



Connection is at the Heart of Everything We Do

Summer is a season of growth, creativity, and connection, and that's exactly what we've been celebrating across San Diego.

Every day, we have the privilege of bringing together schools, professional teaching artists, educators, families, community partners, and supporters who believe in the power of the arts to transform learning. These connections create opportunities for San Diegans to discover new talents, build confidence, think creatively, and experience the joy of learning in meaningful ways.

As you'll see throughout this newsletter, your support helps make these connections possible. From summer arts programming in local schools and camps, to showcasing student artwork in our community, to launching new partnerships that expand access to the arts, we're grateful to everyone who is part of this work.

Thank you for helping us build a community where creativity thrives, and every learner has the opportunity to connect, create, and grow. We hope you enjoy this look at what we've been creating together this summer.



Summer Learning Through the Arts

Summer may be out of session for many students, but arts learning is still in full swing!

This summer, Arts Education Connection San Diego is proud to support arts enrichment programming at 10 San Diego Unified schools through the Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) Program. Students are exploring creativity, building confidence, and developing new skills through hands-on experiences in visual art, theatre, dance, music, and more.

In addition to our ELO partnerships, we're bringing the arts to camps in Lemon Grove and at the Creative and Performing Media Arts (CPMA) Middle School, ensuring that even more young people have access to engaging arts experiences during the summer months.

By connecting students with professional teaching artists and high-quality arts programming, we're helping create joyful learning opportunities that foster creativity, self-expression, collaboration, and belonging...all year long.



Student Voices on Display at the Central Library

There's still time to experience the creativity and talent of students from San Pasqual Academy!

Through the end of June, artwork created by SPA students participating in our Healing Through the Arts program is on display in the Pauline Foster Teen Center (2nd FL) at the San Diego Central Library. Supported by The Prebys Foundation, this program provides foster youth with opportunities to explore their innate creativity, develop new skills, and discover the satisfaction of seeing a project through from concept to completion.

This exhibition is a powerful example of the impact of arts education - students experience personal growth, build confidence, patience, perseverance, and problem-solving skills while connecting their work with the broader San Diego community.

If you're downtown before the end of the month, we invite you to stop by and celebrate these remarkable young artists. Their work reflects not only artistic talent but also the dedication, resilience, and growth that arts learning can inspire.



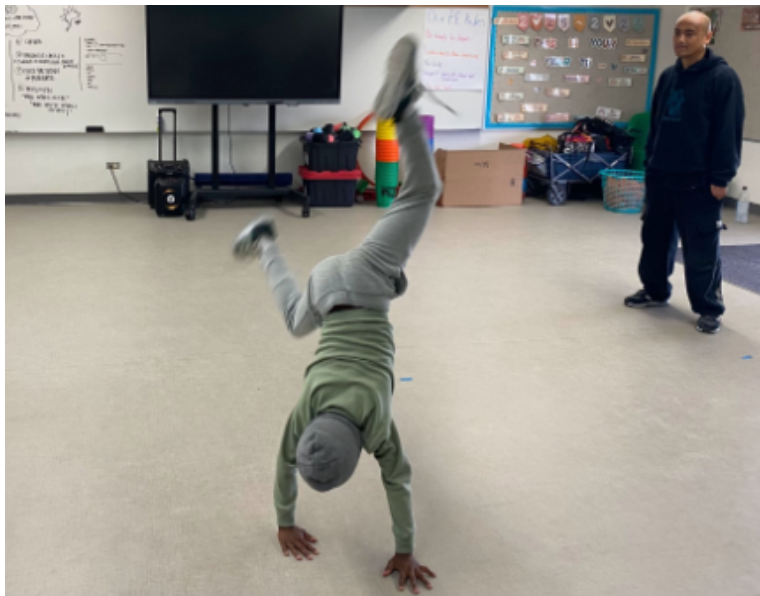
A New Partnership Supporting Our Veteran Community

We're excited to announce a new partnership with Armed Services Arts Partnership (ASAP), a national nonprofit that uses the arts to empower veterans, service members, military spouses, and family members through free, high-quality arts programming.

We're kicking off this collaboration with a Comic Creation Workshop led by AECSD Teaching Artist Eddie Gallagher. Participants will learn how to create their own four-panel comic while exploring character development, storytelling, illustration, and the comic-making process, from brainstorming to finished artwork. Whether you're picking up a pencil for the first time or have years of artistic experience, this workshop is designed to be welcoming, engaging, and fun. This partnership reflects our belief that the arts are for everyone. Creativity has the power to build confidence, foster connection, encourage lifelong learning, and bring people together through shared experiences.

Know a veteran, service member, military spouse, or military family member? Please help us spread the word! We'd love your help connecting our military community with this free opportunity to explore creativity, learn a new skill, and build community through the arts.

[More Info](#)



Good News for Arts Education & Keep the Momentum Going

We are grateful to the San Diego City Department of Cultural Affairs and The Prebys Foundation for partnering to restore Organizational Support Program (OSP) funding for San Diego's arts and culture organizations. This investment is an important step toward strengthening the creative

community and ensuring that organizations like Arts Education Connection San Diego can continue expanding access to arts education and creative experiences for students, educators, veterans, and families.

While this restored funding is welcome news, it doesn't erase the financial challenges facing arts nonprofits. Sustaining and expanding our programs depends on the continued support of individuals, businesses, and community partners who believe in the transformative power of the arts.

There are many ways you can help make a lasting impact:

- Become an individual donor with a one-time or recurring gift. Even \$25/month makes a difference! See our [Donate Now](#) button below.
- Become a corporate sponsor and invest in creative learning opportunities for San Diego students and communities.
- Host a fundraising event, just as our friends at Ponce's Restaurant did, bringing people together while supporting arts education.

Every contribution, large or small, helps us connect more learners with professional teaching artists, expand access to meaningful arts experiences, and ensure the arts remain an essential part of education and community life. Thank you for being part of our story.

[Donate Here](#)



Connecting with School Leaders at the Ninth District PTA Leadership Conference

It was a gorgeous San Diego Saturday, and we were thrilled to participate as an exhibitor at the Ninth District PTA Leadership Conference at the University of San Diego. The event brought together PTA leaders, school volunteers, and educators from across the region for a day of learning, collaboration, and inspiration. Sessions covered topics including leadership, communication, inclusive school communities, fundraising, governance, and strategies to support student success.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our booth to learn more about Arts Education Connection San Diego and the many ways we partner with schools. Whether you're looking for artist residencies, assemblies, family arts nights, after-school enrichment, professional learning for educators, or programs designed to support neurodiverse learners, we're here to help create meaningful arts experiences tailored to your school's needs.

Missed us at the conference? It's not too late to connect! We'd love to learn about your goals for the coming school year and explore how our teaching artists and programs can help bring creativity, connection, and joyful learning to your students, educators, and families. Reach out to start the conversation; we'd love to partner with your school.

[Contact us here!](#)



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!

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