



Inner-City Arts Overview

“We change the lives of kids.”

—Bob Bates, Artistic Director and Co-Founder

“Being at Inner-City Arts is the best and most important thing in my whole life.”

—Inner-City Arts Student, 4th grade

Inner-City Arts, widely regarded as one of the nation’s most effective arts education providers, is an oasis of learning, achievement and creativity in the heart of Skid Row, and a vital partner in the work of creating a safer, healthier Los Angeles.

Building bridges between the arts and academic subjects, Inner-City Arts’ unique approach to arts education measurably improves academic and personal outcomes for children and youth from high poverty neighborhoods, including students with Limited English Proficiency at risk of academic failure.

During the school day, after school and on weekends, elementary, middle and high school students come to Inner-City Arts’ beautiful, award-winning campus to work with professional teaching artists in well-equipped studios. In this safe, tranquil and nurturing environment, students receive hands-on instruction in visual arts, dance, music, theater, ceramics, digital photography and animation.

Equally essential to the success of our programs, the Inner-City Arts—Annenberg Professional Development Program provides critical training and support for classroom teachers, graduate students and others dedicated to bringing high-quality arts education to students of all ages and backgrounds.

Located in one of Los Angeles’ most underserved neighborhoods, the Inner-City Arts campus was designed by architect Michael Maltzan and landscape designer Nancy Goslee Power to fuel the dreams of children—many of whom, living in poverty, may believe dreams are exclusively for other children—and serves as a beacon of hope in the community.

Because we know...

- most students in California do not receive instruction in the arts even at the level required by state law
- 29% of California’s public schools offer no study in any arts discipline
- students who attend schools with high levels of poverty have the least access to arts instruction

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- children with limited English-language proficiency are at especially high risk of academic failure
- only 48% of African-American and Latino students who start 9th grade graduate four years later
- students in the Los Angeles Unified School District are among the nation's most at-risk to drop out of school
- arts education levels the “learning field” across socio-economic boundaries, improves student retention and reduces the achievement gap
- professional development of teachers is an essential component of student academic achievement
- teachers who receive training and support, including instruction in the arts, are more likely to remain in their profession
- students who participate in arts programs, and whose teachers receive arts training, experience dramatic improvements in standardized test scores

Inner-City Arts provides...

- instruction in the arts that meets all State of California standards for sequential learning
- literacy-based programs informed by the work of leading researchers and close observation of student need
- special programs targeting the needs of English Language Learners in the early elementary grades and during the critical middle school years
- professional development programs aligned with State of California Content Standards in the Visual and Performing Arts
- Los Angeles Unified School District-accredited professional development programs and teacher-training workshops to bring the lessons of the studio into the classroom
- arts training for new teachers committed to working in high poverty schools, in collaboration with UCLA's Graduate School of Education Center X Teacher Education Program
- a beautiful, clean, safe, well-equipped, professional studio environment where students can take risks, experience their own creativity, and reach their own potential
- opportunities to collaborate and partner with other organizations that share our commitment to student achievement and the betterment of the City of Los Angeles

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