



HEART OF LOS ANGELES

Heartbeat of Hope

HEART OF LA ANNUAL REPORT

2024 - 2025

LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends,

This past year reminded us that leadership is not tested in easy times but in life's challenging moments. At Heart of Los Angeles, we faced wildfires, political and economic uncertainty, and disruptions in our neighborhoods. Through it all, our staff, families, and partners have stood strong. Together, we have ensured that Heart of LA has remained a place where young people can learn, grow, and thrive, no matter what is happening beyond our doors.

As we look ahead, we are brimming with hope, and are inspired by the resilience of our students and the unwavering commitment of our staff. Their determination pulses through every classroom, space, and field, reminding us all what's possible when young people are given the chance to safely dream. This heartbeat of hope drives us to keep growing, opening new doors and expanding opportunities, deepening partnerships, and preparing the next generation of leaders to step forward with confidence. Heart of LA is community, possibility, and the belief that every young person deserves the chance to reach their full potential.

Thank you for walking with us, for believing in our mission, and for investing in the power of our youth. Because of your partnership, the future of Los Angeles is so much brighter.

With sincerest gratitude,



Tom Riccard

Executive Board Chair
Heart of Los Angeles



Tony Brown

Chief Executive Officer
Heart of Los Angeles

HOPE IN MOTION: Advancing Heart of LA's Mission

“Heart of Los Angeles helps young people overcome barriers through exceptional, free, integrated programs and personalized guidance in a trusted, nurturing environment.”

At Heart of Los Angeles, we know that when youth are given the right tools and support, education becomes a force that can transform individual lives, families, and entire communities. That's why it's been such an important part of our current **5 year strategic plan to reach additional communities and neighborhoods to increase equitable educational access for more young people.**

The 2024–2025 academic year marked a period of exciting growth. We expanded our South Los Angeles programs, reaching more community members than ever and celebrated countless moments of student achievement across all of our locations. From our **community graduation and college acceptance letters, to athletic championship tournaments, museum exhibitions and concerts at the Hollywood Bowl and around the world**, Heart of LA youth have proved what is possible when hope and opportunity meet determination. We are proud to stand alongside our students and families in advancing educational and enrichment opportunities for the children of Los Angeles.



2024 - 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW:

A Timeline of Hope



Fall 2024

Elections and Changing Winds

The autumn season saw Heart of LA forge ahead with its expansion programs in South LA and Watts, focusing on growing partnerships with the **Hidden Genius Project, Columbia Memorial Space Center, Watts Labor Community Action Committee, and many others.**

Heart of LA **provided programming to approximately 2,300 students** across all programs and campuses. Last year Heart of LA co-hosted multiple community outreach events and programs at partnership sites across Los Angeles that reached 2,400 more. While the election created an atmosphere of uncertainty, Heart of LA pressed forward, meeting the needs of our students, families and community members.



Winter 2025

Fire, Politics & Economic Uncertainty

January began with dual challenges: devastating wildfires across Los Angeles and a shift in the national political climate with the new administration. Economic volatility roiled the philanthropic sector nationwide, and many who continued to give locally redirected donations towards vital wildfire relief, leading to **a noticeable dip in donor contributions.** Heart of LA stood firm, rallying donor support and ensuring programs remained uninterrupted and bringing hope to the community in uncertain times.



Spring 2025

Rising Pressures & Moments of Triumph

Spring brought unprecedented disruptions in our neighborhoods, creating fear and uncertainty for many of our students and families. Heart of LA sprang into action by **hosting family workshops on legal rights and provided staff with additional training and resources.** Yet even in these turbulent months, there were moments of triumph: our graduation ceremony gave the community a safe space to come together virtually and in-person to celebrate our families, youth, seniors' achievements, and with a **record number of alumni graduates** in attendance; youth art exhibitions, including our main campus' exhibit titled **"Building Community & Inspiring Change"** highlighted stories of hope and joy in communal storytelling; Heart of LA's boys' led the way to the athletic championships in soccer, demonstrating strength and teamwork.

Summer 2025

Escalation & Community Response

With the summer heat came escalating immigration enforcement tactics in our families' neighborhoods. Heart of LA responded by training staff and establishing protocols that prioritized family, student, and staff safety above all else. At the same time, our summer programming **provided stability, support, caring and hope, demonstrating strength and teamwork.**

HOPE IN ACTION

This year has reminded us all that even in the hardest moments, hope can be our greatest strength. Through natural disasters to political shifts, economic uncertainty to neighborhood disruptions, our staff and community came together and consistently showed up for one another.

Heart of LA has met the challenges head-on and has reaffirmed our dedication to nurturing young people and families. Our mission thrives even in the most challenging times, empowering young people to rise and imagine a brighter future.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS

- **Academics**
- **Visual & Scientific Arts**
- **Music**
- **Athletics**
- **Family Services**
- **Community Impact**

ACADEMICS:

Shaping Minds, Strengthening Hearts, Building Futures

Heart of LA served **545 students** across three academic pathways designed to prepare youth for lifelong success:

SmartStart Elementary

(Grades 1–5):

The SmartStart team this year focused on strengthening foundational academic skills while making learning accessible and joyful.

Brittany Mejia, the SmartStart and SciArts Program Director, and her staff delivered targeted interventions, supported English language reclassification, and equipped youth with advocacy tools.



76%

of students performed above grade level in English Language Arts and **88%** in Math by the end of the year
(up from 58% and 64% to start the year respectively)

95%

reported they can try and learn new things at Heart of LA

85%

feel included at Heart of LA

Bridges Middle & High School

(Grades 6–10):

The Bridges team championed both academic success and personal growth for middle and high school students. By emphasizing cohort-based learning, alumna **Silvia España**, the Bridges Senior Program Director, and her staff fostered strong peer connections and collaboration during a pivotal stage of development, laying the groundwork for success in upper high school and beyond.

Program highlights included:

Launched The Bridges Council, which aims to develop a cohort of **20 youth ambassadors** into future leaders, engaging in community service-centered activities.

83%

reported feeling like they learn how to make good choices and set goals

91%

of middle school students and **83%** of high school students increased their letter grade by half a grade (0.5) or maintained a B average or higher

College & Career Success

(Grades 11 – Postsecondary):

The dedicated College & Career Success team provided holistic support to students on their journey from application to graduation. Through mentor-based application and scholarship counseling, one-on-one academic assistance, and robust professional development opportunities, the team helped students turn college hopes into concrete achievements. Their work not only helped students achieve their higher education dreams but also equipped them with the tools to thrive once they arrived. Key accomplishments included:

100%

of high school seniors graduated and committed to **post-secondary institutions**

Six QuestBridge Finalists, with five becoming Questbridge Scholars after enrolling at Stanford, the University of Pennsylvania, Boston University, Holy Cross, and University of Chicago

The second-largest alumni graduating class ever: **41 alumni earned degrees** in 2025 across fields from Mechanical Engineering to Media Arts

Over \$1 million in scholarships were handed out for the third consecutive year, thanks in part to our lead scholarship benefactors, The Audrey Irmas Foundation for Social Justice and The Diane and Dorothy Brooks Foundation, providing students with financial support to bridge the gap between their earned scholarships and their dreams



VISUAL ARTS:

Grounded in the belief that art can be a way to bring a voice to a community, a spark to a social transformation, and a method of shared healing, Heart of LA's Visual Arts program served **740 students** in weekly programming **across seven sites** and **over 2,400 youth and community members** through hands-on art activities led by Heart of LA's Teaching Artists through outreach with culturally relevant and civically engaged curriculum. SciArts served 136 students, providing hands-on STEAM experiences in two cutting-edge maker-space labs. A few examples of the stellar programming efforts by the team, led by Senior Creative Director **Nara Hernandez**, include:

Some survey highlights included:

- Students engaged in **40** weekly classes in over **20** art mediums
- Public art exhibitions and field trips connected youth to cultural institutions while affirming their roles as community changemakers
- 95%** of students said they can try new things at Heart of LA
- 80%** felt more connected through art



Highlights:

- Heart of LA alum and Teaching Artist Emmanuel Galvez's students' paintings were showcased at the Getty Museum.
- The Markings Project, a three-year Mellon-funded public art and oral history initiative capturing the stories of Indigenous immigrant families in Westlake/Pico-Union, completed its first year.
- In response to LA's wildfires, Heart of LA's visual arts department brought workshops to 361 additional youth across multiple Care Camps throughout LA, fostering healing through art. Visual Arts students teamed up with students and educators across the country through the Smithsonian Institution's Democracy in Dialogue initiative to share a snapshot of what it's like to grow up in the heart of Los Angeles. The resulting artworks and video documentation painted a picture of resilience, community, and creativity! Participation encouraged connection while showcasing the importance of diversity in the 250 years of the American experience.

MUSIC:

A Three-Branch Department of Excellence

Heart of LA's Music Department surpassed its record in the 2024-2025 academic year through the combined YOLA at HOLA program and Heart of LA Music Studios (HMS), **servicing 390 youth**, while the Eisner Intergenerational Music Program engaged another **175 community members** aged 14-82. The dynamic music team grew under the leadership of **Kevin Robb**, Senior Music Program Director. Highlights included:

PROGRAMS OFFERED:

93 weekly group lessons, ensembles, theory, composition, jazz, rock, and chorale.

70 private lesson students individually coached on their specific instruments and talents by our experienced Teaching Artists

FACILITIES:

- Acoustically designed ensemble rooms
- High-quality performance spaces
- A professional recording studio

HIGHLIGHTS:

- YOLA Institute students from Heart of LA trained in Bogotá, Colombia
- Students performed with Natalia Lafourcade at the **Hollywood Bowl**
- Collaborations included an original film score project with **Pilgrim School**
- Two student conductors led ensembles in practice, modeling youth leadership in action



Heart of LA's **Eisner Intergenerational Music Program** celebrated generational hope, love, and friendship across the three ensembles, Orchestra, Big Band, and Choir, through weekly rehearsals and **14 concerts this year**. Concerts were held at venues including the LA Historic Park, the Aratani Theatre, the Gamble House, and Heart of LA's own Ezralow Performance Pavilion reaching **more than 35,000 audience members**, and featured collaborations with the **LA Opera Chorus, LA Master Chorale, Gay Freedom Band of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles Children's Chorus**. The program continues to be featured in national intergenerational research, reflecting the program's impact on healthy aging and community building.



ATHLETICS:

Healthy Bodies, Healthy Lives

Heart of LA's Athletics Program ensured equitable access to sports and engaging play for **743 youth**. With offerings ranging from league sports to wellness classes, the program promoted holistic, physical, social-emotional, and mental health. The athletics staff, led by Athletics Associate Director **Kristina "Coach K" Wheeler**, helped students gain confidence when they brought home trophies and medals but also taught leadership, tenacity, and sportsmanship.



PROGRAMS OFFERED:

- **Soccer & Basketball Leagues**
youth (coed) and varsity boys and girls leagues
- **Physical Education classes**
for Elementary and Middle School
Academic Enrichment Programs
- **Special Programming:**
Clinics, Skiing, and Gymnastics

PARTNERS:

Programs enriched by world-class partnerships with the Los Angeles **Lakers**, Los Angeles **Rams**, **AEG**, **LAFC**, and the **LA84 Foundation**

FACILITIES:

A turf soccer field and full-court gym, maintained in partnership with the City of Los Angeles Recreation & Parks

IMPACT:

92%

of youth said they learned to make healthy choices at Heart of LA

91%

agreed Heart of LA is a place where people learned to work together

FAMILY SERVICES:

A Dedicated Haven of Support for Our Kids, Families & Community

At Heart of Los Angeles, holistic wellness means caring for the individual and family, addressing the needs and supporting the whole person. We address mental and physical health, emotional well-being, social support, and basic needs as interconnected parts of a thriving life.

Heart of LA's Family Services Department (FSD) integrates mental wellness programs, counseling, support groups, and crisis interventions with case management, resource navigation, and skill-building workshops.



CASE MANAGEMENT:

Family Services conducts thorough intake assessments, create individualized plans, and provide ongoing support to help families meet immediate and long-term needs. Staff assists with referrals to housing, healthcare, financial aid, and legal navigation ensuring families receive coordinated support.

- **174** families served
- **585** touchpoints
- **242** hours of case management

WELLNESS & COUNSELING SERVICES:

FSD offers culturally responsive counseling, support groups, and self-care workshops that build coping skills and emotional health.

- **95** individual clients
- **35** families served
- **1,795** counseling hours (1,250 sessions in 2024)
- **44%** increase in counseling hours over last year

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION:

Family Services partners with local organizations, service providers, and agencies to deliver coordinated, accessible services.

- **72** Family Services Department events hosted with **1,219** total attendees
- **200** resources shared
- **450** community members subscribed to updates
- **90,000** communication touchpoints throughout the year

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

In 2024-2025, Family Services reached **355 families** impacting **1,400 individuals** through holistic supports including housing aid, mental health services, and financial literacy workshops. Staff addressed both the immediate and long-term needs of our families so together we helped build stability and helped students thrive in school and beyond.





COMMUNITY IMPACT:

Outreach of Hope

This year, Heart of LA has served more than **2,300 youth** and **355 Heart of LA families** across six operating locations throughout LA County, and over **2,400 students and community members** participated in outreach programs and workshops. This impact was made possible thanks to more than **750 volunteers** who contributed over **4,800 hours of service** this year, including partners, mentors, dedicated volunteers from the **Angeleno Corps, JFEDLA, UCLA, USC, CSULA, United Talent Agency, PNC and more.**

Heart of LA proudly completed it's third academic year serving youth in South Central Los Angeles and Watts. Through our wonderful, long-time partnership with **LA City Recreation and Parks**, we have continued deepening our impact and reach at **Augustus Hawkins Nature Park** through Visual Arts and Scientific Arts classes. We are looking forward to our capital expansion project in that park offering our community more space to dream and grow. Our partnership with the Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC) has grown to include:

- Watts Art Effect (Visual Arts)
- Media Arts and College Access through the LA County Media Careers Pathways Prototype (MCPPI) grant
- College Prep, Arts, and STEAM programming at two WLCAC-led FamilySource Centers (FSCs) in Watts and Southeast LA



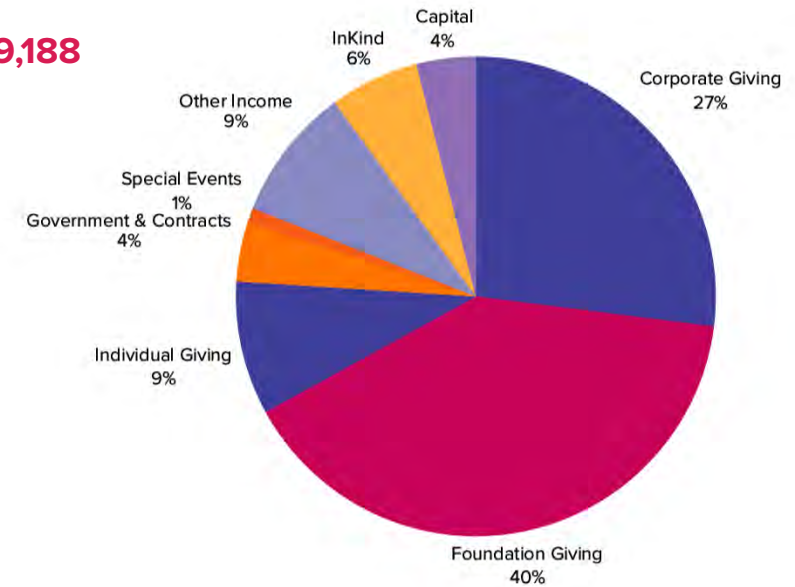
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

For the 24/25 fiscal year (ending June 2025), Heart of LA closed with a net operating loss as expenses exceeded income; an outcome aligned with the broader challenges facing nonprofits this year. The Los Angeles wildfires created a significant ripple effect, shifting donor attention and resources toward necessary emergency relief efforts and impacting many of the families and supporters who have long sustained our mission. Combined with ongoing economic uncertainty, the funding landscape became even more constrained across the sector.

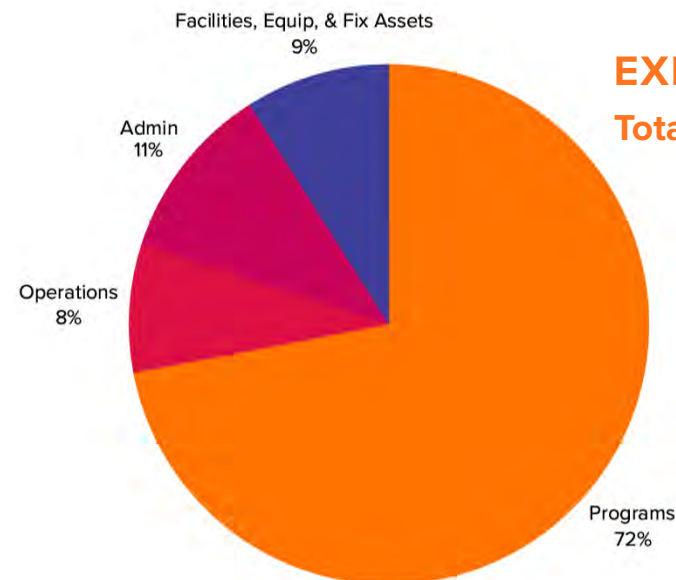
We had projected an operating deficit of approximately \$2.8 million for FY2024–25; however, this was offset by the planned release of \$2,993,668 in multi-year and time-restricted grants that had been awarded and recognized in previous fiscal years. This approach is consistent with Heart of LA’s long history of managing substantial multi-year investments to ensure program continuity and organizational stability. Because of this, we were able to keep all programs fully running, maintain staff capacity, and continue serving students and families without interruption, ensuring every young person relying on Heart of LA had a place to learn, create, and belong.

Through disciplined financial management, diversified revenue streams, and careful stewardship of long-term commitments, Heart of LA ended the fiscal year with healthy reserves and a strong financial position. **Looking ahead, the organization remains financially sound and focused on sustaining the high-quality programs that drive our impact across Los Angeles.**

INCOME Total \$7,059,188



EXPENSES Total \$9,905,246



DONOR & PARTNER RECOGNITION

At Heart of Los Angeles, every success begins with our generous and long-time donors. **Over 88% of our annual revenue comes from private philanthropic support,** making their investment the cornerstone of our work. Because of the generosity of our community, our students have empowering spaces to learn and create, families find community in challenging times, and young people gain the confidence to dream bigger and aim higher.

“Heart of LA is the embodiment of an organization that changes the trajectory of the future for any student who comes onto its campus. We have devoted our charitable giving to organizations that provide and augment educational opportunities for inner city youth. This is exactly the mission of Heart of LA. The organization positively impacts lives and entire communities. The opportunities at Heart of LA are all encompassing; programs in art, music, sports and most importantly academics. They encourage and support a well balanced student who receives assistance, whatever their needs may be.”

- **David and Linda Shaheen**

“I wish every cause had a champion like the Shaheens. They generously check in and ask, “Where can we best help this year?” They believe in our work and invest in the outcomes. They also show up and engage in our program. We couldn’t hope for better partners.”

- **Tony Brown**

Our donors nurture Heart of LA's programs. Their contributions provide instruments, books, scholarships, courts, fields, and caring staff that help our students thrive and fuel their hope, even amid wildfires, economic uncertainty, and community disruptions.

On behalf of our staff, Board, and the thousands of young people we serve, to them we say thank you. Their generosity is a powerful statement of their faith in the limitless potential of Los Angeles youth and in a brighter, stronger, more hopeful future for us all, the heartbeat felt around Los Angeles.

*The list of individual donors reflects gifts made to Heart of LA between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025. If your records differ from ours, please contact Senior Director of Development **Cassandra Krause** at ckrause@heartofla.org.

\$500,000 & Above

Ballmer Group

Diane and Dorothy Brooks Foundation

Audrey Irmas Foundation for Social Justice

The Eisner Foundation

\$250,000-\$499,999

The Eli and Edyth Broad Foundation

Music Man Foundation

Perenchio Foundation

The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation

Snap Foundation

\$100,000-\$249,999

Angell Foundation
Atlas Kardia Foundation
Burberry Foundation
Dwight Stuart Youth Fund
International Youth Foundation (IYF)
Johnny Carson Foundation
LA84 Foundation
Mary and Dan James
Modern Finance Company
National Endowment for the Arts
Philip and Muriel Berman Foundation
The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts
The Estate of Mary Calfas Janos
The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation
The Rose Hills Foundation

\$50,000-\$99,999

Bill and Dinah Ruch Charitable Fund
Carl & Roberta Deutsch Foundation
Danhakl Family Foundation
Leah and Sam Fischer Family Fund
The Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles
Joseph Drown Foundation
Kautz Family Foundation

Ring-Miscikowski Foundation
Stone Soup Child Care Programs
The Annenberg Foundation
The Carol and James Collins Foundation
The David and Linda Shaheen Foundation
The David William Upham Foundation
The Green Foundation
The Larry Fitzgerald Foundation
The Smidt Family Foundation Trust

\$25,000-\$49,999

Cindy Clark
Colburn Foundation
Cornerstone 4 LA Youth
The Dale Jr. Foundation
Ross Endowment Fund
Sony Global
Sony Pictures Entertainment, Inc.
The Los Angeles Lakers INC
The Mark Hughes Foundation
The Walter and Holly Thomson Foundation
Warner Bros. Television Production
Alison Whalen
Ziering Family Foundation

\$10,000-\$24,999

Adams-Mastrovich Family Foundation
California Arts Council
California Community Foundation
California Endowment
Harold Cranston & Vicki Baker
Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation
Daniel Floyd
Four Friends Foundation
Francis H. Clougherty Charitable Trust
Gursey Schneider LLP
The Herb Ritts Jr. Foundation
Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles
Just Keep Livin Foundation
Kaiser Foundation Hospitals
Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture
Los Angeles Lakers Youth Foundation
Michael & Irene Ross Endowment Fund
Sara Mijares Del Fium
The Minc Family Fund
Nike Inc.
The Change Reaction
Renaissance Charitable Foundation
Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors
Ronus Foundation
Ruth and Joseph C. Reed Foundation for the Arts

Paul Schaeffer
SoCal Gas Community Investment FundShare Winter Foundation
Jerry and Judith Stone Charitable Donor Advised Fund
The Audrey & Sydney Irmas Charitable Foundation
The John B. & Nelly Llanos Kilroy Foundation
The M. S. Grumbacher Foundation
The Wolf Family Charitable Trust
UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine
U.S. Bank Foundation
Venable Foundation Inc.
Women's Sports Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

American Endowment Foundation
Beyond Sports Foundation
Callas and Carlson
Josh Cartmell
Children's Hospital Los Angeles
City National Bank
Cooney Eliel Trust
Michael Goodrich
Susan Goren
Jennifer Hinman
Markel Corporation

Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation
Netflix
People's Choice Beef Jerky
Daniel Perlstein
Jalen Ramsey
Ron Robinson
Ruth & Sonny Singer Foundation
Mandy Schaffer
Peter and Lee Schube
Josephine K Skibby
The Open Fist Theatre Company
United Talent Agency

\$1,000- \$4,999

Lewis, Bass & Gale Ablon
Alan Adelman
Anschutz Entertainment Group
Bari Lipp Foundation
David Beenhouwer
Daniel Berkowitz
Ramsey Bitar
Daniel Blatt
Victor Boyce
Zachary Burns
Canopy Media Partners
Barry Chase

Ethan Chen
Eun Bee Chung
Madeleine Colvin
Concord Music Group Inc
Dawn
Margaret Eckert
Educated Nannies
ENT Group of Los Angeles
Jill Eshman
Curtis Farrar
Jean C. Ferguson
Florence and Harry Sloan
Foundation c/o Meloni
Hribal Tratner, LLP

Stacy Fung
David Garza
Abizer Gaslightwala
Kristen Harris
Herbert and Elaine Kendall
Charitable Foundation
Lane Hering
James Jaskol
Douglas John
Peter Juel
Kahn Family Foundation
Alan Kassan
Jenji Kohan
Abbie Korman

Daniel Koskovich
Legends of Sport
Danny Lerner
Joan LeSage
Carol Littleton
Holly Lloyd
Los Angeles Neighborhood
Land Trust
Marin Community Foundation
Amir Martin
Nancy and Patrick McCabe
Tim McNeal
MELWOODS Chair 14 Foundation
Meyer & Norma Ragir Foundation
Steve P Miller
Lynn Mingori
PNC Foundation
Michael Rasmussen
Brendan Ravenhill
Marc Richards
Larry Rosenstein
S. Weldon Family Foundation
Mark Sapiro
Elizabeth Sayre
Seeley W. Mudd Foundation
Margaret Shaffer
Starbucks Foundation
Lucy Stutz

The Sikand Foundation
The Wagner Foundation
The Wonderful Company
Foundation
The ZIP Foundation
William Toth
Sherry West
Maud Winchester
Winebaum Family
Foundation
Yipp Studios
William C. Zant

\$999 and under

Jonathan Abbott
Armando Acevedo
Susanna Adler
Jacqueline Cookerly Aguilera
Lynn Akamine
Lexi Allen
Mary Allen
Alliance Ted K. Tajima High
School
Lynn Alvarado
Philip Ambrosino
Keith Ameling
Kathryn Andrews

Mark Andrews

Begimai Asylbekova

Mark Barad

Caitlin Barrett

Danielle Barrios

Mary Basich

Lisa Behar

Ann Beisch

Mark Benor

Suzel Bertrand

Joseph Bioche

Kellen Birdsall

Alison J. Birnie

Lily Blau

Bradley Bobbs

Corey Boock

Leni Boorstin

Stephen E. Breuer

Amanda Brock

Anthony Brown

Steve Buck

Jonathan Burns

David Burrell

Arlette Cardenes

Johannes Carpenter

Johnny Cash

Kim Castaneda

Elaine Chan

Deveena Chandra

Charitable Adult Rides & Services, Inc

Charles W. Tapert Insurance Agency

Jeff Chayette

Louis Cherene Jr

Carolyn Falstein Cherness

Maren Christensen

Robert Clampett

Jesse Cooper

Joan Cooper

Giselle Cortez

Jana Cox

Le Cru

Angelica Cui

D'Addario Foundation

David Dalton

Eftihia Danellis

Ray Daryabigi

Sheila Del Bosque Fuentes

Charles Devos

Rayna Dieguez

Robert Diprimio

Dorit Dowler-Guerrero

Fred Dresben

Drivewise Auto Inc.

Francine Ellman

Endüre Clothing

Sheri Epstein

Silvia F. Faerman

Colbert Fennelly

Marisol Fernandez

William Finn

Christy Fletcher

Washington Flowers

Laura Garabedian

Tiburcio Garcia

Cameron Garemani

Maria T Garreton

Lorinette Garscia

Kathleen Gavin

Christine Geoffray

Dorée Gerold

Paulina Godinez

Matthew Goetz

Andy Goldman

Jeffrey Goodhue

Jason Goodman

Richard Goor

Akhil Gopal

Keiko Goto

Corrie Gregory

Chip Grossman

Carmen Guan

Liam Guise

Anupama Gunupudi

Sofia Guy

Susan Guzik

Ellen Haas

Momoko Hanai

Alison Harma

Patrick Hauk

Heidi Hayashi

Kenneth Hayes

Sara Heiland

Hernan Hernandez

Paloma Hernandez

Rocio Hernandez

Esther Hersh

Sara Hessler

Kiela Hine

David Hirsch

Clarissa Hitchon

Linda Joyce Hodge

Nate Holden

Ellen Hollander

Alan Honda

David Honda

Mia Huang

Susan Hull

Ashley Hunter

Jamila Hunter	Heather Kindel	Shine Ling	Scott McQuown
Kerim Ikikardaslar	Barbara Klein	Noel Lingad	Myron Meisel
Image Is Everything, Inc	Daniel Klein	John Liu	Alec Mendez
Immanuel Presbyterian Church Of Los Angeles Women's Association	Blair Kohan	Mc Liu	Phil Merkow
Dale Inoue Jr	Marcus Koosmann	Jesus Lizaran	Sara Mijares Del Fium
Edgar Iobst	Nancy J Koziara Clark	Nicholas and Susan Lohman	Ryan Miller
Jennifer Iorio Berezuk	Kroger Family Of Stores	Andy Lomeli	Morgan Stanley
Noriko Ishizaki	La Coalition For Excellent Public Schools	Mark Louchheim	Masatatsu Mori
Janet Lee Giving Fund	La-Tech.Org	J Adrian Lunn	Robert Moss
Robert Jarvis	Dan Lainer-Vos	Diana Luong	National Philanthropic Trust
Arnav Jhawar	Misha Landman	Maria Luy	Brett Nelson
Carrie Johnson	Janet Langon	Lyric House	Zachary Nemzer
Bret Jonas	Larchmont Charter School	Jeanette Macht	Patch Neranartkomol
Kaelin Joung	Liz Lash	Julie Macht	Danita Ng-Poss
Jesse Joyce	Fernando Ledezma	Stephen Macht	Gretchen Nielsen
Richard Kahan	Alyssa Lee	Tina Mackin	Debra Nishida
Howard Alan Kahn	Griffin Lee	Macy's/Bloomigdale's	David Nixon
Diane Kanner	Karen Lee	Carolina Madrid	Mark Noah
Rosa Kawahira	Ny Lee	Monca Mancini	Ida Quatro O'Donoghue
David Kazansky	Scott Lee	Susan Marder	Tim Ortez
Karen J Kearns	Magdalyn Leong	Austin Marshall	Peggy Otsubo
Teresa Keesan	Sean Leston	Barbara Masters	Koren Owens
David Keffer	Scott Parks Letellier	Tara Matthews	Aslihan Oztunc
Nelli Khudaverdyan	Rosalia Letson	Mark May	Alison Paige
Andrea Kim	Diane Levine	Mary McCutcheon	Garrett M Brown and Pal-Brown
Jieun Kim	Joseph Lewis	Sara Mcgah	Stefanie Parkinson
Michelle Kim	Mariana Linares	Susan McNamara	Joel Pashby
			Percent Impact Foundation

Debra Perez	Richard Rosalez	Noah Sonderling	Mary Villanueva
Christopher Pestano	Elaine Rosen	Kyle Spano	Jared Vincenti
Lynlee Phu	David Rosenberg	Sally J. Stevens	Hang Vo
Pledgeling Foundation	Jason Ross	Judy Stuart	Joseph Vranas
Barbara Pollard	RSG Inc.	Suara Southeast Asian Choir	Alejandra Wachler
David Pollock	Matthew Ruderman	Joanne Suechika	Wendell Walters
Penelope Pollock	Rich Ruttenberg	Torene Svitil	Weingart Foundation
Grant Ponder	Zachary Rynew	John Swanstrom	Steve Weinstein
Joshua Pretsky	Ryan Sacapano	Lori Symans	Donna Weiss
Susie Pretsky	Ailen Salazar Bravo	Anthony Syracuse	Marc Weiss
Jackie Provost	Kathleen Sankey	Izumi Tachiki	Doug and Ellen Weitman
Andrea Quaid	Gerald Sato	Tavanger	La Donya Williams
Diane Raben	Lydia Saxton	Minna Taylor	Jaclyn Winer
Uri Rainisch	Rodney Scates	Heidi Terry	Lance Winters
Micah Rand	Heidi Scheeline	Tracie Thompson	Damon Woods
Tom Rapport	Tara Schields	Sarah Tiru	Nina Woodson
Lucas Reiner	Vida Schmidt	Kristen Toher	Zach Woolridge
Ezra Remer	Julia Schnyer	Emily Tufeld	Julie Wright
Rip Rense	Peter Schube	Issabela Tulalian	Bonnie Yaeger
Kyle Reyes	Jason Schulberg	U.S. Soccer Foundation	Elizabeth Yee
Daniel Reza	Sean Mcgaughey Studio	United Way Of Greater Los Angeles	Aubrey Yuen
Emily Rice	Rafael Serna	Paul Urbanek	Lonnie Zeltzer
Jacqueline Riggs	Max Severo	Julie Uyehara	
Cornelius Robbins	Michael Sew Hoy	Jane Marie Van Dyke	
Juan Carlos Rodriguez	Dalit Shlapobersky	Peter Van Dyke	
Lisa Rodriguez	Judith Siegel	Victoria Vann	
Jazmin Ronquillo	Lisa Silva	Jonathan Michael Vegamora	

LOOKING AHEAD

AS WE GROW OUR MUSIC, ACADEMICS, ARTS, AND ATHLETICS PROGRAMS

As we reflect on a year of challenges and triumphs, our commitment to Los Angeles' youth and families remains steadfast and future-focused. The lessons of 2024-2025 have strengthened our systems, sharpened our focus, and deepened our purpose.

In the year ahead, Heart of Los Angeles will work to expand opportunity and grow our music, academics, arts, and athletics programs to reach more first-generation and multi-need students in Watts and Central and South LA through partnership and the opening of our Garden Art Studios in Augustus Hawkins Nature Park. Through stronger partnerships with schools, cultural institutions, and local organizations, we will ensure every program remains culturally informed, encouraging, welcoming, and affirming. The challenges ahead may be complex, but Heart of LA stands ready to serve. Together with our families, partners, and donors, we'll continue lighting the path toward a future filled with opportunity and hope.

STAY ENGAGED

Heart of LA's story is powered by community, and there are countless ways to make a difference.

- Volunteer as a tutor, coach, or mentor and experience the impact you can have firsthand
- Join us at art shows, music performances, and athletic events to celebrate our students' creativity and talent.

<https://heartofla.org/volunteer/>

DONATE

Consider making a one-time or recurring gift to keep our programs free and accessible, or connect us with partners who share our vision for every child in Los Angeles.

You can also amplify our mission by sharing our story and expanding the circle of support that fuels our mission. However you choose to engage, your partnership strengthens our community's heartbeat of hope.

Together, we'll continue building a future where every young person can thrive.

<https://heartofla.org/donate/>



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(alphabetical by last name)

Alan R. Adelman, Frost Investment Advisors, LLC

Graham Ballou, JSSK

J. Ben Bourgeois, J. Ben Bourgeois Productions

Ailen Salazar Bravo, Ernst Young

Steven Cooper, Dew Point Capital

David Dalton, David Dalton Associates, Inc.

Ray Daryabigi, San Diego Padres

Deborah Dougall, John H. Francis Polytechnic High School

Daniel Floyd, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Inc.

Dean Fluker, WME

Glenn D. Gritzner, Actum LLC

Steven Hauser, Wagner Foundation

Mary James, Everychild Foundation

Skip Koenig, Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County (NLSLA)

Yvonne Mariajimenez, Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County (NLSLA)

Sara Mijares, SoCalGas

Mitchel D. Moore, Founder of Heart of Los Angeles

Dr. Gerardo Moreno, UCLA Health

Mauricio Oberfeld, Dugally Oberfeld, Inc.

Tom Riccard, Modern Finance

J. Warren Rissier, Morgan Lewis

Chris Robichaud, 93-North

Paul Schaeffer, Mandalay Entertainment Group

Peter Schube, Ladder & Light, Inc

Alison Whalen, Formerly of Irell & Manella, LLP

Zach Woolridge, J.P. Morgan Private Bank

BOARD & TEAM HEART OF LA

BOARD FELLOWS

Our Board Fellowship program invites Heart of Los Angeles alumni early on in their careers to join our Board as non-voting Members and add invaluable insight into the experience of our youth going through our programs and ideas on how to improve Heart of Los Angeles' operating future. Several previous Fellows have since joined our Governing Board as full Members.

Silvano Romero, Amazon

Edwin Sanchez, Capital Group

ADVISORY BOARD

Emiliano Calemzuk

Bryan Ezralow

Quinn Ezralow

Eduardo Nochez

Steve Tisch

Melissa Unger

Billie Milam Weisman

Jim Toth

TEAM HEART OF LA

Staff (alphabetical by last name)

Ana Albarran, Family Services Manager

Samantha Alvarado, Senior College Access Counselor

Elisa Arias, Associate Director Of Human Resources

Paige Billow, Music Operations Coordinator

Antonio Zarate, Operations Assistant

Tony Brown, Chief Executive Officer

Shawniqua Bush, Development Associate Of Engagement

Jesus Carrasco Galeno, Operations Coordinator

Nick Clark, Senior Manager Of Institutional Giving

Melissa Constantino, Music Program Associate Director

Secilia Corona, South Central Program Manager

Rene Cruz, Intergenerational Music Program Manager

Quinn Daly, College And Career Success Manager

Naomi Deluce Wilding, Grants Manager

Diana Diaz, Curatorial Assistant And Community Engagement Specialist

Silvia Espana, Bridges Program Senior Director

Bethlehem Fikremariam Tsehai, Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Stacy Frias, Bridges Academic Advisor

Nataly Gonzalez, Music Program Coordinator

Nestor Guerrero, Community-Based Archivist And Project Manager

Michelle Hernandez, Human Resources Coordinator

Nara Hernandez, Senior Creative Director

Azalia Jerez, Bridges Fsc Program Manager

Cassandra Krause, Senior Director Of Development

Mayra Lepe, Bridges Program Coordinator

Milca Lopez Perez, Family Services Coordinator

Katherine Luna, Program Manager

Brittany Mejia, Smartstart & Scientific Arts Director

Alex Nataren, Operations Director

Alejandra Olvera, College And Career Success Coordinator

Jailyne Olvera, Visual Arts Program Manager

Kimberly Parada, Grant Writer I

Jasmine Pech, Visual Arts Administrative & Program Coordinator

Alexander Rincon, Associate Director Of Development

Kevin Robb, Senior Music Program Director

Loren Rubin, Chief Program Officer

Janet Ruiz, Music Program Coordinator

Marina Santana, Smartstart & Scientific Arts Senior Coordinator

Jasmin Servin, Athletics Program Coordinator

Noely Soto, Office Manager

Norvell Thomas, Chief Of Staff

Kristina Wheeler, Athletics Associate Director

Kayse Willard, Development Associate Of Giving

Nancy Willard, Senior Director Of Finance & Administration

Alayda Young, College Success Retention Advisor

A Heartfelt Thank You to Team Heart of LA

From: **Norvell Thomas**
Chief of Staff
Heart of Los Angeles



Painting by Heart of LA visual arts student,
Melanie, Age 14

The story of Heart of Los Angeles in our 2024/2025 academic year is, above all, a story of people. None of our accomplishments this year would have been possible without the dedication, creativity, and resilience of our staff.

Through wildfires, economic uncertainty, political turbulence, community disruptions from federal agents, and the daily challenges of serving thousands of young people, our team never wavered. They showed up early, stayed late, and worked tirelessly to ensure that every student and family who walked through our doors felt emotionally safe, supported, and inspired.

This year, our staff were more than educators, coaches, and mentors; they were first responders, community advocates, and trusted anchors in the lives of our families. They adapted lesson plans to uncertain circumstances, created rapid response systems to protect our students, and infused every program with joy, compassion, hope and excellence.

Their work is not just a job; it is a calling. Each day, they embody Heart of LA's mission by empowering young people to pursue their potential and strengthen their communities. For that, we extend our deepest gratitude.

To the Heart of LA staff: thank you for your passion, perseverance, and unwavering belief in our students. You are the heartbeat of Heart of Los Angeles.

Heart of Los Angeles helps young people overcome barriers through exceptional, free, integrated programs and personalized guidance in a trusted, nurturing environment.





Heart of Los Angeles
2701 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 100
Los Angeles, CA 90057

www.heartofla.org
info@heartofla.org

@Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/heartoflosangeles/>
@Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/heartoflosangeles/>
@YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/c/heartoflosangeles>