

The Congo Book Project: The Backstory

Lysa Heslov believes that an art exchange between at-risk children from different cultures can take a child that society views as a victim, and empower and educate them to be victorious instead. As the founder of *Children Mending Hearts*, she travels overseas to do children's workshops in art, music and drama.

Her latest exchange was between Inner-City Arts and a group of orphaned children in the Democratic Republic of Congo. "Inner-City Arts is everything that I believe in; it's a special, magical place where these kids can be creative through dance and art and music," says Heslov.

It was an art exchange that thrilled Inner-City Arts. With the guidance of Inner-City Arts' instructors, third grade students from Cahuenga Elementary drew their self-portraits, which they hand-sewed into blank-paged journals to give to the children in the DR Congo.

One month later, Heslov personally delivered the journals - and art supplies - to the Congolese children, and offered to teach some art classes. Anticipating 400, 1200 showed up.

"For most of (the Congolese children), this was the first time that they had ever painted or held a brush," recounts Heslov. "When I handed one little boy a paintbrush, he didn't know how to hold it. He was holding the brush with the bristles pointing up and he started to put the paint on the end. ...I just let him use his creativity to paint like that."

Upon her return, Heslov shared the Congolese paintings with the Inner-City Arts students. Curiosity—and pride—filled the room. "When they got your books and saw your self-portraits they were fascinated by your faces," said Haslov. "The teachers...told us that they had never seen the children that happy before."

The Inner-City Arts students then gathered around the paintings from Congo. Asked how the paintings made him feel, Inner-City Arts student Ricardo replied, "I feel special for (being able to) send my imagination (to them). It was like we were introduced (even though we've never met)."

When asked what they saw in the Congolese paintings that is similar to what we have in America, several Inner-City Arts students piped in: "Cars, chickens." "They are girls and boys and they have moms and dads." "We are human and they are human."

Commenting on the children's process, Heslov says, "You can see them become powerful because they are doing something for someone who has less than they do."

"You can see them become powerful because they are doing something for someone who has less than they do."



CELEBRATE OUR 20TH BIRTHDAY Summer on 7th

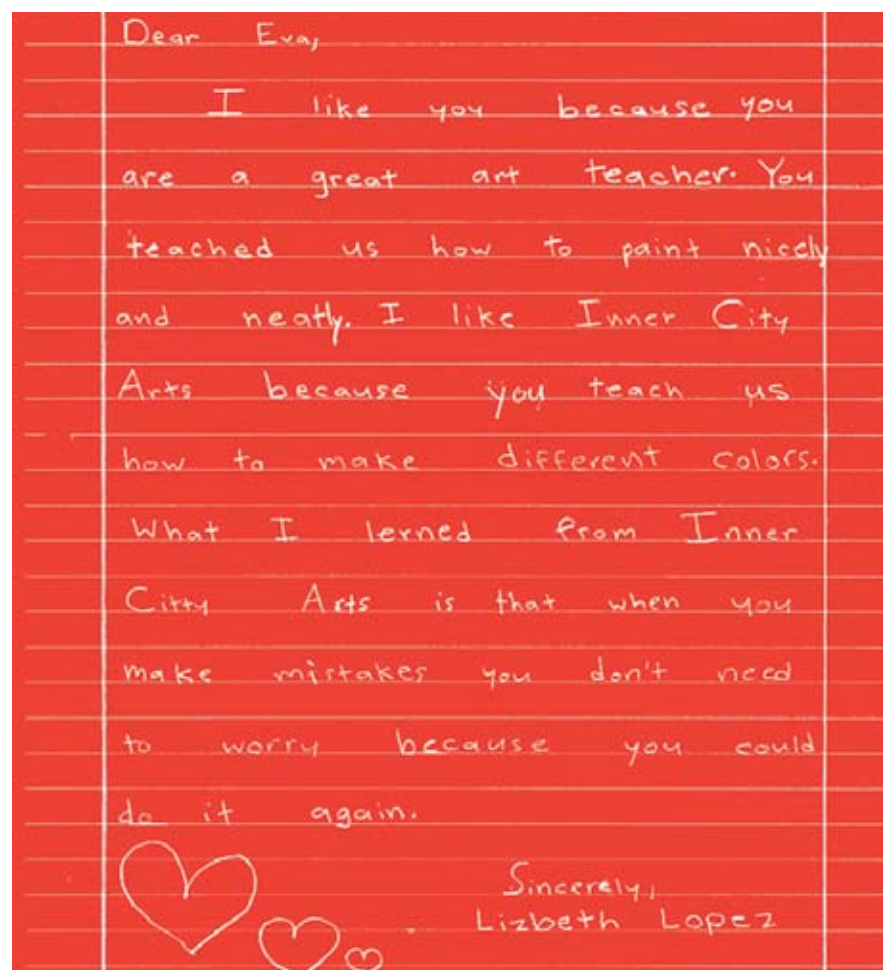


Inner-City Arts turns 20 this year, celebrate with us at a big birthday bash on July 25th—*Summer on 7th*, from 7 p.m. to midnight.

This hip, "place-to-be" party includes salsa dancers with live music by one of L.A.'s premier salsa bands, Son y Clave, and we'll also have internationally renowned hip hop troupe, the Versa-Style Dance Company and DJ Esco spinning tunes that will make you want to groove. Our Artists' Alley offers hand-crafted art and jewelry for sale, and there will be plenty of food and drinks. (This is a 21-and-over only event.)

Our birthday wish is simple: that you come join us that night and help us make it a huge success. Inner-City Arts exists first and foremost for the underserved children of our beautiful city; who could deny the kids a birthday present like this?

Bring your friends, families, co-workers and neighbors to come party with Inner-City Arts. For only \$40 per person (or 6 tickets for the special price of \$200) you'll enjoy an evening of summer fun for a great cause. This tremendous milestone is a perfect opportunity for more people to learn about our mission and our work.



About Inner-City Arts

Inner-City Arts is a learning oasis in the heart of Los Angeles' Skid Row where professional artists teach students in a real studio environment. Since its inception, Inner-City Arts has served 150,000 of the city's most at-risk children at no cost to the students.

Founded in 1989, Inner-City Arts works in partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District to bring elementary and middle school students to the campus during the school day for instruction in the visual and performing arts. High school students participate in after-school and Saturday programs.

National, long-term research proves that students who attend Inner-City Arts' classes show dramatic increases in statewide standardized test scores: 25% in math, 18% in reading, 8% in English proficiency. They also learn skills that are highly valued in the 21st century workforce such as collaboration, and creative and conceptual thinking. Most importantly, students who receive education in the arts are able to create a whole new vision of self—a new world of hope that includes accomplishment and belonging.

Design: KBDA, Los Angeles. Writing: Brody Public Relations. Printing courtesy of ColorGraphics.

INNER-CITY ARTS INNER-CITY ARTS

The Mark Taper Center/
Inner-City Arts
720 Kohler Street
Los Angeles, CA 90021

T 213.627.9621
F 213.627.6469

www.inner-cityarts.org

Address service requested

JULY 25, 2009

Summer on 7th
7:00 PM to midnight, Inner-City Arts

SEPTEMBER 13, 2009

Art Auction Preview and Sale
2:00 to 5:00 PM, Inner-City Arts

OCTOBER 15, 2009

Imagine Awards Gala & Auction
6:00 PM, The Beverly Hilton Hotel

FALL 2009—OFFICIAL DATE COMING SOON

Visiting Scholars & Artists Lecture Series
4:00 PM, Inner-City Arts

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!

WE NEED YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS!

Please send your e-mail address to
info@inner-cityarts.org so we can strive
to go paperless!

INNER-CITYARTS
SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2009

The Art of the Matter



FEATURE STORY

Inner-City Arts Turns 20

It all started when Bob Bates heard an inner voice while meditating in his studio. "Get an art space for kids," it told him. For five years, Bates, an artist, teacher and artistic director of Para Los Niños, carried those words around in his head. "There were no further instructions," said Bates. So he waited, paying attention to signs and serendipitous events.

One such event was a "chance" meeting with real estate developer Irwin Jaeger. It was summer 1987. Bates had been teaching art at Para Los Niños and Ninth Street Elementary, near Skid Row. Jaeger visited one of Bates's classrooms at Ninth Street.

Compelled by the joy he witnessed as the children made art, Jaeger asked what he could do to help. Bates said, "You pay the bills. I'll teach the classes." Jaeger responded, "I can't do that." But over the next two years Bates told Jaeger, "The kids need this." Jaeger would pay for it. "Irv we need art supplies." Jaeger would pay for it. And so began the partnership between these two men.

In its first year, Inner-City Arts provided arts instruction to 60 students from the Ninth Street School.

Organic Growth

The classes grew. The programs grew. "Pretty soon it was more than I could handle," says Bates. "We kept hiring people to keep up with the demand. There's been a continuous influx of brilliant women - and a few good men - to make a unique art studio setting for children living in the inner city." One such woman was Beth Tishler, who came on as the first full time executive director in 1992.

And so Inner-City Arts grew organically over time as more and more people became committed to the mission and held on to the vision of fostering creativity in underserved children.

Recognizing the benefits available to their students through Inner-City Arts' programs, principals and teachers from schools in and around the area signed on. Specialists in music, theater and dance joined Bates and Tishler as studio teachers. Inner-City Arts forged collaborations with other educators and the academic community to develop new programs targeting specific student needs. Programs were created to support classroom teachers, bringing the lessons of the studio to other academic disciplines. Partnerships with the cultural community and other service providers extended the range of arts experiences for students and families.

A Permanent Home

In 1993, a gift from the S. Mark Taper Foundation enabled the purchase of a 10,000 square-foot former auto body shop at the corner of Kohler and 7th Streets, establishing a permanent home for Inner-City Arts. In 2008, Inner-City Arts opened its expanded one-acre campus.

So after 20 years, 150,000 children, 5,500 teachers, and 55 schools, what does Bates see for the future? "There is no cap on the dream. This is just the current stage of our development. I believe Inner-City Arts will become a world-renowned institution that people from around the world will visit and emulate. We are a lab for the development of creativity. How do we teach it? How do we stimulate growth, help people learn, stand out of the way so we don't inhibit their learning?"

"The teaching of creativity has become as important as math, as factual knowledge, as all academic disciplines," continues Bates. "You may know a lot about numbers. But if you can't be creative with them, math becomes a meaningless exercise.

"Creativity is like the electricity that turns on our knowledge, yielding new forms and inventions, making us more conscious and capable of navigating the many challenges we face as human beings."

DONOR PROFILE

\$1 Million Gift Establishes the Glorja Kaufman Dance Academy

Evidence of Glorja Kaufman's love of dance is reflected in every corner of her home. From the playful sculptures that line the driveway, to the miniature porcelain ballerinas perched in the curio, to the graceful curves of the art deco architecture and furnishings, everywhere you look you see dance.

Ever since she was twirled around on her father's feet as a young girl in Detroit, Mrs. Kaufman has loved dance. "Dance has always been a part of my life. I discovered its enormous ability to heal mind, body and spirit. It's one of the most valuable yet least appreciated art forms."

Born in Detroit, Glorja Kaufman married building contractor Donald Bruce Kaufman, founder of the Fortune 500 company, Kaufman and Broad, in the 1950s.

For the Love of Dance

True to her passion, Mrs. Kaufman recently established the Glorja Kaufman Dance Foundation. "Mrs. Kaufman's love of dance coupled with her belief in dance as a transformative tool for the mind, body and spirit is our mission," said Carolyn B. Baker, the foundation's executive director. "With Glorja Kaufman the line between humanitarian and philanthropist disappears."

Recognizing the impact that dance has to engage the creativity of children and change their lives, Mrs. Kaufman recently donated \$1 million to Inner-City Arts for the Glorja Kaufman Dance Academy at Inner-City Arts. "Art gives these children hope, and hope gives them a reason to dance," she says.

To inaugurate the academy, kindergarten students from White House Primary School honored Mrs. Kaufman with an original dance performance that incorporated brightly colored scarves. Mrs. Kaufman's gift will allow up to 4,000 children to participate in dance classes at Inner-City Arts annually, at no cost to them.

Continued on page 4



Kindergarten students from White House Primary School honor philanthropist Glorja Kaufman.

Photo credit: Dan Steinberg

Board of Directors

BOARD OFFICERS

- Chairman**
Alan Berro
The Capital Group Companies, Inc.
- Vice Chairman**
Eric Schotz
LMNO Productions
- Treasurer**
Jonl Topper
Wachovia
- Secretary**
Susan Emerling-Torres
Writer
- BOARD MEMBERS**
- Tanya M. Acker**
Attorney
- Craig Benell**
Merrill Lynch
- Al Brooks**
JP Morgan Chase
- Holly Bowyer**
Yahoo!
- Lena Bryant**
Union Bank of California
- Vera Campbell**
Design Zone, Inc.
- Ira G. Cohen**
Retired; Trader Joe's
- Doug Hinchliffe**
Seventh Street Development
- Rick Madden**
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
- Silvia Marjoram**
American Business Bank
- Consuelo Moran**
Hair Etcetera
- Scott Morielli**
Graff Californiawear
- Monica Rosenthal**
Actress
- Joseph Sanford**
Advisory Board U.S. Bank
- Martha Saucedo**
The STAPLES Center Foundation
- Steve Schoenholz**
Templed Apparel
- William Schoenholz**
Buchalter Nemer
- Michael Schreter**
Private Investor
- Robart Shearin**
Private Investor
- Mithra Sheybani**
Attorney
- Katerina Tana**
Katerina Tana Design

Major Donors

- The Ahmanson Foundation
- The Angell Foundation
- The Annenberg Foundation
- The Appelbaum-Kahn Foundation
- The Artistic Scholarship Fund for Inner-City Youth
- The Aultry Foundation
- Bank of America Foundation
- The Brown Family Creative Arts Fund
- California Community Foundation
- The Bruner Foundation
- The Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation
- JP Morgan Chase Foundation
- The Carol and James Collins Foundation
- Sirpuhe & John Conte Foundation
- Craik-Johnson Foundation
- Louise Danelian & The Stephen Philibosian Foundation
- Carl & Roberta Deutsch Foundation
- DreamWorks Animation SKG
- The Eisner Foundation
- Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation
- Frieda C. Fox Foundation
- The J. Paul Getty Trust
- The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation
- Joseph B. Gould Foundation
- Lee Graff Foundation
- The Green Foundation
- The Hearst Foundations
- Hollywood Foreign Press Association
- Thelma Pearl Howard Foundation
- Hot Topic Foundation
- HSBC - North America
- Jewish Community Foundation
- Glorya Kaufman Dance Foundation
- W.M. Keck Foundation
- Los Angeles County Arts Commission
- Los Angeles Proposition K Grant Program
- The Richard C. and Melanie F. Lundquist Foundation
- B.C. McCabe Foundation
- The Morrison Foerster Foundation
- Murray-Hayden Urban Youth Grant Program
- National Endowment for the Arts
- The Neda Foundation
- The Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation
- Peter Norton Family Foundation
- Oprah's Angel Network
- The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
- Rosenthal Charitable Fund
- The Barbara J. and Michael M. Schreter Trust
- Sony Pictures Entertainment
- STAPLES Center Foundation
- The Streisand Foundation
- Dwight Stuart Youth Foundation
- S. Mark Taper Foundation
- The Alissa Michelle Topler Memorial Fund
- Union Bank of California
- U.S. Bank
- U.S. Department of Education
- Wachovia
- Warner Bros.
- Weingart Foundation
- Frederick R. Weisman Philanthropic Foundation
- Mostly Foundation
- The Yahoo! Employee Foundation
- The Ruth/Allen Ziegler Foundation

Dear Family & Friends



As I reflect on 20 years of Inner-City Arts and ponder its future, there are birds singing outside of my office. For those of you who know Inner-City Arts and the neighborhood in which we exist, you understand how astonishing it is to see birds, or any other form of nature on our campus.

The birds are a symbol of how far we have come. They are also a symbol of the symbiotic nature that Inner-City Arts has developed on our campus and within the community.

When I first visited Inner-City Arts more than 10 years ago, I saw a woman catching the bus with her children. At that moment I realized that this mother and all parents in this neighborhood have the same aspirations for their children that we have for ours. Inner-City Arts is first and foremost about the children. We exist only for them.

Although the experience the children have here is brief, we do know it has a profound impact.

Our formal research proves that students who attend Inner-City Arts programs improve their language skills, increase their test scores, stay in school and graduate from high school.

Anecdotal evidence brings us stories of former Inner-City Arts students who are now college graduates; who use art in their everyday lives to raise their families and teach others the impact of art; and even some who didn't expect to survive their teenage years but are now thriving in their chosen professions.

And yet there are so many more children who need art in their lives. Our new campus will allow us to eventually double the number of children we serve. However we know we can have an even broader impact beyond 7th and Kohler.

Therefore part of our mission for the future is to expand our Inner-City Arts - Annenberg Professional Development Program (please see related story on page 4), which will allow us to exponentially increase the number of students we can reach. Teachers are a key component of educational reform. With this program we endeavor to change the culture of the classroom so that it is infused with arts before, during and after the students are at Inner-City Arts. And students who never set foot on the Inner-City Arts campus will benefit from an arts-based approach to learning.

Despite our physical growth, the spirit here is the same as it was when Bob Bates and Irwin Jaeger opened the first doors of Inner-City Arts at Ninth Street School. And we know that spirit will remain intact as we expand our reach far beyond this campus.

Warmest regards,

Cynthia S. Harnisch, President and CEO

SPOTLIGHT ON Eric Schotz

"Without the arts, I'd be an empty vessel," jokes Eric Schotz, vice chair of Inner-City Arts board of directors and founder of LMNO Productions, an Emmy-award winning TV production company. Any conversation with Schotz involves a lot of witty banter sprinkled with a deep level of sincerity about whatever subject matter you are discussing—his family, his work, his love of Inner-City Arts.

Joking aside, arts really has allowed Schotz to thrive in all areas of his life. "I was born a visual and verbal person—not very studious—more creative than academic," says Schotz. "That's what I love most about art. There's no mistake; there's no A. It's interpretive to the person. Inner-City Arts teaches that you can succeed at any level."

Schotz was introduced to Inner-City Arts by former board member David Rainer of California United Bank in the early 90s. "I went down to see the campus—what there was of it—and was mesmerized by Bob. Few people have such clarity of vision. I watched the kids and knew, without them saying a word, that they got it.

"I also believe in the board. Here's the coolest thing. They actually said they were going to do something (build a new campus) and did it."

In addition to serving on the board, Schotz produces the annual gala video, and frequently acts as emcee and auctioneer at the event. Inner-City Arts is also a family affair for Schotz. His mother, Judy, has worked on the gala auction, and his wife, Linda, helps him on stage during the auction.

One of his three children, USC student Samantha, blogs regularly about Inner-City Arts and is on the planning committee for the Summer on 7th party. "I didn't tell her to get involved," says Schotz. "She is a fan and did it all on her own."



For his parents' 50th anniversary, Schotz purchased the opportunity to create something out of ceramics on the Inner-City Arts campus. The entire Schotz clan participated in crafting a totem pole symbolizing the family's history.

When asked what his hopes and dreams are for Inner-City Arts, Schotz takes a rare serious tone. "How can we expose Inner-City Arts programming to an even wider base of kids, and keep them off the streets? How can we continue to service an area that desperately needs to be serviced?"

He concludes with one of his trademark witty remarks, except he's completely serious: "If you are reading this article, send cash now."

"How can we expose Inner-City Arts programming to an even wider base of kids, and keep them off the streets? How can we continue to service an area that desperately needs to be serviced?"

Glorya Kaufman Dance Academy continued from page 1

An Expressive Medium

Introducing children who live in the inner city to dance and movement as a communicative and expressive medium is a uniquely effective way to convey meaning, emotion and cultural values.

"The specific art form of dance contributes to increased self confidence, persistence, social tolerance and appreciation of individual and group social development," says Cynthia Harnisch, president and CEO of Inner-City Arts. "We are thrilled at what Mrs. Kaufman's Dance Academy will be able to do for our students."

They will learn multiple dance styles including creative dance, hip hop, modern, African, Folklorico and musical theater, and will create from their imaginations dances that express their own stories.

With the Academy, Inner-City Arts also plans to expand its guest artist performance series and residencies to include partnerships with existing and new organizations such as UCLA Live!, Music Center, Lula Washington Dance Theatre and others. As part of this effort, in May, Inner-City Arts hosted a day of dance and performance workshops with Ailey II, of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.



Dancing With The Stars celebrities Carrie Ann Inaba and Tony Danza joined the celebration.

Photo credit: Dan Steinberg

EDUCATOR PROFILE

In the Classroom with Carmen Orozco



Sixth grade teacher Carmen Orozco rarely gets to see the fruits of her labor. But after 12 years of teaching in LAUSD, the last 11 at Soto Street Elementary, she knows that many of her former students are doing well. "Sometimes you never hear about the successes, but I know they are out there," says Orozco. Orozco attributes some of those unsung success stories to her willingness to learn herself.

Just because she's a teacher, doesn't mean she isn't open to learning new ways to reach her students.

In fact, Orozco is one of many educators who has participated in the full staff development program and the Creativity in the Classroom series offered by Inner-City Arts / Annenberg Professional Development Program. This program provides teachers with strategies for incorporating creativity into their classroom curriculums through the visual and performing arts. Teachers explore their own creativity through visual arts, ceramics, music, dance, drama and poetry, and then build bridges between the arts and other disciplines. They learn to create a safe, supportive environment for creative exploration and to harness creative expression to foster literacy, inquiry, critical thinking, joy, and engagement in their students.

"I was amazed at the different ways we can use arts in the curriculum," says Orozco. "Using painting to teach adjectives and the arts to teach sentence structure; drawing shapes to teach geometry."

The arts also allow Orozco, who has a reputation for being strict, to infuse more fun into her teaching. "With all of the new technology out there, the students aren't into lectures as much. But when an assignment involves drawing, pasting cutting—the hands-on stuff—the kids get more into it. It motivates them to get the assignment done."

Orozco adds that she can teach something in a fun way, without her students knowing it's really a lesson. For her, one of the greatest rewards of being a teacher is seeing her students apply those lessons to other problems.

Her students aren't the only ones benefitting from what she learned from the professional development program. "What I learned at Inner-City Arts helped me personally. I discovered that I am a creative person. I think more artistically now that I see that it works."

Occasionally, Orozco gets surprised in the classroom when former students do return to report on their achievements. "Recently one of my students who is now in high school came to tell me he is going into the police academy." Orozco beams with pride knowing she had a little something to do with this student's success and that many others out there are doing well because of her.

Inner-City Arts Milestones Celebrating 20 Years 1989-2009

1989

Bob Bates and Irwin Jaeger begin Inner-City Arts



2002

LAUSD accredits professional development programs



1990

Groundbreaking collaboration with LAUSD begins



2003

Bob Bates receives \$100,000 Use Your Life Award from Oprah's Angel Network



1991

Inner-City Arts moves to bungalows on the grounds of the Ninth Street School



2004

EARLI Arts program is piloted



1992

A Mark Taper Foundation gift allows purchase of a 8,000 sq ft former auto body shop at Kohler and 7th



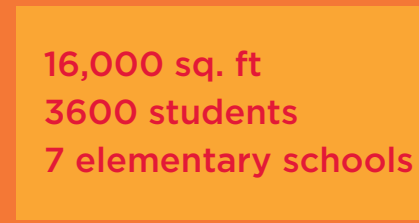
2005

Inner-City Arts receives a U.S. Department of Education Grant to support programs for middle school students (AIM)



1994

Campus is renovated and additional land is purchased for further expansion



2006

The Annenberg-Inner-City Arts Professional Development Program pilots the Teachers' Institute in partnership with UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, Center X Teacher Education Program.

Monica and Philip Rosenthal fund the new Rosenthal Theater at Inner-City Arts

ALUMNI PROFILE

Arlene Gutierrez



Arlene Gutierrez is someone who understands the transformational power of art first hand.

As a high school student in 1993, Gutierrez wanted to engage in something productive beyond her regular school day. She attended Inner-City Arts' after school program, in its original location at Ninth Street Elementary, and took a film production class.

Shortly into the semester, one of her Inner-City Arts classmates, Roger Flores, was shot and killed. "In his honor, we decided to make a film about anti-violence," recalls Gutierrez, who spearheaded the making of *Just Another Gangster*. "Roger was so involved in the community; everyone loved him. He would have been such a great person to know now."

"We were emotional wrecks," continues Gutierrez. "We took matters into our own hands - grabbed the camera and started filming. Having the film to work through our feelings, focusing on the movie felt like it was going to help in some way. It helped us cope emotionally. I get chills thinking about it."

Now a first grade teacher at El Sereno Elementary, Gutierrez uses art every day in her classroom. "Kids love art. They are quiet and humming and happy. Art balances you. It's a way to express yourself. In this neighborhood, a lot of kids have a lot of things to deal with. Art is really wonderful because kids get exposed to something different."

She also uses art to teach her own children, 11 and 4, about life. "I try to expose them to different things—music, museums. And I don't let them play with guns, not even toy guns."

Further reflecting on how art influences lives, Gutierrez marvels at the effect it had on another person close to her. "When I think about art, I think about my sister. She was on the wrong road for a while. One of her high school teachers, who was an artist herself, brought out the artist in my sister, got her started on an art career." After high school, Gutierrez's sister first attended Los Angeles City College, then transferred to UC Berkeley, with a double major in art history and art practice. "People can't believe it when I tell them my sister is a Berkeley graduate."

When asked what she hopes for as a mom and as a teacher, Gutierrez responds, "When I am doing the best I can for my students and my own kids, that's how I am successful."

Little did Gutierrez know just how much influence her own art would have over thousands of other students. *Just Another Gangster* is such a powerful film that Inner-City Arts still uses it as a teaching tool today.

Photo credit: Dan Steinberg

1995

Saturday animation program for high school students is developed with CalArts Community Arts Partnership (CAP)



2007

Ground is broken for the final phase of the campus expansion



1996

3rd and 4th grade ceramics classes create courtyard mosaic



2008

A grant from DreamWorks Animation SKG establishes the DreamWorks Animation Academy at Inner-City Arts



1999

Project ALL evaluations confirm effectiveness of student and teacher programs on learning outcomes



2009

Inner-City Arts celebrates its 20th anniversary

