



P.S. ARTS

THE ART OF US



PSARTS.ORG





We have
the
freedom to
imagine.
We have
the power
to create.

WE ARE P.S. ARTISTS!

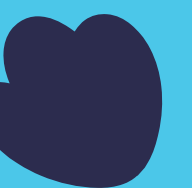




WHO WE ARE

For more than 30 years, P.S. ARTS has provided nationally recognized arts education programs to tens of thousands of students attending under-resourced public elementary and middle schools.

P.S. ARTS not only provides in-school instruction with highly trained professional artists but also offers after school programming, community events, as well as a wide scope of educator development opportunities.





P.S. ARTS has grown from serving **250 children** in one school district to more than **30,000 students** across Southern and Central California school districts. With this growth, P.S. ARTS has gained a national reputation for providing **exemplar arts education** that aligns with school, state, and federal educational priorities.

MISSION

P.S. ARTS is dedicated to advancing equity and opportunity for children and youth by providing arts education in systemically under-resourced public schools and communities.

VALUES

- Artistic Expression
- Community
- Excellence
- Equity
- Innovation

VISION

Every child in America has access to high quality arts education.



P.S. ARTS IS MADE OF...

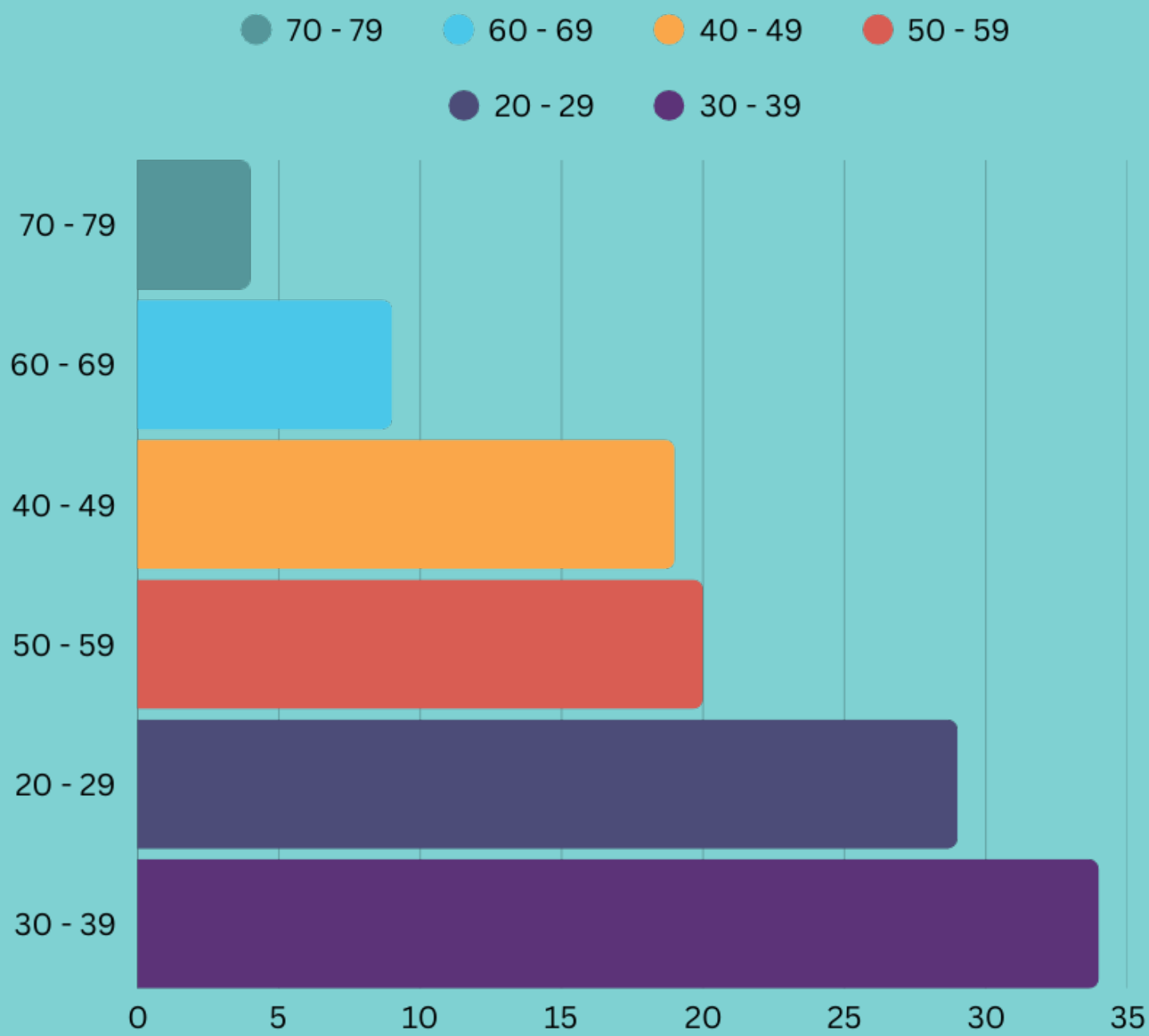
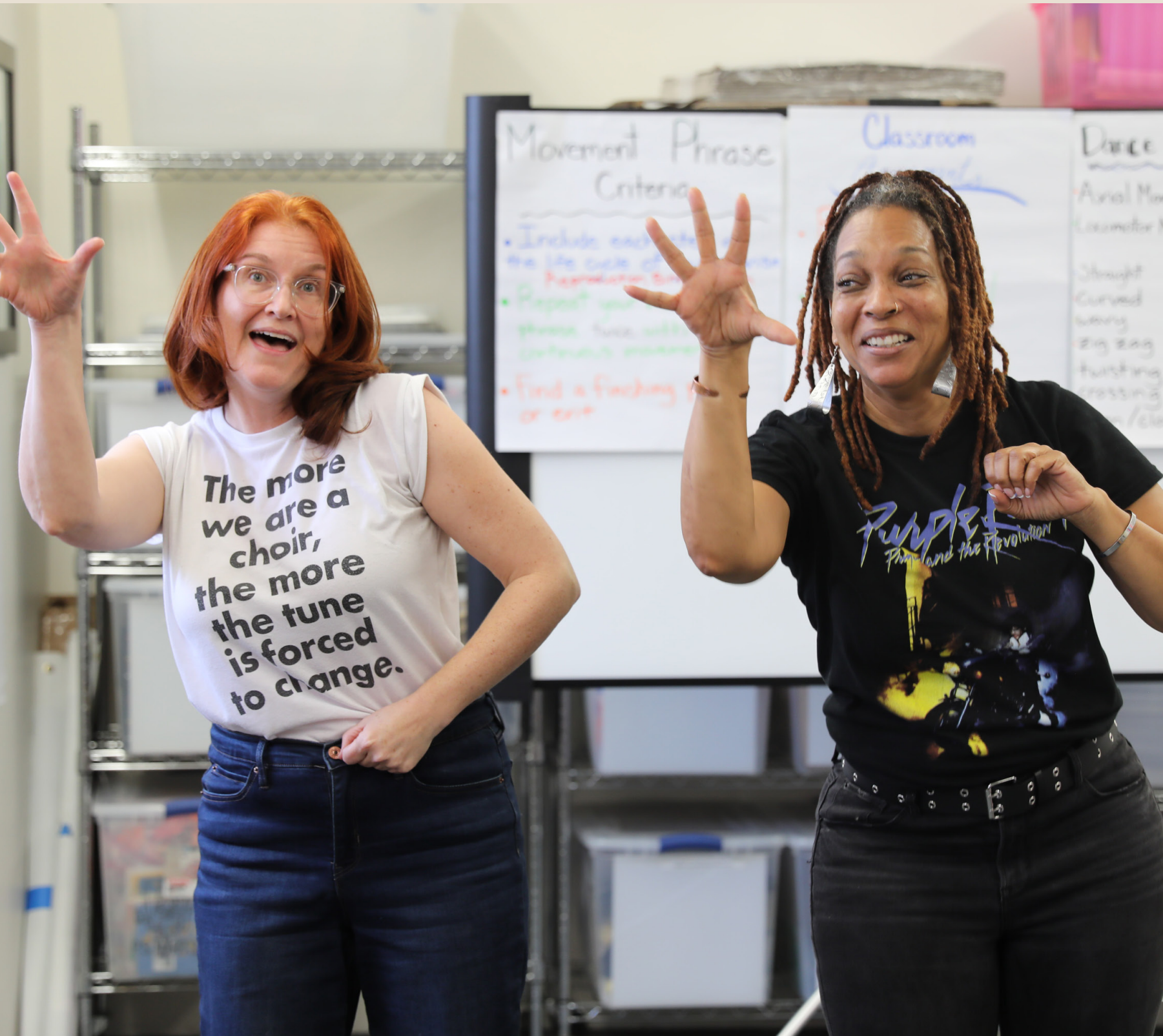
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Staff Members

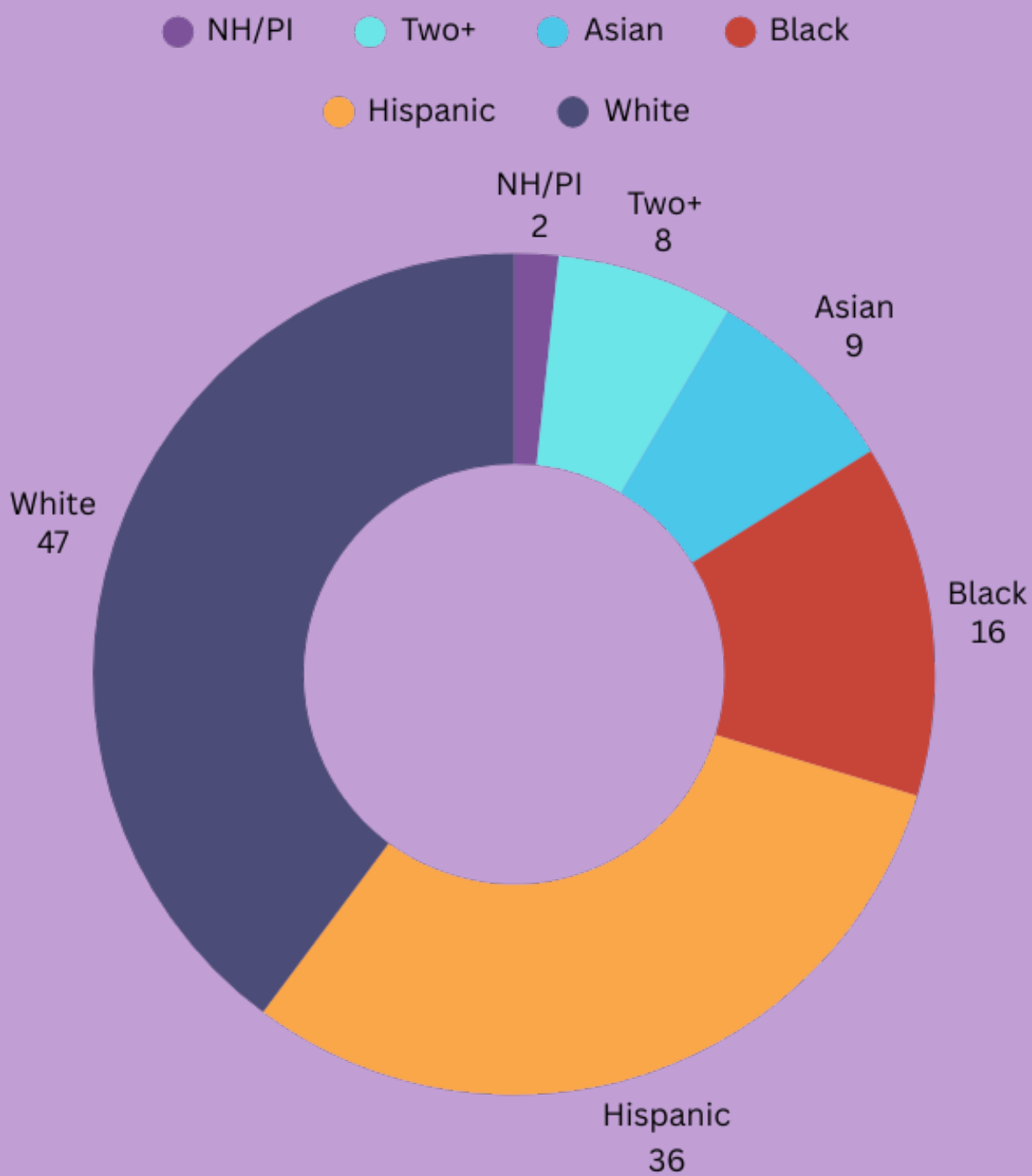
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Teaching Artists

Female: 81 Male: 31 Nonbinary: 6



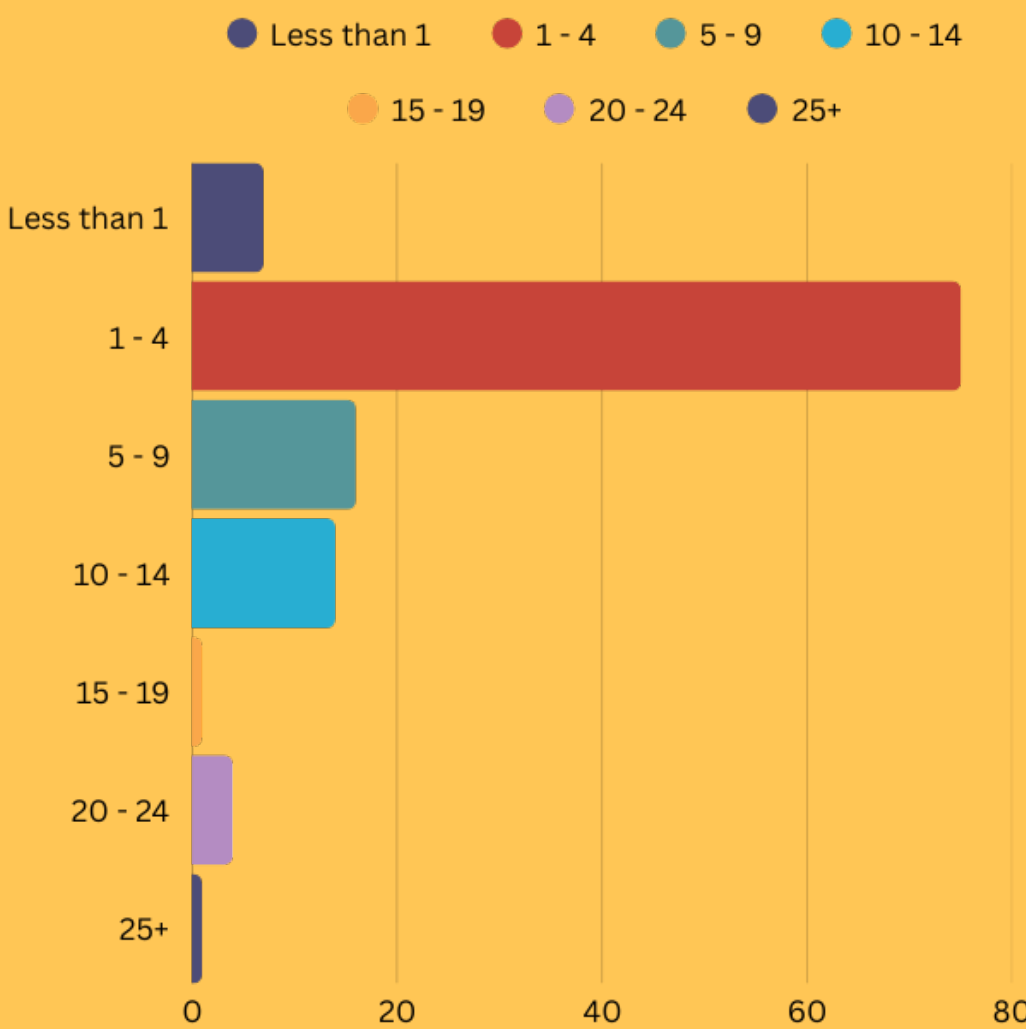
The average age of a P.S. ARTS employee: 41



Teaching Artists by Discipline

Dance: 13
Music: 7
Theater: 40
Visual: 34

Years of Service:



DIVERSITY, EQUITY INCLUSION & BELONGING

P.S. ARTS provides arts education in the public education system in its pursuit of social justice because it allows a broad-scale opportunity to empower students as engaged artists and innovators in the world.



WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

1991



P.S. ARTS is founded by **Dr. Paul Cummins** with seed funding from the Herb Alpert Foundation.

Served
250 students

1997



P.S. ARTS hosts its first **Express Yourself** signature fundraiser event.

2011



P.S. ARTS launches **Family Art Nights**, free community art-making events.

Served
2,500
community members

HOW IT'S GOING

2015



P.S. ARTS is named a **Top Community Arts Partner** by the LA County Department of Arts and Culture.

2021



P.S. ARTS partners with **LAUSD** to provide summer program.

6,500
students

2024



P.S. ARTS co-locates to the Children's Institute in Historic Filipinotown.

2026



P.S. ARTS celebrates its 35th anniversary

MEET MEMBERS OF OUR STAFF!





John Lawler | CEO

As CEO of P.S. ARTS, I have the privilege of witnessing firsthand the **transformative power of arts education** in the lives of children. The creativity, confidence, and critical thinking that our students develop in P.S. ARTS programs are more than just skills—they are lifelines that open new worlds of possibility.

P.S. ARTS is now serving **more children and communities than ever before**, thanks to the dedication and passion of our team. Even as we expand, our commitment to excellence, creativity, and belonging remains at the heart of everything we do.

This culture deck reflects **who we are, what we stand for, and how we work together** to make a lasting impact. Thank you for being part of this community and for bringing the joy of the arts to every student we serve.



Gaby Palmadessa

Sr. Development Manager

What is something you love about working at P.S. ARTS?

My favorite part about working at P.S. ARTS is our shared mission and values. You can tell that our Staff and Faculty all care deeply about the work that we do, and you can see how that positively impacts the quality of our work.

Will you share a favorite P.S. ARTS moment or memory?

Any time I step into a classroom I'm reminded why I do the work that I do. One of my favorite P.S. ARTS memories is visiting Ms. Johanna's kindergarten classroom, to see them perform a play for their friends and families. It was so magical to see how amazing she is with the kids, how confident they looked and felt, and how engaged the families were.

What makes P.S. ARTS a unique place to work?

Something I've experienced here that I haven't in former roles is how supportive everyone is. We all want to see each other create and reach goals and are happy to take the time to see how best we can support innovative ideas and new endeavors.



Kyler Tagupa

Program Coordinator, Classroom Studio

What is something you love about working at P.S. ARTS?

I really like how multifaceted our mission and objective is as an organization. That sounds very business-y, but there is a care for the art that we do and recognize AND an emphasis on instruction with the diverse schools and students that we get to work with AND an importance on the schools and school communities AND a recognition of who we are as people and how that informs the work. And all of these items are just as important and carry equal weight. Some folks focus on some elements more than others, but all of these elements work to inform each other to become our goal and mission.

What makes P.S. ARTS a unique place to work?

The work culture definitely makes it a unique experience every day I come in. Sometimes, it's the actual work that's unique since no two days ever feel like they're the same. On top of that, the openness that we are given as staff to express ourselves allows us to show up unapologetically as ourselves and makes for some interesting interactions. More than anything though, it's very healthy, supportive, and sustainable, which maybe doesn't make it 100% unique, but it feeds into our culture of innovation and creation that really let's us enjoy what we do as administrators and as artists.



Noreen McGonigle

Advancement Associate

What is something you love about working at P.S. ARTS?

I love the camaraderie. No matter what everyone is so excited to see you when you come into the office, eager to ask about your drive and what's new in your life. Everyone is a cheerleader - the most excited to watch their coworkers succeed.

Will you share a favorite P.S. ARTS moment or memory?

My favorite P.S. ARTS moment was Express Yourself 2024. It was amazing to see everyone come together and have a fun day. The event is so much work but truly a team effort.

What makes P.S. ARTS a unique place to work?

The culture here is super special, unlike anywhere else I have worked or even heard about. From the kindness of coworkers to the amazing benefits, it is truly a happy place to work.



Vi Nguyen

Former Design Media & Content Intern

What is something you love about working at P.S. ARTS?

I loved the environment at P.S. ARTS. They welcomed me with open arms and created a safe space for me to learn and grow. Although I worked closely with the communications team, I always felt inspired and supported by other departments within the organization. P.S. ARTS demonstrated true leadership, passion, and collaboration, leaving me with an unforgettable experience that continues to inspire me today.

Will you share a favorite P.S. ARTS moment or memory?

One of my favorite P.S. ARTS moments was making samosas together at our staff retreat. The hands-on experience strengthened our connections and gave us the opportunity to learn about different cultures. It showed me the importance of shared experiences and learning through creative activities.

What makes P.S. ARTS a unique place to work?

It's the people. At P.S. ARTS, every individual is dedicated and committed to community, equity, artistic expression, innovation, and excellence. Their immense creativity, kindness, and willingness to learn never stops flowing. Each person contributes and collaborates, creating an exceptional cycle of growth and inspiration.

STAFF DAYS

Staff Days at P.S. ARTS are an opportunity for the team to come together and engage in creative and meaningful experiences. These gatherings foster connection, learning, and joy, allowing staff to step away from their daily routines and strengthen their sense of community.



A past Staff Day featured a scavenger hunt in the office's neighborhood of Historic Filipinotown, encouraging team members to explore local landmarks and learn about the area's rich history. Along the way, staff picked up food from neighborhood eateries and returned to the office to share a meal together. Whether through collaborative art activities or cultural explorations, Staff Days reflect P.S. ARTS' commitment to creativity and collective well-being.





SECRET CRAFTY PAL

Every holiday season, P.S. ARTS staff take part in a tradition called Secret Crafty Pal, a fun and creative gift exchange that reflects the caring and artistic spirit of P.S. ARTS.

Staff members draw names and craft handmade gifts based on their recipient's interests, using their skills to create a one-of-a-kind expression of thoughtfulness and creativity. This tradition not only celebrates the talent within the team but also strengthens our connections through the joy of creativity.

P.S. ARTS EVENTS

Express Yourself

Each year, families across Southern California come together for P.S. ARTS' largest fundraiser of the year, Express Yourself. Comprised of several art booths featuring guest artists, performances, and snacks, this fun-filled afternoon gives children and families an opportunity to experience the joy and creativity that the 31,000 students and community members we serve discover every day in our classrooms. With over 700 people in attendance, this family-friendly event ensures that P.S. ARTS will continue to encourage creativity and the opportunity for all children to express themselves. All the funds raised through Express Yourself support P.S. ARTS



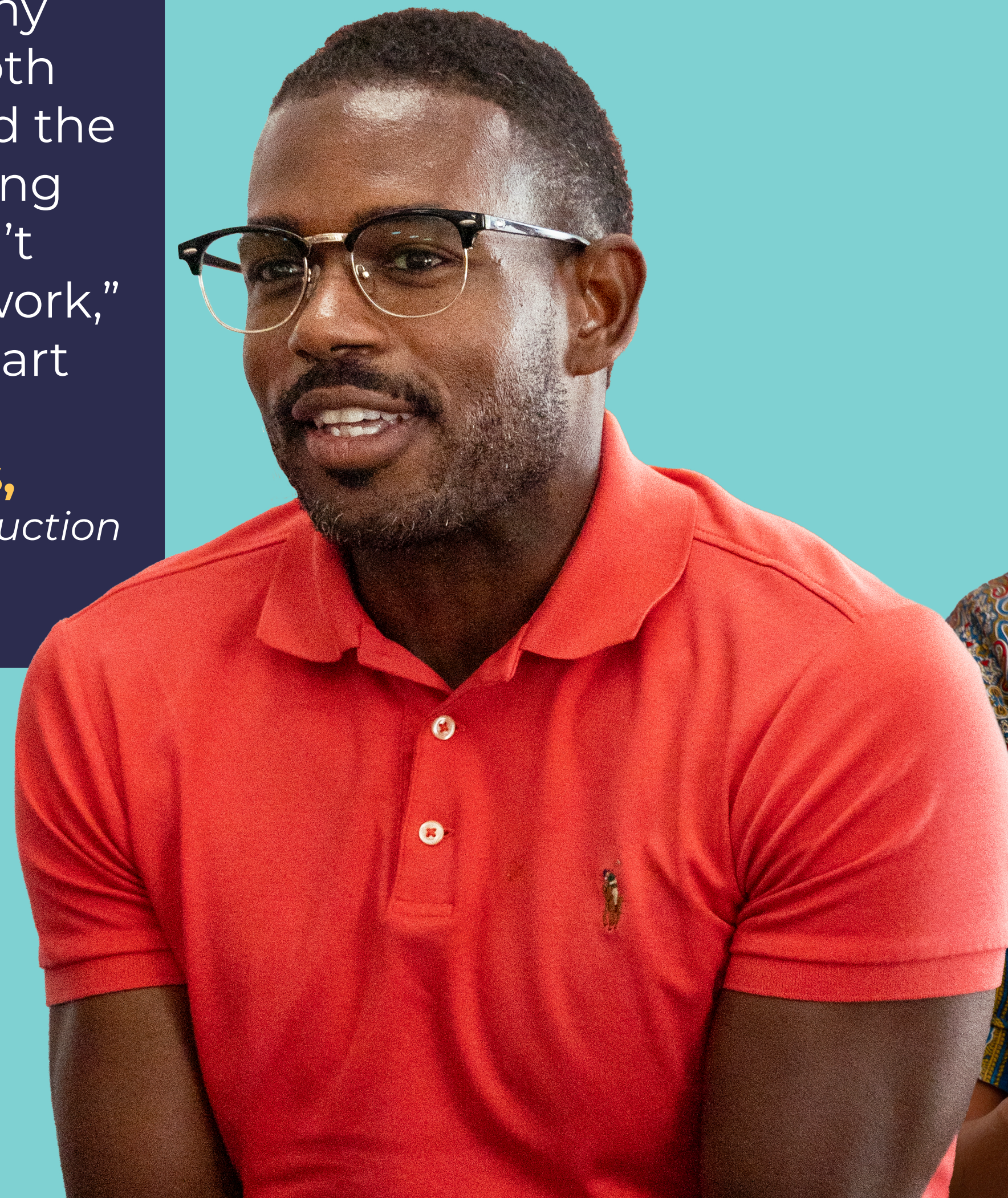
COUNCIL

Council is a reflective practice used at P.S. ARTS to foster connection, empathy, and inclusion amongst staff. Rooted in Indigenous traditions, Council invites participants to sit in a circle, share stories, and listen actively without judgment. This practice helps build trust, express authentically, and reinforce a sense of belonging through this communal strengthening process.



I am lucky to have a job that honors my natural gifts because my archetype is both the teacher and the artist. I love doing both, and I don't see either as "work," I see them as part of my essence.

-Donzell Lewis,
Curriculum & Instruction
Specialist



I am exhilarated for all the brilliant opportunities for growth and community engagement that lie ahead and, among all, I cannot express the gratitude I have for all the support that P.S. ARTS has provided in this journey.

-Lucas Esperanza, Programs
Associate





OUR OFFICE

In July 2024, the P.S. ARTS offices relocated to the Children's Institute, Inc. (CII) campus in Historic Filipinotown. This move was a significant milestone in P.S. ARTS' journey to service public schools and communities through arts education as it extended the organization's reach and increased its impact.

The co-location also marked a new model for P.S. ARTS and CII as nonprofits working together, aligning needs and resources to better service their communities.

WHY WE ARE HERE

P.S. ARTS offers continuously evolving programs to its students in visual arts, dance, theater, music, and media arts taught by trained Teaching Artists. Since P.S. ARTS recognizes that high quality arts education extends beyond the classroom, we also provide after school programs, community programming, summer programs, and educator development opportunities. P.S. ARTS works with generous donors, school districts, and funding entities to provide free programs for students and families.





IN 2023-2024, PS. ARTS PROGRAMS INCLUDED:

30,988

TK-8th grade
students, family
and community
members

189

Educators
trained in arts
integration

81

Teaching
Artists

88

Public
schools

14

Schools
districts



**P.S. ARTS
PROGRAMS
DEVELOP
PROACTIVE
LEARNERS,
FOSTER
COLLABORATION,
AND PROMOTE
ARTISTIC
EXPRESSION.**



HOW WE DO IT

Equity in Arts Education

P.S. ARTS advocates for students' educational rights, bridging opportunity gaps in public education so that all students can benefit from the transformative power of the arts.

High-Quality Programs for Every Student

P.S. ARTS delivers arts programs designed to meet the highest standards, from in class instruction with trained, professional teaching artists, to after school and summer programs, as well as educator training.

The Role of Arts in Human Rights

Artistic expression is an essential human right. Every child deserves access to a high-quality arts education to ensure equitable opportunities to thrive academically and creatively.

Supporting Schools with Customizable Wraparound Services

P.S. ARTS works closely with schools and districts to provide wraparound services that address the unique needs of each community.

The Joy of Creativity as an Essential Part of Learning

Through arts education, P.S. ARTS cultivates the joy of creativity and artistic expression as vital components of learning and growing.



A P.S. ARTS CLASSROOM

We define a great art class as one where students understand the context and skills of the project, but spend most of class-time participating in artmaking.

TEACHING ARTISTS

At P.S. ARTS, our staff and faculty are deeply connected to the arts, with the majority of our Teaching Artists being current or former professional artists in dance, music, theater, or visual arts.





“ I have many things I love about P.S. ARTS. I love the community and support I’ve gotten over the years. I’ve never felt isolated or let down... I also appreciate all the new artists and art forms I’ve come to learn over the years to apply in my classes. Overall, I love how I’ve grown as an artist and educator on account of P.S. ARTS. ”

-**David Partida**, *P.S. ARTS Teaching Artist*



FAMILY ART NIGHTS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

P.S. ARTS partners with schools every year to host a Family Art Night (FAN). These fun-filled nights allow families the opportunity to make art and work together creatively. We also actively engage our communities by tabling and hosting art booths at various district and local festivals.

**QUESTIONS
THAT DRIVE
US**

How can we create
more inclusive and
engaging learning
and working
environments?

How do I inspire
joy and curiosity
through my work?

How can I ensure
that every student
feels a sense of
belonging?

In what ways can
I make the arts
more accessible to
all students?

How can I
continue to grow
as an artist, an
educator, and a
culture worker?





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