



THE STATE OF ARTS

**DESIGNING FOR CAPACITY,
CREATING WITH COMMUNITY**

Community Impact Report 2022 - 2023



MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our annual community impact report is a celebration of the growth and accomplishments in the past year by the ARTS team and board, a showcase of the impactful art and design projects realized by South County youth and families, and a thank you letter to our partners and supporters who make our work possible, worthwhile, and fun.

What you'll find in these pages is the story of ARTS through the words, images, and experiences of the young people and families engaged in our programs. As an organization with a focus on creative youth development, we approach program design, events, campaigns, and partnership through three lenses: lifting up youth voice, advancing racial equity and social justice, and catalyzing collective action.

At the heart of this is the collaboration, mentorship, and relationship-building that takes place between teaching artists and youth. What the last year has reinforced is how central art-making is for heightening our ability to care for and notice the best in others, and how by mobilizing creative energy for positive change we create a community rooted in a sense of belonging and possibility.

This document is also a creative work in itself. The design and style, copy and content have emerged through the collective efforts of a talented team of artists, culture bearers, community leaders, and nonprofit professionals. I couldn't be more proud to work alongside them, and I look forward to this year ahead.

Sincerely,
James Halliday
Executive Director, ARTS



OUR MISSION

ARTS lifts young people in the South County region of San Diego to become confident, compassionate, and courageous community builders through the transformative power of creativity.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ARTS 4 Justice/ ARTS @ Work

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Program Coordinator
Community ARTS

GUILLERMO SANTIAGO

Operations Specialist

ADA SHIDO

People & Culture Coordinator

OLIMPIA VÁZQUEZ OJEDA

Programs Manager



2013



INOCENTE

2013

ARTS wins an Oscar for short documentary "Inocente" -- the story of a young woman's creative journey while struggling with conditions of homelessness.

2017 - 2018



PARADISE CREEK GATHERING PLACE

2022

2022: ARTS' 10th year in National City, the organization serves more than 600 youth and families through programming, community events (Dia de los Muertos Festival and STEAM Day), and a series of exhibitions/ events in the ARTS Gallery.

2016 - 2022

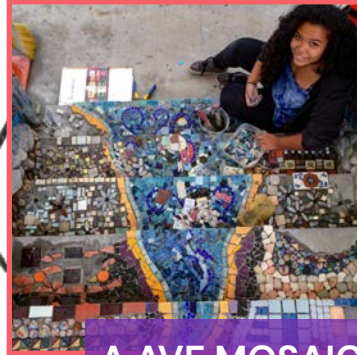


MARKET MAKEOVERS

2012

ARTS moves into the 20,000 sq. ft. building in National City -- former site of National City Public Library. ARTS Center named in honor of the founder's mother, Pat D'Arrigo. Launch "Heal. Engage. Inspire." program, Creating Vibrant Neighborhoods Initiative to serve hundreds of youth.

2014 - 2016



A AVE MOSAIC

2020

ARTS shifts all programming to virtual as a result of the pandemic. Serves more than 1,200 youth over almost two years, while distributing more than 1,500 ARTS Care Kits and 800 free meals to ARTS families.

2007

ARTS opens first office in Liberty Station, develops innovative arts education programming and support services for youth facing critical life challenges.

2001

Our first year of operations, working with Rady Children's Hospital and Ronald McDonald House. Focus: providing therapeutic arts to youth facing severe challenges.

2016 - 2021



H&M GOODIES AUCTION HOUSE & PARCO MURAL

2018

ARTS hires its third (and current) Executive Director. The organization shifts to a place-based focus serving the South County region of San Diego, serving youth with a healing-centered approach to arts and design education for K-12 youth and young adults.



THROUGH THE YEARS *



COMMUNITY IMPACT 22-23 *

32%

REVENUE from contracted services

759

YOUTH SERVED

1700+

COMMUNITY MEMBERS IMPACTED

23

POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS

- Anakbayan San Diego
- Art of Elan
- Casa Familiar / The Front Arte Cultura
- City of National City
- County of San Diego/ Health & Human Services Agency
- Filipino Migrant Center
- Fleet Science Center
- Institute for Public Strategies
- Juvenile Court and Community Schools (JCCS) District
- Mesa College, Museum Studies Program
- Museum of Contemporary Art SD
- National School District
- Ocean Connectors
- Olivewood Gardens & Learning Center
- San Diego Unified School District
- San Ysidro Health
- San Ysidro School District
- San Diego Creative Youth Development Network & Clare Rose Center
- SDSU, School of Social Work
- SBCS
- South Bay LGBTQ Center
- Sweetwater Union High School District
- Young Lions Jazz Conservatory

45

THE ARTS TEAM
Interns, Volunteers,
Teaching Artists,
& Administrators

OUR PROGRAMS





“I’m giving back to others through the form of art, but I’m also giving back to myself.”

Ada E, Community ARTS (Spring 2023)



Creative art programming & community design projects for teens in the South County region of San Diego

Community ARTS Team

Program Coordinator:
Anna Mia Ruiz

Teaching Artists:
Selina Calvo, Sheena Rae Dowling, Reynaldo Escoto, Kelsey Kenny, Yvette Roman, Christopher Lloyd Tucker

ARTS on Campus Team

Program Coordinator:
Katie Carrion

Teaching Artists:
Sheena Rae Dowling,
Leah Eria, Yessenia
Hulsey, Kelsey Kenny,
Aleya Lanteigne,
Katie Ruiz

Program Assistants:
J Collier, Amayah Gil,
Ever Herder,
Imani T. Robinson



Youth felt more satisfied
in their relationships and
confident in themselves.

*reported in surveys given to youth & families
of ARTS on Campus participants

Multidisciplinary arts
programming and
projects for K-12 youth
at schools and other
community sites.





“What I can do with engineering and what I can do with art, it’s like two of my career options colliding together.”

Zackeriah L, ARTS @ Work (Spring 2023)

ARTS @ Work Team

Program Coordinator:
Terry Matsuoka

Teaching Artists:
Kelsey Kenny, Chris Schaie & Omar Quintero



Workforce development
internships for high school
students interested in
creative industry careers





“The people that were helping me... they’re good people. There’s days where... you know, just one of those days... they helped me get through it, they’re always there.”

Alfredo, ARTS 4 Justice (Spring 2023)

Creative projects that combine arts-based learning with a healing-centered engagement, for justice-impacted youth ages 14-19



ARTS 4 Justice Team

Program Coordinator:
Terry Matsuoka

Teaching Artists:
Rob Tobin & Kelsey Kenny

* CREATIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

ARTS is a nationally recognized creative youth development (CYD) organization, achieving positive youth outcomes through program and project design that centers skill-building, relationship-building, and community-building.

RACIAL EQUITY &



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Creating an even playing field where young people's needs are understood, their stories are heard, and they are treated as equals.



(www.creativeyouthdevelopment.org/what-is-cyd)

YOUTH VOICE



Youth speak for themselves and have voices that are valuable.

COLLECTIVE ACTION

It takes a community to create change, to generate new ideas, and to shake the system.





COMMUNITY EVENTS



As the former home of the National City Public Library, the ARTS Center has always been a space open to the community. In our first full year post-pandemic, ARTS opened its doors more than ever with a range of events that showcased the best of youth artwork, local partnerships, and cultural exchange in its most communal form.



IN THE *
COMMUNITY

OPEN STUDIO

A unique series of monthly art-making workshops, led by ARTS teaching artists and local creatives, intended for multi-generational groups of 30-40 participants. Examples included: collage, sewing, ceramics, cyanotypes, robotics, etc.



OPEN HOUSE

Open Houses in Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 were the culminating experiences of our programming seasons, with an exhibition of youth work in the ARTS Gallery, panels and performances led by program participants, and hundreds of guests – from family and friends, to neighborhood residents and community leaders.



NATIONAL CITY'S DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS FESTIVAL



In collaboration with the City of National City, ARTS produced a community altar and festival in Kimball Park involving 60 youth in ARTS programs and more than 100 community members who contributed artwork and installations at the festival.

Following a series of community workshops on themes and creative projects related to Dia de los Muertos, the Festival featured live music and dance performances from partners like Danza Azteca and the Ballet Folklorico club at Sweetwater High School.



Visit our website to learn more about the work and care our community put into this event.





STEAM DAY @ ARTS



Last Spring, we hosted our second annual STEAM Day event at the ARTS Center, where more than 250 youth, families, and visitors explored the "Other Worlds" immersive installations created by ARTS youth and teaching artists, and took part in STEAM-themed activities presented by our National City STEAM Collaborative partners.



Visit our website to learn more about the work and care our community put into this event.

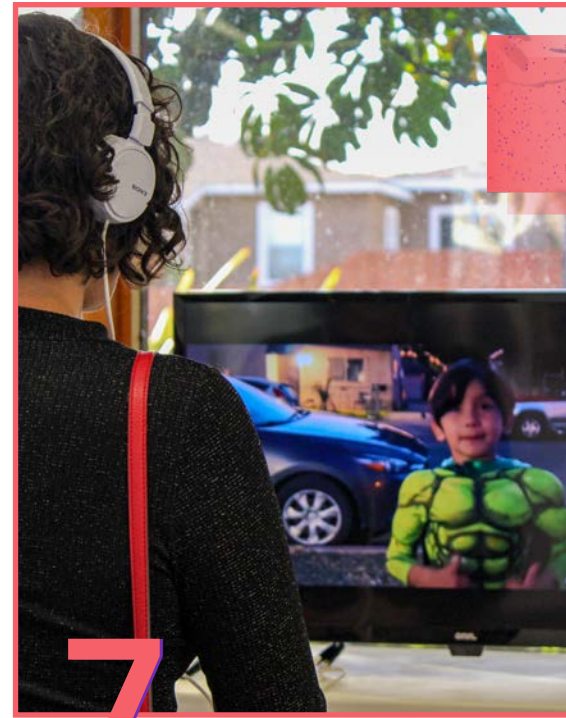




1700+ VISITORS

The ARTS Gallery extends the mission of the organization — to provide a space where artists of all ages come together with creativity, courage, and compassion to build community.

ARTS is committed especially to: supporting young artists learn and flourish; fostering collaboration between youth and teaching artists; and opening a safe, welcoming space where creatives in our binational region can show work and share ideas, regardless of age, status, and abilities.



7 EXHIBITIONS



INTERNSHIPS **3**



COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS & EVENTS **21**

* BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF CARE

ARTS adopted the “CARMA” Principles as building blocks for integrating our healing and self-care practices into our programs in order to foster positive social-emotional development in young people and augment our programmatic framework, Creative Youth Development (CYD). Developed by Dr. Shawn Ginwright and the Flourish Agenda, the CARMA Principles are: Culture, Agency, Relationships, Meaning, and Aspirations.

As a team, we take time each week to make sure we are honoring and exploring these principles through activities and check-ins with each other.

As an organization, we make an effort in our design of programs and in planning our community events to embed these principles into what we offer, how we share space with others, and how we show up.



CULTURE
The values and norms that connect us to a shared identity.



AGENCY

The individual and collective power to act, create and change personal conditions and external systems.

RELATIONSHIPS

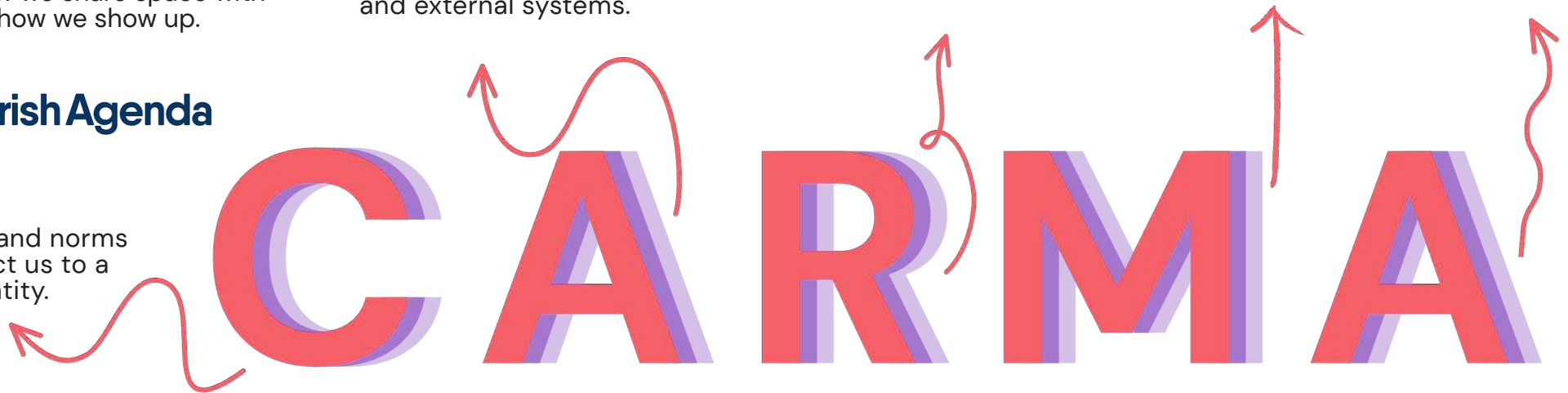
The capacity to create, sustain and grow healthy connections with others.

MEANING

The profound discovery of who we are, why we are, and what purpose we were born to serve.

ASPIRATIONS

The capacity to imagine, set and accomplish goals for personal and collective livelihood and advancement, and the exploration of possibilities for our lives and the process of accomplishing goals for personal and collective livelihood.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Foundations:



CLARE ROSE
FOUNDATION



& Jay Kahn Endowment Fund



THE
CONRAD PREBYS
FOUNDATION



PRICE
PHILANTHROPIES



& Liwerant Family Foundation



JASON MRAZ FOUNDATION

Cowlin Family Foundation
Sager Family Foundation

ROBERT T KEELER FOUNDATION

Government:



City of San Diego,
Commission for
Arts & Culture

County of San Diego,
Supervisor Nora Vargas



Corporate:



ARTS AMBASSADORS

Membership Levels

Join our movement, and a growing community of dedicated supporters, to unlock the creative potential of youth by becoming an ARTS Ambassador — champions for positive change, and the powerful impact of high quality arts education and community-driven projects in the lives of youth!

\$120 Annually

\$10

per month

- ARTS Ambassadors Pin
- Invitations to all of ARTS events
- Special ARTS Ambassador Appreciation events
- Your name listed on the supporters page on our website

\$300 Annually

\$25

per month

- ARTS Ambassadors Pin
- Invitations to all of ARTS events
- Special ARTS Ambassador Appreciation events
- Your name listed on the supporters page on our website
- ARTS Ambassadors Tote Bag

We want to thank the early supporters of our membership program, look out for more opportunities to engage with ARTS coming soon!

\$600 Annually

\$50

per month

- ARTS Ambassadors Pin
- Invitations to all of ARTS events
- Special ARTS Ambassador Appreciation events
- Your name listed on the supporters page on our website
- ARTS Ambassadors Tote Bag
- Tour of the facilities and a Meet & Greet with the ARTS Team
- A printed reproduction of youth artwork

Learn more & sign up on our website:
www.areasontosurvive/membership



\$1,200 Annually

\$100

per month

- ARTS Ambassadors Pin
- Invitations to all of ARTS events
- Special ARTS Ambassador Appreciation events
- Your name listed on the supporters page on our website
- ARTS Ambassadors Tote Bag
- Tour of the facilities and a Meet & Greet with the ARTS Team
- A printed reproduction of youth artwork
- Private use of the ARTS Center for your own event! (Restrictions apply, please contact ambassadors@areasontosurvive.org for more information)



100 DAYS OF ARTS

SEPTEMBER 7TH - DECEMBER 16TH

Over the past year, our organization has achieved remarkable milestones that have strengthened our commitment to building community through the transformative power of creativity.

For planned giving & other options for supporting ARTS please contact: lucy@areasontosurvive.org



We are thrilled to announce the launch of our 100 Days of ARTS campaign. We need your help to make it a success!



DONATE & HELP US SPREAD THE WORD

www.areasontosurvive.org/donate