

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



LOS ANGELES MUSIC AND ART SCHOOL

ABOUT US



Alejandra, 17



Lana, 14



Brianna, 16



OUR HISTORY

LAMusArt was founded in 1945 by Ms. Pearle Irene Odell in response to the growing need for affordable arts learning in the area. The school began by offering pay-what-you-can music lessons out of two Victorian homes in Boyle Heights, California. Since its founding 75 years ago, LAMusArt has expanded to offer lessons in music, art, dance and drama and has served over 100,000 students, employed over 200 Teaching Artists, and provided over 1,500,000 lessons.

WHY WE'RE HERE

LAMusArt was established in response to the growing need for accessible creative education in our overlooked community of East LA. Our programs fill a need in a population where students who could benefit the most from arts education are getting it the least. Arts engagement is hard to come by in our neighborhoods, contributing to the challenging socioeconomic climates our students live in, like high crime rates (70% above the national average) and low median household incomes (27% lower than the national average). Arts education is simply not as readily available as it should be, even though mounting evidence shows its benefits in students' lives. We respond to these systemic issues by replenishing lost programs and resources.

WHO WE SERVE

Over 90% of our community is inhabited by Hispanic/Latinx individuals. Our Hispanic/Latinx community members face distinct social challenges and barriers such as language, lack of higher education, citizenship status and income disparity that especially make accessibility and arts engagement a hurdle, which is why we offer programs that are accessible and affordable. Although we predominantly serve students K-12, lessons are available for students of all ages. LAMusArt works diligently to incorporate ways to be inclusive to better serve our areas. Most of our Teaching Artists and staff are bilingual to accommodate our robust population of Spanish speakers, and each instructor tailors their curriculum to the distinct needs of every student, including students with disabilities.

OUR MISSION

The Los Angeles Music and Art School (LAMusArt) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization whose mission is to offer the community of East Los Angeles, primarily its K-12 population, with equitable and affordable access to multidisciplinary arts education programs. On the surface, our services provide opportunities for students to receive an arts education, but on a deeper level, our programs provide an outlet for creative expression, an alternative to involvement in high-risk behavior, a safe place to develop skills and confidence, and a means to a successful future.

AT A GLANCE

21,703 Lessons Provided

7,352 Tuition-Free Lessons Provided

766 Unduplicated Students Served

152 Scholarships Awarded

2,371 Audience Member Attendance

37 Teaching Artists Employed Year-Round



Aiden, 11

OUR SERVICES



MUSIC

Our Music program consists of one-on-one private lessons for students of all ages in over eight different instruments including voice, guitar, and piano. Instruction is tailored to each student's needs, interests, and rate of progression.

Our five Tuition-Free Music Ensemble programs include the Jazz Ensemble, the Choir, the Orchestra, the Mariachi Ensemble, and the Strings Program. Starting at age 7, students can join at the beginning of each 12-week quarter and progress in their musicianship, with no requirement to be enrolled in other LAMusArt courses. These programs are year-round, and each quarter concludes with a public performance. Tuition-Free Music Ensembles are fully funded by foundation donations and concert ticket sales.

ART

LAMusArt's Visual Art programming offers small group classes starting at age five and focuses on drawing, painting, sculpture, and design. The department caters to students of all aptitudes, from beginners learning color and composition, to advanced artists developing their portfolios.

DANCE

Starting at age four, LAMusArt's Dance programming offers different styles of dance including ballet, modern, jazz, hip hop, and musical theatre along with technique courses like pointe, turns, jumps, stretching and strengthening. Our Dance program presents the invaluable opportunity to showcase skills, and develop self-confidence through movement.

DRAMA

Students of the Drama department focus on the art of acting and performing in small group lessons. The Drama programs highlight various acting techniques along with fundamentals like voice control, movement, and improvisation.

As Mr. Chanu transitioned into an advisory role within our music ensembles at the end of our fiscal year, we welcomed Antoni M. March, Claudia Garcia, Isaac Lopez and Lori Pasqualino to the Tuition Free Music Ensembles team of leadership.

MUSIC



SEASONAL

Camp MusArt is a five-week summer arts enrichment program that offers daily lessons in music, art, dance and drama to students ages 7-15. The program culminates in a fully produced musical in which the students are the stars. Each summer the program hosts up to 60 students.

LAMusArt's Playmaking engages students ages 9-11 in the fundamentals of playwriting over the course of 10 weeks, culminating in a live production of the student-written plays performed by adult directors and actors.

The Audio Recording and Music Engineering program is a seasonal technical arts training program that operates for 10 weeks at a time. Tailored to students ages 15 and over, Audio Engineering covers the fundamentals of the recording studio environment, equipment, platforms, and software functionality in order to prepare them to produce their own music projects.

TUITION-FREE

Tuition-Free: Our five Tuition-Free Music Ensemble programs include the Jazz Ensemble, the Choir, the Orchestra, the Mariachi Ensemble, and the Strings Program. Starting at age 7, students can join at the beginning of each 10-week quarter and progress in their musicianship, with no requirement to be enrolled in other LAMusArt courses. These programs are year-round, and each quarter concludes with a public performance. Tuition-Free Music Ensembles are fully funded by foundation donations and concert ticket sales.



In March, LAMusArt's Visual Art department hosted "Naturaleza," a gallery exhibit at the USC Caruso Catholic Center where fifteen young artists proudly displayed their paintings focused on the theme of natural landscapes.

ART

LAMusArt added new dance performances to our series of events in Winter 2018 and Spring 2019 where students of Miss Songhorian, Miss Alvarez, and Miss O'Brien showcased their work to sold out crowds.

DANCE



The Drama department expanded to offer three different courses of varying levels of skill including Drama I, Drama II and Improv to accommodate the growing number of interested students.

DRAMA



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



One of the most exciting things about being a cornerstone of creative resources and artistic excellence in East Los Angeles is the volume and caliber of talent that comes through our doors. From local students to professional instructors, the Los Angeles Music and Art School has had the privilege of hosting some of the eastside's finest creatives. The past year was especially notable as a year for new talent as the organization welcomed new teachers in all disciplines, new leadership in governance, and new performances to our yearly slate.

Our Tuition-Free Music Ensembles embraced new leadership at the end of our fiscal year with the onboarding of four new musicians to head the program, varying in distinctions from around the world. The Visual Art department saw the coming and going of new Teaching Artists to guide the department as it expands into new forms of expression. In Dance, new Teaching Artists have introduced experimental courses and more opportunities to perform for our students looking to diversify their experiences. Our Drama sector has steadily grown over the last year, prompting the addition of new classes and showcases throughout the year. We could not be more excited about the direction in which our programming is moving.

This year also marked Cynthia Pearson's first year as President of the Board of Directors. Under her guidance, the organization has adopted a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion plan to delineate LAMusArt's commitment to equitable representation in our student population, among our administrators and teachers, and throughout our board.

Even though our communities are often overlooked and underserved, at LAMusArt we know that this is not because our areas have less talent, drive or potential, but because we lack the systemic support that our affluent counterparts are bestowed. We have seen firsthand the aptitudes and gifts of our constituents, and it is the way in which our artists, adolescent or adult, choose to use their creative learning to propel themselves towards success that thrills us and compels us to continue what we do.

After 75 years of serving this vibrant community, LAMusArt is no stranger to the many talents East LA has to offer. It is with the greatest passion that we invite you to view the accomplishments of our brilliant students, leaders, and instructors this year.

In Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Manuel Prieto".

Manuel Prieto
Executive Director

In 2019, Manny was elected co-chair of the Americans for the Art's Emerging Leaders Council. The Emerging Leaders Council is an elected working advisory body to Americans for the Arts and assists in developing programs and resources to promote professional development and networking opportunities for emerging arts professionals nationwide.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Enzo Chavez, age 12, has been a student at LAMusArt for nearly six years. He started his path at the school as a Camp MusArt student, landing the role of Jetsam, one of Ursula's evil eels, in *The Little Mermaid*.

Since then, Enzo has continued to perform in Camp MusArt productions like *Shrek* and *The Lion King*. Most recently, Enzo took on the role of Sky Masterson in Camp MusArt's 2019 production of *Guys and Dolls*.

Mr. Chavez has also taken several music classes, including violin with Miss Solis and piano with Mr. White. He is an avid member of the Tuition-Free Choir, as well. He's performed as a soloist and frequently performs across the city with the Choir at events like USC Discovery Day at the Museum of Natural History and LAMusArt's annual gala, *Stars for the Arts*.

In 2017, Enzo expanded his participation in the arts by joining LAMusArt's drama course, *Playmaking*, where kids learn the fundamentals of playwriting over the course of 10 weeks. His original play, *Life and Death* debuted at the USC Scene Dock Theatre and starred Corey Johnson and Cole Cuomo. The touching production told the story of a man who is haunted by the ghost of his dog.

With few options for arts engagement at school, Enzo is happy to have a diverse slate of arts lessons to choose from at the Los Angeles Music and Art School.



YEAR IN REVIEW



SEPTEMBER

LAMusArt holds its 21st annual Stars For the Arts Benefit Dinner and Concert at The York Manor in Highland Park. The beautiful event presented by the LAMusArt Board of Directors and Co-Chaired by Dr. Efrain Fuentes and his wife, Bertha Aguirre, welcomed LAMusArt donors, families and esteemed guests to raise funding to support arts learning for Eastside students and featured special performances by LAMusArt students and Soprano Esther Rayo.



OCTOBER

LAMusArt's second session of Playmaking begins, teaching the art of dramatic writing to ten students over the course of ten weeks.

NOVEMBER

Our 10 student playwrights retreat to write and professional actors and creatives rehearse and stage their new plays.



DECEMBER

We host Playmaking: Kids Write, Adults Perform at the Rembrandt in the York Manor; the annual Winter Benefit where our Choir serenaded supporters of LAMusArt at Tamayo's Restaurant and Art Gallery; our Winter Holiday Concert, "Birth of the Cool" where students of our Tuition-Free Music Ensembles showcased their work from the fall quarter; and our Winter Dance Recital in Downtown LA presenting the accomplishments of fifty two of our dance students and instructors.



JANUARY

LAMusArt hosts a visit from Mr. Ernest Robles of the Interlochen Center for the Arts who observes Tuition-Free Choir and Orchestra rehearsals.

FEBRUARY

LAMusArt implements a new Musical Theater Choreography dance class, headed by Miss Ariel Imprata, and congratulates eight dance students on their promotion from Pre-Ballet to Ballet II! We welcome new Mariachi faculty Ms. Claudia.



MARCH

LAMusArt celebrates 74 years in operation with a festive birthday party in our upgraded facilities. Board of Directors adopts Diversity, Equity and Inclusion plan.



APRIL

Our Spring Music Concert, "Music from Around the World" features students of the Tuition-Free Music Ensembles celebrating and performing the musical legacies of Bernstein, Villa-Lobos, and Mahler. The Visual Art exhibit "Naturaleza" debuts at the USC Caruso Catholic Center, highlighting paintings from students of all ages in the LAMusArt art department.



MAY

Americans for the Arts features LAMusArt Executive Director Manuel Prieto's blog about cultural equity & succession planning in its Arts Blogs series.



JUNE

Eighty of LAMusArt's Dance students grace the Mainstage Theatre of Glendale Community College with an array of dance numbers under the guidance of our four dance teaching artists, Carissa Songhorian, Tiana Alvarez, Christina O'Brien, and Ariel Improta.

JULY

Camp MusArt culminates in a ticketed performance of *Guys and Dolls* Jr. with over 50 ensemble members at the East Los Angeles College Proscenium Theatre, making it the school's 22nd anniversary of Camp MusArt.



FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$115,165
Investment	\$889,753
Accounts Receivable	\$11,953
Prepaid Expenses & Other	\$5,703
Property & Equipment	
Less Accumulated Depreciation	\$1,446,136
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,468,710

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	\$111,838
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions:	
Undesignated	\$28,155
Invested in Property and Equipment	\$1,446,136
Total Without Donor Restrictions	\$1,474,291
With Donor Restrictions	\$882,581
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$2,468,710.00

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Program Fees	\$409,510
Grants	\$259,563
Individuals	\$59,808
Special Events (net)	\$70,849
Interest & Dividends	\$32,987
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	\$832,717

EXPENSES

Program Expenses	\$655,673
Management & General	\$67,380
Fundraising	\$34,896
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$757,949

Net Assets Beginning of the Year	\$2,282,104
Change in Net Assets	\$74,768
NET ASSETS END OF THE YEAR	\$2,356,872

Statement of Financial Position for the year end July 31, 2019 Audited by Meadows & Fries, CPA



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\$50,000 +

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\$25,000-\$49,999

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The Ahmanson Foundation
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The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
The Rose Hills Foundation

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Contributions between
August 1, 2018 and
December 31, 2019

LAMusArt

LOS ANGELES MUSIC AND ART SCHOOL

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☎ 323-262-7734

🌐 www.LAMusArt.org

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A FAVORITE MOMENT FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR



One of my favorite activities at LAMusArt has been to participate in Student-for-a-Day, where, as an adult, I got to attend Saturday classes at the school along with students in those programs. The students welcomed me and other adults to sing with the choir, learn choreography in dance class, and learn basic drawing techniques.

I was impressed by how talented and committed the students in each class were, but two things stand out: 1) the students were empowered to assist in the instruction. My "dancing" needed some correction, and the girls in the class, who were maybe 7 and 8 years old, were not afraid to let me know and show me what I was supposed to do; and 2) while giving critiques and suggestions, the students -- and teaching artists -- were all generous and collaborative. They encouraged me to keep trying, because they knew that you had to put effort in to get better. I really have tried to channel the spirit of supportive confidence that LAMusArt's students demonstrate.

Cynthia Pearson
LAMusArt Board Chair

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