



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 23, 2021

Contact: Adrienne Valencia, Executive Director

[adrienne@artsforlearningsd.org](mailto:adrienne@artsforlearningsd.org)

619.550.3068

### ARTS FOR LEARNING SAN DIEGO RECEIVES GRANT FROM DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO LION'S CLUB

**San Diego, CA** - Arts for Learning San Diego (A4LSD) is pleased to announce that they have received a grant in the amount of \$4,500 from the Downtown San Diego Lion's Club. This funding will support an arts integration program at Ibarra Elementary for students in grades 3-5. Additional funding for this program is provided by the Carrie Ann Fipps Memorial Dance Fund and an individual donor.

"We are so pleased to add the Downtown San Diego Lion's Club to our family of donors," says Executive Director Adrienne Valencia. "They do so much to support our community, especially children who may not otherwise have the resources to participate in quality arts programs."

In this project, teaching artist Cybele Pena will use dance as a new access point to teach multi-culturalism and English Language Arts to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students, and science concepts to 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will explore, gain knowledge of, and understand various cultures through movement and stories. They will be encouraged to share their own culture and personal stories with their classmates by creating original choreography. Students will benefit from this program by learning various forms of dance from different cultures. Without a traditional recess time, students will benefit from the experience of purposefully moving their bodies. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will learn how animals adapt to their environment through creative movement.

"Dance is an effective tool in which to teach abstract concepts and provides a different way of understanding and of expressing understanding, especially because it is a 'non-verbal' language, which is important for English learners," explained Program Manager Deirdre Moore. "Using an art form to teach other academic content creates a vibrant and fun way of learning. Students enjoy their studies more and are more apt to log on to their virtual classes. They learn both subjects more deeply and retain more knowledge. Finally, students will develop more agency by learning how creating their own original choreography is about making choices." The program was created by Ms. Pena in collaboration with the classroom teachers to support learning in these content areas as well as teaching the students skills, vocabulary and concepts in dance.

"We are grateful to the San Diego Downtown Lion's Club and the Fipps Family for providing the crucial funding needed to provide our schools with creative learning opportunities that help our students succeed in these unusual times," says Valencia. "Their vision and dedication to serving students aligns with our own and we couldn't do these quality programs without them."

The program began in mid-January and will run through May 14. Students will be given an opportunity to share their learning with family and friends during an outdoor culminating event.

**About Arts for Learning San Diego:** Arts for Learning San Diego engages professional teaching and ensemble artists to provide high-quality arts based educational programs in all art forms for students, educators, families and communities; advocating, leading and advancing education through the arts. They envision a world where all students, families and communities imagine, create and thrive through the arts.

[www.artsforlearningsd.org](http://www.artsforlearningsd.org)

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