

Our Programs

For Children

All Inner-City Arts programs provide hands-on instruction in the visual arts, music, dance, drama, ceramics and animation with direct connections to language development. All classes, taught by professional teaching artists in real studio environments, strengthen literacy skills, promote critical thinking and improve academic achievement. Elementary and middle school students are brought to the Inner-City Arts campus during their instructional day. Specialized programs target the needs of kindergarten-third grade English Language Learners and low-performing middle school students in sixth-eighth grades. In a two-semester course taught by CalArts students and graduates, high school students study animation on weekends. Through partnerships with other community groups, 600 children a year attend the after-school program. Program evaluations, enhancements to existing programs, and the development of new programs are ongoing. Most importantly, children who come to Inner-City Arts learn to see themselves as capable of setting and reaching goals.

For Educators

Through the Inner-City Arts—Annenberg Professional Development Program, educators, administrators and other partners in the work of child-centered teaching receive vital support and training. Teachers discover ways to integrate lessons from the studio with classroom instruction in all disciplines, improving overall student performance. All professional development programs, whether single-session workshops or multi-session courses offering salary point credits, feature experiential learning, training in non-judgmental critique, and teacher feedback—cornerstones of the Inner-City Arts approach to arts education that have been proven to boost student achievement. Through the 5,000+ educators that have attended our professional development programs, it has been estimated that Inner-City Arts has the potential to improve learning outcomes for more than one million students.

For Parents and Families

Inner-City Arts provides a variety of programs designed to help families support their children's academic achievement, and encourage them to feel confident and knowledgeable participating in their children's educational experiences. Parent workshops offered at area schools and Family Days at Inner-City Arts are among the strategies used to help families navigate the school system as advocates for their children, build community and engage parents who may feel intimidated by their children's schools. Our expanded campus will include a Parent-Teacher Resource Center enabling us to provide increased levels of support to parents and families.

All Inner-City Arts programs operate free of cost to students and their families.