will be part of a continued commitment to investing in the arts and the many people and communities they serve.



Save the Date: Giving Tuesday is December 1st

Giving Tuesday is coming up on December 1, and we hope you'll join us for this global day of generosity!

Every day, Arts Education Connection San Diego brings the joy and richness of the arts into schools and communities throughout our region. Your support helps us partner with talented teaching artists, reach more learners, and create opportunities to experience music, dance, theatre, visual art, literary arts, and more.

This Giving Tuesday, we'll be celebrating the impact that happens when our community comes together to make the arts a part of learning. Whether you give, share our campaign with friends and family, or help spread the word on social media, you can play a part.

Mark your calendar for December 1st, and stay tuned for more details!



Creativity, Storytelling & a Workshop Worth Repeating!

This summer, Arts Education Connection San Diego partnered with the Armed Services Arts Partnership (ASAP) to offer a Comic Creation Workshop for veterans led by Teaching Artist Eddie Gallagher—and the reviews are in!

Participants overwhelmingly praised Eddie for creating a welcoming, supportive, and engaging environment where they could explore visual storytelling, develop their ideas, and build their skills. They described him as knowledgeable, encouraging, attentive, and full of positive energy. One participant shared, “Mr. Eddie was a fun teacher who explained everything clearly and shared some great pointers. He supported all students in the class while sharing his talents.” Another reflected on how Eddie helped simplify the storytelling process, saying, “You simplified my process. I am grateful.”

Perhaps the best indication of the workshop’s success? Participants said they would enthusiastically sign up for a six-week class, with others expressing interest if their schedules allowed. The most common request was simple: more time to create!

We’re grateful to ASAP, Eddie, and everyone who participated and shared their feedback. Experiences like this remind us that meaningful arts learning doesn’t have an age limit, and sometimes a few hours of creativity can leave you wanting much more.



Welcome to Our Board, Francesca Isabella Towers!

We're delighted to welcome artist Francesca Isabella Towers to the Arts Education Connection San Diego Board of Directors!

Francesca is a contemporary abstract painter whose vibrant work explores emotion, consciousness, resilience, and the richness of the human experience. Through a distinctive visual language of playful forms, bold color, and expressive compositions, her work celebrates curiosity, joy, and the many ways art can help us see and experience the world differently. As a working artist, Francesca brings a valuable creative perspective to our Board and a deep appreciation for the role the arts can play in our lives and communities. We're excited to have her voice, ideas, and passion as part of AECSA as we continue expanding access to meaningful arts experiences throughout San Diego.

Please join us in giving Francesca a warm welcome!



Welcome to Our Board, Ilana Lopez!

We're excited to welcome Ilana Lopez, M.Ed., to the Arts Education Connection San Diego Board of Directors!

Ilana brings extensive experience in education, nonprofit leadership, community engagement, and educational equity. She currently serves as Director of Education Initiatives for the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA), where her work focuses on educational initiatives, outreach, and supporting advocates and families of students with disabilities.

Before joining COPAA, Ilana spent eight years at the University of San Diego, where she helped create community-based youth programs in partnership with Title I schools and community organizations. Throughout her career, she has been passionate about expanding educational opportunities and supporting students and families who have historically faced barriers to accessing them.

Ilana's commitment to educational equity and inclusive learning aligns beautifully with AECSD's work to make meaningful arts experiences accessible to learners of all backgrounds and abilities. We're grateful to have her experience, perspective, and passion on our Board.

Please join us in welcoming Ilana to AECSD!



Eight Years of Making a Difference Times Two!

September gave us an extra reason to celebrate at Arts Education Connection San Diego! Deirdre Moore and Erika Paul both marked eight years with AECSD this month, with Deirdre celebrating her anniversary on September 24 and Erika on September 25.

As part of our Programs team, Deirdre has played an important role in supporting and coaching our Teaching Artists, building relationships with school partners, and helping create meaningful arts experiences for students and educators throughout San Diego. Her history with the organization actually goes back even further; Deirdre first worked with us as a Teaching Artist when we were still known as Young Audiences before returning to join the staff in 2018.

Behind the scenes, Erika helps keep so many pieces of AECSD moving as our Operations Administrator. From accounting and grant review to website updates and the countless details that keep a nonprofit organization running, Erika's knowledge, reliability, and willingness to jump in wherever she is needed are invaluable to our team.

Over the past eight years, Deirdre and Erika have been part of tremendous growth and change at AECSD. They've helped us navigate challenges, embrace new opportunities, and continue evolving while staying focused on bringing the joy and richness of the arts to schools and communities.

Deirdre and Erika, thank you for eight wonderful years of dedication to AECSD!



Help Shape the Future of Arts Education in San Diego

Are you passionate about education, creativity, and building stronger communities? We'd love to meet you.

Arts Education Connection San Diego is seeking enthusiastic, engaged community leaders to join our Board of Directors. Whether your background is in business, education, finance, marketing, fundraising, law, human resources, technology, or another field, your skills and perspective can help expand access to high-quality arts education for students, families, veterans, and communities throughout San Diego.

As a board member, you'll serve as an ambassador for our mission, help strengthen community partnerships, support fundraising efforts, and work alongside a dedicated team committed to ensuring every learner has the opportunity to experience the transformative power of the arts.

Board members are also expected to make a personally meaningful annual financial contribution and actively support the organization's fundraising and advocacy efforts.

If you're ready to make a lasting impact through the arts, we'd love to hear from you. [Learn more](#) about joining our board or [contact](#) Executive Director Adrienne Valencia to start the conversation.



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](#).

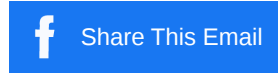
We're grateful to be a community partner with San Diego Gas & Electric and appreciate their continued investment in the well-being of our region. In their April message, SDG&E announced that customers will receive a California Climate Credit on their energy bills, a meaningful step to support households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

[Donate Now](#)



Arts Education Connection San Diego | 1286 University Ave. #267 | San Diego, CA 92103 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!