LA County Arts Internship Program



2021 Program Highlights

With the support of the LA County Department of Arts and Culture, 213 college students had paid internships at 138 performing, presenting, film, media, literary, municipal arts, social service and social justice organizations in 2021.

"Those 400 hours were the perfect amount of time to learn, integrate, and find footing in an organization. I was able to make personal/professional connections without just being a passing face. The paid aspect is also something that to many may just seem like a perk, but for me was the only way I could accept this internship for this amount of time at all.

— literary intern at a theatre organization

"Having programs such as this help break that barrier and make it more accessible for people who do not have the privilege of networking with industry professionals before entering the job market.

Los Angeles

Arts &

Culture

County

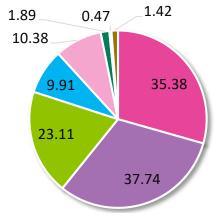
intern at a film organization

What participants had to say: "Working remotely allows our intern to work during our office hours and around their class schedule. It's remarkable! I truly enjoy that this internship has had the flexibility to be during the summer and during the season. This allows them to see their projects come to life!"

> supervisor at a symphony organization

BY THE NUMBERS

2021 Interns by Race/Ethnicity*



- Hispanic or Latino
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- Decline to State

By Gender Identity:

73.83% Identify as Female 24.30% Identify as Male 1.87% Identify as Other

Program Impact + Success:

- **84%** of supervisors report being "highly satisfied" with the program
- On a scale from 1 to 5, **97%** of interns rated the quality of their relationship with their supervisor a 4 or higher.
- 97% of interns reported that the remote internship format & part time hours worked well for them.
- **100%** of interns said they would recommend this program to a friend.

- White
- Mixed Ethnicity
- Native American
- Other

Colleges with highest representation:

- UCLA
- USC
- Cal State Northridge
- Cal State Long Beach
- Cal State Los Angeles
- Santa Monica College
- California Institute of the Arts
- Loyola Marymount University

What interns would consider the most valuable thing they gained from their internship:

- 49% said increased understanding of careers in the arts
- 39% said paid work experience
- 10% said networking opportunities

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS



2021 Arts Summit Program



Virtual "tables" used during the networking portion of Arts Summit

Art Summit host Hector Flores of LA's Las Cafeteras welcoming interns to the event



2021 Arts Internship Program Final Report

July 2022



Background and Program Overview

The Los Angeles County Arts Internship Program (AIP) supports and strengthens the cultural sector of LA County by expanding access to high quality paid opportunities for college students of all backgrounds to gain experience, understanding, and transferable skills relevant to careers in the arts, the creative economy, and engagement in public life. Established in 2000 as a companion to the Getty Foundation's Marrow Undergraduate Internship Program, which funds 10 week, full-time internships in visual arts organizations and museums for college students, AIP allows students to develop a deeper understanding of the work involved in nonprofit arts administration across disciplines learn about the role of the arts in communities, and develop skills that can be put to use in their future careers.

The AIP program provides grants to nonprofit performing, presenting, film, media, literary, and municipal arts organizations to hire students to engage in specific projects over the course of a 400 hours internship. In 2020, social service and social justice organizations who are grantees of the Community Impact Arts Grant (CIAG) program were also eligible to apply, further expanding the available opportunities for interns. The program also facilitates educational and networking opportunities for the interns to get a broader view of the arts ecosystem outside of the context of the day-to-day work within their organizations, and provides a supervisor orientation for host organizations to integrate a lens of diversity, equity, inclusion, and support for diverse students as a hallmark of the program.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' investment in AIP began with a commitment to fund approximately 120 positions, on par with the Getty's program. The program quickly became a mainstay with a ripple effect across the region, with many interns remaining in the field and going on to supervise other interns and some also becoming leaders of nonprofit art organizations. While the program's structure remained relatively unchanged over the years, the Department's response to the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated a shift in focus to better reflect the changing needs of both organizations and students in the County that were well underway prior to the onset of the pandemic. Most notably, Los Angeles County's <u>Cultural Equity and</u> <u>Inclusion Initiative</u> (CEII) highlighted the need to more intentionally support students of all backgrounds to be able to take advantage of internship opportunities and included a community

college expansion to not only increase the total number of student positions in the program but provide intentional outreach and positions for them. To implement the expansion, staff member Martin Hernandez was hired, and AIP staff strengthened relationships with local community colleges and encouraged grantee organizations to consider community college students in their hiring. As a result, the number of participating community college students has skyrocketed from 7 in 2017 to 48 in 2019 and 38 in 2021. In addition, with the advent of new leadership, a deeper equity lens has been championed across all the Department's programs which has been carried through to AIP by the program staff and partners.

The success and relevance of the program is reflected in the Board of Supervisors' championing of its growth and steadfast support. Despite reductions in the program's scale during the Great Recession, AIP has steadily expanded in the last few years and initial pandemic budget cuts were restored by the Board. For 2021, 228 positions were initially awarded to 144 organizations in 2021 and of those, 213 positions at 138 organizations were successfully launched.

Program Outreach

2021 marks the third year of AIP "Info Sessions" held at various community colleges, with the goal of increasing awareness of program among the students. These info sessions were comprised of a short overview of the program as well as Q&A with Arts & Culture staff. These presentations allowed the department to demonstrate the countywide scope of the program, encourage students from the community colleges to apply, as well as provide some insight and advice for the application process. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, all the info sessions for the 2021 program were held virtually.

School	BOS	# of students attended
Santa Monica College	3	~ 20
Long Beach City College	4	~ 25
East Los Angeles College	1	~ 25
West Los Angeles College	2	~ 25
Pasadena City College	5	~ 80
Loyola Marymount University	2	~20
Cal State Long Beach	4	~20

COVID-19 and Continued Program Flexibility

Due to the overwhelmingly positive feedback and appreciation from grantees as well as ongoing hardships, staff kept in place much of the program flexibility that was introduced in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in the program guidelines and application.

These changes include:

1. *Expanded Timeline and Flexible Hours:* The internship work window has been extended from June through August to June through March 1 of the following year.

Applicants were able to propose internships within the new timeframe, allowing them greater flexibility in proposed projects for the interns. To provide students with flexibility they would need to balance other work and class schedules during the school year, interns are now permitted to work a minimum of 15 hours per week over the longer period of time (rather than requiring full-time for 10 weeks).

2. *Remote/Virtual Work:* Applicants were asked to submit proposals that could be completed either remotely or on site, depending on the Los Angeles County Public Health Guidelines at the start of the internship. Applicants seeking to have interns working remotely were asked to speak to how they planned to support interns in a remote environment. While most internships happened virtually, the Department did issue a guidance to all grantees in April 2021 with parameters for bringing interns on site to work, in alignment with LA County Department of Public Health's reopening guidelines.

3. *Virtual Educational/Peer Events:* To better serve interns navigating remote internships and to prioritize safety, all educational components including Arts Summit and Peer Groups were once again held in a virtual format.

In recognition of the continued financial hardships many organizations were facing as a result of the pandemic, staff also made the following changes to the funding guidelines to provide additional support to grantee organizations including:

- 1. Increasing the administrative stipend from \$500 per intern to \$750 per intern
- 2. Eliminating the cash match required for organizations with budgets over 1.5 million dollars

Program Highlights

Supervisor Orientation

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the Department and The Getty Foundation agreed that the annual Supervisor Orientation should once again be held in a virtual format as it was in 2020. Staff worked closely with The Getty Foundation to rework the format of the event over two dates in spring 2021 to better support the virtual environment and offer a more substantive experience for the supervisors of interns at host arts organizations participating in both programs.

Day one focused on the mechanics of both programs; reviewing supervisor responsibilities, intern approval, required surveys and other technical pieces. To highlight the internal wealth of knowledge within these programs, three individuals with in-depth knowledge of the programs were invited to participate in "Lightning Talks" where they were able to share thoughts and reflections on their experience. These individuals were:

- Karina Arzate-Arenivaz Alumni, Getty Marrow Multicultural Undergraduate Internship Program
- Elena Muslar Alumni, LA County Arts Internship Program
- **Pilar Tompkins Rivas** Supervisor & Learning Community Leader in the Getty Marrow Multicultural Undergraduate Internship Program

At the end of day one, supervisors from both programs were given the opportunity to network with one another in Zoom breakout rooms, sharing thoughts and reflections from the lightning talks and anything else related to their experience as supervisors.

Day two of supervisor orientation enlisted the help of outside consultants to provide professional development for supervisors around three different topics. These topics were agreed upon by both the Department and The Getty as areas of need identified in feedback from supervisors in both programs. New supervisors were required to attend at least one session but could choose to attend all three if interested.

- Session 1: Navigating Intergenerational Working Relationships with Belinda Madrid Teitel
- Session 2: Understanding Race and Power in our Organizations with Jade Agua
- Session 3: Embracing the Unknown: Building the Foundation for Equity and Inclusion with Justin Scott Campbell

Overall, feedback about the new format of the event was very positive. Supervisors were extremely engaged in each session and took advantage of being able to network with colleagues in The Getty's program. One survey response noted, "It was nice to hear that many of us faced the similar challenges in 2020, and *very* helpful to discuss how each organization navigated and implemented changes."

Educational Components – Arts Summit

After a successful partnership last year, event producers Champion City were once again enlisted following a competitive solicitation process for the 2021 Arts Summit virtual event. The goal of Arts Summit included prioritizing small group networking opportunities for interns, exploring the larger arts and culture landscape in Los Angeles, and highlighting artist talent from the region. The central theme of "Art and Healing" explored the many ways arts can be a tool for personal and community healing; a theme we hope resonated with interns as the world shifted towards a reopening phase. In advance of the event, each intern received an AIP branded welcome kit as part of their participation.

Before the start of the program, interns were able to utilize the networking capabilities of the online platform Airmeet to sit at virtual "tables" with one another and introduce themselves. This also allowed staff to "sit in" at different tables to spur conversation and welcome interns. The utilization of the Airmeet platform was successful in many ways, but the ability for interns to connect with one another and engage with the talent of the event was especially noteworthy.

Our event began with a formal land acknowledgment by Vice Chair of the City/County Native American Indian Commission Rudy Ortega and Mark Villasenor, President and Vice President of the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians. Hector Flores of LA's very own Las Cafeteras served as emcee and kicked off the event with a rousing welcome. Throughout the event, interns were further welcomed with pre-recorded remarks by many County representatives including Supervisors Holly J. Mitchell, Kathryn Barger, Sheila Kuehl and Hilda L. Solis, Department of Arts and Culture Director Kristin Sakoda, and President of the LA County Arts Commission Constance Jolcuvar. To ensure a program with a wide range of engagement, we structured the event to include performances, a keynote address, a guest panel as well as interactive workshops for the interns. This included performances from multi-disciplinary artist Dorian Wood, the World Percussion Ensemble of Los Angeles, as well as critic, writer and poet (and Getty alum) Raquel Gutierrez. Throughout the performances, interns were encouraged to interact with the talent and they enthusiastically responded using the chat feature.

For the interactive workshops, we engaged Tanita Fadyeyola to lead interns in a meditation and breathing activity that connected participants with their breath and their body. Raquel Gutierrez participated as both a performer and workshop lead, encouraging students through a writing workshop to think about the kinds of questions they might ask themselves while engaging in various writing projects.

The panel, led by Hector, took a deeper dive into the "Arts and Healing" theme by highlighting personal experiences from guest panelists. Hector was joined for this powerful conversation by Rudy Torres of Bloom Homie, artist and architect Anthony Poon, clay artist and abolitionist Annette Zaragoza-Cerritos as well as Dorian Wood. While many of the experiences shared by the panelists were difficult, they did a wonderful job of detailing how the arts played a central role in their recovery, as well as sharing their vision for how the arts can continue to facilitate that healing in the future.

For the keynote address, interns were treated to a behind the scenes look at the making of Netflix's City of Ghosts by its Emmy-award winning creator, Elizabeth Ito. In addition to sharing about her creative process and the sketches from her childhood that inspired the show, Elizabeth spoke to Hector about what it was like to launch their animated series during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and how her art continues to be her therapy. A recording of Art Summit is available on out YouTube channel <u>here.</u>

Educational Components – Peer Groups

Because of the lessons learned in 2020, we were more prepared to adapt the Peer Group events to better suit the online environment. This year, we engaged 9 seasoned Peer Group leaders who had demonstrated success with virtual events in the previous cycle. This helped ensure that interns had access to high quality, well run virtual events. Additionally, we were honored to be approached by a small group of AIP alumni from the 2020 program who asked to host a Peer Group event, which added an additional opportunity to the calendar.

Below is a list of the 2021 Peer Group Leaders as well as the events they hosted:

- <u>Opportunities in the Creative Industries</u> presented by **Larry Laboe**, Executive Director of New Filmmakers Los Angeles
- <u>Storytelling As an Act of Resistance, Liberation and Healing Communities</u> presented by **Kristin Lorey**, Community and Culture Director of Young Storytellers.
- <u>Why Art Matters</u> presented by **Sayon Syprasoeuth**, Program Manager at United Cambodian Community
- <u>Personal Branding 101</u> presented by **Mandy Matthews** former Manager of Community Engagement at American Youth Symphony

- <u>Arts Education Coffee Chat</u> presented by **Manuel Prieto**, Executive Director of LAMusArt
- <u>Theatre vs. "The Industry"</u> presented by **Brian Elerding**, Executive Director of Lineage Performing Arts Center
- <u>How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Failure</u> presented by **alumni of the 2020** Arts Internship Program
- <u>Interns...Where Are They Now?</u> Presented by **Felicia Vann**, Executive Director of Precision Dance Company
- <u>An Interview with The Wallis</u> presented by **Debra Pasquerette**, Manager of Community Engagement at The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
- <u>Public Art 101</u> Presented by **Jennifer Fukutomi Jones**, Arts and Culture Administrator with the City of Glendale

The high touch mentorship, networking, and structured connections afforded by the Peer Group components positively impacted student's experiences. 71% of interns considered their Peer Group meetings beneficial, and 87% found there to be a sufficient amount of Peer Group offerings.

Alumni Success

The Arts Internship Program now has over 20 years of success in providing paid work-based learning opportunities and increasing access to careers in the arts and creative economy sector for diverse college students of all background. As the program enters its third decade, the achievements of both recent and long-time alumni continue to show the positive and long-lasting impact of the County's investment in this flagship creative careers program. We received news of several exciting achievements from Arts Internship alumna. A few we highlight below.

- Kristina Wong, AIP Class of 2000
 - A multi-hyphenate artist and all around powerhouse, Kristina was named as a <u>2022 Pulitzer Finalist</u> in Drama for her work *Kristina Wong, Sweatshop Overlord.* Kristina was featured heavily in our AIP 20th anniversary reflection <u>video</u> created in 2020.
- Jonathan Muñoz-Proulx, AIP Class of 2010
 - After serving as Director of Cultural Programming at A Noise Within Theatre in Pasadena, Jonathan was <u>recently announced</u> as the next Artistic Director of the Lily Tomlin/Jane Wagner Cultural Arts Center with the Los Angeles LGBT Center.
- Arts & Culture staff have also encountered several intern alumni out and about at public events, with previous arts interns being hired for jobs at the **Arts Council for Long Beach**, **Plaza de la Raza** and **Culver City**, just to name a few.

Looking Ahead

Field Challenges

While we, like many of our grantee organizations, have learned much in our adjustment to a world with COVID-19, many organizations continued to struggle with financial and programmatic realities that impacted their ability to host interns. While this year was a marked improvement

over 2020, we still had 12 internships at 7 organizations that did not launch due to a myriad of factors including organizational shifts, struggles with recruitment and cancelled programming. The flexibility in the program structure continues to be highly appreciated by our grantee organizations as they navigate this new phase of the pandemic.

The Upcoming 2022 Cycle

While much of Los Angeles has reopened under Department of Public Health guidelines, continued flexibility in the program is necessary to withstand any hardships the ongoing pandemic may present. As such, many of the measures instituted in 2020 will remain in place for the 2022 cycle including the longer program timeline, flexible remote work parameters, and some virtual educational components. While we anticipate that many interns will be working on site for the majority of their internships, we will be introducing additional parameters on remote work to ensure that students working remotely have the best experience possible and that the program can accommodate the new work reality of many of our grantee organizations.

In acknowledgement of this reopening phase of the pandemic, staff plans to slowly reintroduce a few in person events for the 2022 cycle, to gauge intern readiness and comfortability. This information will be used to potentially reshape educational components for future grant cycles and give staff the opportunity to be face to face with interns for the first time since 2019.

Schools Attended by Interns in the 2021 Arts Internship Program

- Arizona State University
- Art Center College of Design
- Cabrillo Community College
- Cal Poly Pomona
- Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
- Cal State University Dominguez Hills
- Cal State University Long Beach
- Cal State University Los Angeles
- Cal State University Northridge
- Cal State University Los Angeles
- California Baptist University
- California Institute of the Arts
- California Lutheran University
- Cal State University Fullerton
- Cal State University San Bernardino
- Cerritos College
- College of the Canyons
- Colorado College
- Columbia College Chicago
- Columbia University
- Cornell University
- East LA College
- El Camino College
- Emory University
- Fordham University
- Fullerton College
- Glendale Community College
- Hussian College Los Angeles
- LA City College
- LA Trade Tech College
- LA Valley College
- Lake Forest College
- Long Beach City College
- Loyola Marymount University
- Millikin University
- Mount St. Mary's College

- New York University, Tisch School of the Arts
- Oberlin College
- Occidental College
- Oregon State University
- Pasadena City College
- Pierce College
- Pitzer College
- Pomona College
- Rio Hondo College
- San Jose State
- Santa Monica College
- Scripps College
- Smith College
- Stanford
- SUNY Purchase
- Syracuse University
- The Los Angeles Film School
- The New School
- UC Irvine
- UC Riverside
- UC Santa Cruz
- UCLA
- UC Santa Barbara
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Arizona
- UC Davis
- University of the Pacific
- USC University of Southern California
- Vanderbilt University
- Washington and Lee University
- West LA College
- Westmont College
- Whittier College
- Woodbury University

BOLD = community college

Organizations That Successfully Launched Internships in AIP 2021:

- 11:11 A Creative Collective
- 826LA
- A Noise Within
- A Place Called Home
- About...Productions
- Academy Foundation
- Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles
- American Youth Symphony, Inc
- Angels Gate Cultural Center
- Antaeus Theatre Company
- Art Share Los Angeles, Inc.
- Arts and Services for Disabled, Inc.
- Arts District San Pedro
- Waterfront
- Arts for LA
- Association of California Symphony Orchestras
- Beyond Baroque Foundation
- Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory
- Boys & Girls Club of West San Gabriel Valley and Eastside
- California Alliance for Arts Education
- California Lawyers for the Arts
- Canyon Theatre Guild
- Center Theatre Group of Los Angeles
- City Hearts: Kids Say Yes to the Arts LA Fringe Theatre, Inc.
- City of Culver City, Cultural Affairs
- City of Glendale | Library, Arts & Culture
- City of Santa Clarita
- City of South Gate
- City of Torrance
- City of West Hollywood
- Collage Dance Theatre
- Community Partners
- CONTRA-TIEMPO
- Cornerstone Theater Company, Inc.
- Create Now, Inc.
- Culture Shock Los Angeles Dance Troupe
- dA Center for the Arts
- Dance Resource Center
- Diavolo Dance Theatre
- Dramatic Results
- Eagle Rock Community Cultural Association
- East-West Players, Inc.
- Ebony Repertory Theatre, Inc
- Encore Theatre Group
- Esperanza Community Housing Corporation
- ETM-LA, Inc.
- Film Independent Inc

- Floricanto Dance Theatre
- Free Arts for Abused Children
- Fund for Music
- Future Roots Inc.
- Get Lit Words Ignite Inc.
- Grand Performances
- Grand Vision Foundation
- Greenway Arts Alliance
- Holocaust Museum LA
- Inland Valley Repertory Theatre
- International City Theatre
- International Eye, Los Angeles
- Invertigo Dance Theatre
- Jabberwocky Theatre Company
- JC Culture Foundation
- Jewish Women's Theatre
- Justice by Uniting in Creative Energy (JUiCE)
- Kaleidoscope Chamber Orchestra
- KCRW Foundation, Inc.
- Latino Theater Company
- Lineage Dance Company
- Long Beach Opera
- Look What She Did
- Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra Society, Inc.
- Los Angeles Jewish Symphony
- Los Angeles Master Chorale
- Los Angeles Methodist Museum of Social Justice
- Los Angeles Music and Art School
- Los Angeles Opera Company
- Los Angeles Performance Practice
- Los Angeles Philharmonic Association
- Los Angeles Review of Books
- Los Angeles United Methodist Urban Foundation
- Los Angeles Women's Theatre Festival
- Lower Depth Theater Ensemble
- Lula Washington Contemporary Dance Foundation
- MashUp Contemporary Dance Company
- Muae Publishing, Inc.
- Musical Theatre West
- National Association of Latino Independent
 Producers
- New Musicals Inc.
- NewFilmmakers Los Angeles
- No Easy Props Inc.
- Odyssey Theatre Foundation
- Other Side of The Hill Productions
- P.S. ARTS
- Pasadena Conservatory of Music

- PEN America Los Angeles
- Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County
- Plaza de la Raza
- Pony Box Dance Theatre
- Precision Dance Company
- Public Corporation for the Arts of the City of Long Beach
- Public Media Group of Southern California
- Red Hen Press
- Regents of the University of California
- Remainders Creative Reuse
- Santa Cecilia Opera and Orchestra Association
- Santa Clarita Shakespeare Festival
- Santa Monica Youth Orchestra
- Self-Help Graphics and Art, INC
- Sierra Madre Playhouse
- Skirball Cultural Center
- Skylight Theatre Company
- Synchromy
- The Blank Theatre
- The Gabriella Foundation
- The H.E.Art Project dba artworxLA
- The Harmony Project
- The Independent Shakespeare Co., Inc.

- The Industry Productions Inc
- The Neighborhood Music School Association
- The Outwords Archive, Inc.
- The People Concern
- The Theatre at Boston Court
- The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company
- Theatre Of Hearts/Youth First
- Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural
- Tierra del Sol Foundation
- United Cambodian Community (UCC)
- Visual Communications Media
- Viver Brasil Dance Company
- VOX Femina Los Angeles
- Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
- Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum
- Women In Film
- Women's Center for Creative Work
- Women's Voices Now Inc
- WordTheatre
- Young Choreographers Project
- Young Musicians Foundation
- Young Storytellers