



## **Arts in Juvenile Camps and Halls: An Overview**

This document is intended as orientation to assist those who seek to expand their programming and may have teaching artists that are new to this work. It is purposefully brief and intended only as an introduction. However, there is a section related to policies and regulations recently adopted to address Covid-19 issues and remote instruction that might be helpful even for teaching artists with extensive experience working in Camps and Halls.

Note: There are significant differences and variations both within a given facility, depending on which youth are served, and from one facility to the next. This document does not address the full set of possible scenarios that instructors will encounter.

### **Facility Type**

- **Juvenile Halls**

Juvenile Halls are institutional settings that temporarily house youth for primarily two reasons: prior to their court dates and/or after their adjudication, pending transitional placement/services. A young person may enter juvenile hall if arrested by law enforcement officers for a crime or if referred to court for a "Status Offense" (like truancy).

- **Juvenile Camps**

Juvenile Camps are residential treatment facilities, where youth stay for between 3-9 months. Their goal, as described by the Probation Department is "to reunify the minor with their family, to reintegrate the minor into the community, and to assist the minor in developing the social skills and behavior management skills needed to lead a law-abiding life." The Camps provide youth with education, medical, and mental health services, as well as athletics, vocational training, specialized tutoring, and counseling services through partnerships with other County agencies. Additional programming is provided by community-based organizations and varies by camp, as each camp is tailored to its population and purpose.

Youth in Camps and Halls have their educational needs served by the LA County Office of Education (LACOE) during the school day. LACOE's programs are designed to move youth who have experienced significant trauma, social-emotional, and academic challenges towards greater academic proficiency.

### **Geography**

- Probation facilities are often located in remote areas of the county that require extra travel time.
- Compensation for mileage is included in the hourly fee.

### **Security**

- Being admitted into a facility requires extra time for passing through the security desk, verifying credentials, and signing in. There are often delays that need to be anticipated.

- In some cases the arts instruction is delivered across campus, so extra time is required and also must be anticipated.
- LiveScan clearance must be obtained by every individual who enters the facility. The process requires paying for the service, traveling to the probation office in Downey, and waiting for sometimes as long as six weeks for the result.
- Instructors' credentials will be on file with the facility staff, but the LiveScan clearance letter is often necessary to be shown. Instructors must keep a copy ready for inspection.
- Personal items, other than an ID and a clearance letter, may not be carried inside. This includes cell phones.
- All supplies or devices related to the instruction must be approved in advance. If any writing utensils or markers are used, the instructor is responsible for being certain that every item has been collected at the conclusion of the session. Failure to do so is considered a serious infraction.

### **Safety**

- Protecting the personal safety of the youth being served is of paramount importance. Under no circumstances can photography or video reveal the face or identify of any individual.
- In general, youth surnames are not revealed or included on sign-in sheets.
- If youth are creating any artifacts related to their personal history, these writings or art works must be carefully monitored and guarded to prevent placing the youth in danger.
- Instructors may be required to attend an orientation meeting presented by probation staff and to sign an agreement related to the policies regulating their conduct at the facility.
- In general, snacks and food are prohibited. There may be exceptions for culmination events if arranged far in advance with specific vendors and types of meals.

### **Flexibility**

- Many types of circumstances can arise to delay the start of the service or cause cancellation. This is to be anticipated.
- In many cases there is movement of youth across campus to the location of service. This movement depends on the availability of Probation staff. If staff are not available to escort youth, there may be a delay in the youth arriving to the classroom.
- Attendance will be inconsistent. Instructors are expected to accommodate the need for differentiated, flexible and episodic activities and learning structures.

### **Covid-19**

- At the time of this writing, all services are being delivered virtually through remote instruction using Microsoft TEAMS and conference calls. TEAMS is the only platform currently permitted for video conferencing and does allow for the instructor to see and interact visually with participants.
- Every instructor must have a signed Confidentiality Waiver on file with the Department of Arts and Culture. This includes stipulations covering the secure space from which the services are being broadcast and the means to protect the identify of youth.
- Social distancing requirements limit the number of participants for any session to six persons.
- The duration of sessions will generally be one hour or less. There is often more than one session per day, and contracts provide payment for a two-hour minimum.
- In certain cases the facility director has approved the use of a laptop in the class. Maintaining a sterile environment and limiting the spread of CV-19 due to multiple touches of any device is

required.

- Instructors can provide supplies to be distributed by probation staff. The curriculum design and planning process must clearly detail the types of materials and the process for administering the supplies.
- In some cases instructors have provided DVDs or other media if there are devices available for youth participants approved by the facility director.