



## Mission + Values

GIVE KIDS ART is a non-profit that raises awareness to the significant value of creative expression and furthers its positive impact on social, emotional, and cognitive wellness.

We provide art programs to ignite creative exploration and self-expression in underserved children, ages 5-13, living in Los Angeles. Our goal is to promote **self-love**, **joy**, and **healing** in an environment where anything feels possible.

We believe everyone deserves the opportunity to fearlessly discover, explore, and empower their innate artistic self.

### Our Values:

1. Embrace Beautiful Mistakes
2. Inspire Imagination
3. Live with Heart
4. Nurture Trust
5. Go Beyond

Learn more about us at [www.givekidsart.org](http://www.givekidsart.org).

*“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.”*

*– Pablo Picasso*

# Program Overview

Our 10-week art programs are individually customized to your organization's participants, their ages and abilities. Sessions can range 60-90 minutes weekly and include a fun warm-up exercise, an art-making activity, the opportunity to present and share, and positive messages to carry throughout the week.

Our program is unique because we strategically outline a curriculum that introduces and allows each individual to explore a multitude of visual arts mediums while incorporating creative arts modalities such as theater and movement during our warm-up. We encourage participants to grow together in a collaborative, positive community and promote emotional expression in an effort to manifest self-awareness, communication, and emotional intelligence.

Our activities focus on the process and inner joy of creative self-expression, rather than on the final product. When we are given the freedom to be imperfect and to fearlessly explore ourselves through art, what comes forth unconditionally can be even more "beautiful." Our volunteer mentors provide a listening ear and a nurturing spirit as participants experience their self-expressive journey. Mentors are encouraged to engage in each participant's creative world and express curiosity towards their unique creations. Lastly, our key differentiator is that we host a post-program art showcase event that celebrates our participants and their families as well as fosters community spirit, optimism, and self-esteem.

We assign two to three adult mentor volunteers per partner program, and each program can host up to 20 participants per session. We supply all materials, and our programs are provided at no cost to our partners.

## *Program Cycle Dates*

We operate in cycles that coincide with the seasons. Specific program dates are flexible.

**Winter:** January - March

**Spring:** April - June

**Summer:** July - August (8 weeks)

**Fall:** September - November

## Program Supplies and Cleanliness

GIVE KIDS ART supplies all art materials at no cost to you! If you have the space, we kindly ask to store at least one large plastic storage box full of supplies along with an additional plastic box that will house the participant's artwork throughout the 10-week program, used for the final art showcase.

We promote cleanliness for our participants and your facility. While we can't guarantee your space won't get slightly dirty, we can promise to respect your space as if it were our own. We also encourage participants to help volunteers tidy up at the end of each art session. All program participants will be provided a GIVE KIDS ART t-shirt or apron, so that each can protect their clothing as much as possible throughout the program.

## Program Safety

We respect and will follow any rules and guidelines that our partner program has in place. When it comes to safety with our supplies, we can provide child scissors for certain activities or make sure the volunteers are only allowed to handle specific tools on behalf of the participants. No other sharp or possibly dangerous supplies are provided.

If you have fun sayings or chants that are regularly used within your community, please share and we'll maintain consistency through our program.

Our only program rules for participants are: *Be Kind, Be Curious, Be Safe, Have Fun!*

## Our Mentor Volunteers

All of our art mentor volunteers are adults (18+ years old) that have been vetted with thorough background checks, interviews, and GIVE KIDS ART training sessions. Our volunteers help us stay aligned with our mission of providing a safe, nurturing environment for members to fearlessly explore and discover their innate artistic creativity.

If you have any questions regarding our on-boarding process, please reach out to us at [www.givekidsart.org](http://www.givekidsart.org).

## Program Information

Every program cycle, GIVE KIDS ART outlines a 10-week curriculum that will ignite creative exploration and artistic self-expression. Each session focuses on or supports one of these areas of growth:

- Mindfulness
- Self-Awareness
- Self-Esteem + Self-Compassion
- Connections + Relationships
- Change + Problem-Solving
- Anxiety + Stress
- Thought, Emotion, Behavior
- Stimulating + Thought-Provoking

Our curriculum is "process-art based" and our participants experience a range of visual art mediums (such as collage, acrylic, watercolor, clay, drawing etc.), allowing them to experiment and find their preferred creative channel. We also integrate a range of creative arts into each session, through our warm-up activities. These warm-up and art activities specifically focus on identifying and articulating emotions, such as incorporating an emotions charade game or drawing emojis and what they say, think, and want.

The introduction and sharing component of each session strategically provides opportunities for participants to exercise and grow their emotional intelligence. They identify how they feel, communicate their thoughts and feelings through sharing, and also actively listen and respect others sharing. Each program cycle includes a fun, immediate take-home gift, such as painting a mini plant pot filled with a living succulent, building dream catchers, or making stress balls to use at home.

We try to recognize U.S. holidays and customize the experience for the participants. The session before or closest to a holiday – such as Halloween, Thanksgiving, Valentine’s Day, etc. – will have an activity that incorporates themes that correspond to the holiday – such as painting pumpkins, making and giving friendship bracelets, collaging Valentine’s Day cards, respectively.

### **General Session Agenda** (~1 hours)

Our Rules: *Be Kind, Be Curious, Be Safe, Have Fun!*

Below we have outlined the general structure for each session:

- 1. Set Up:** Mentor volunteers prepare the room with recommended materials for the session's activity before participants arrive, about 10 minutes prior to the start time. If the activity calls for painting or anything messy, cover the tables and ensure participants wear aprons. If participants arrive early during setup, they are invited to sketch or doodle with provided materials.
- 2. Introduction:** Mentor volunteers introduce the theme of the session.
- 3. Warm-Up Activity:** Mentor volunteers guide an introductory activity that corresponds to the theme and art-making activity. This activity typically has theatrical or movement based roots.
- 4. Art Activity:** After the warm-up, mentor volunteers introduce and begin the art-making activity. If participants do not wish to engage in a particular activity and want to draw or collage on their own, we let them! This is not school or class, so there are no required activities rules as long as participants are exercising creativity and expressing themselves.
- 5. Sharing:** Each session concludes with mentor volunteers welcoming participants to share their creation(s) with their peers. *No one is required to share.* We typically allocate the last 10 minutes of each session for sharing and clean up. With consent from each participant, the artwork is collected and stored for our end-of-program art showcase.
- 6. Clean Up:** After sharing, mentor volunteers invite the participants to help clean-up.

## *Art Showcase Gallery Event*

Our end-of-program art showcase gallery event is an opportunity for participants to present their selected artwork(s) for themselves, with their peers, and with their families, should they choose to invite them. GIVE KIDS ART will organize an event time with the partner organization that will optimize viewing and engagement within the community. Our volunteers arrive early, set up tables with easels, and display the artwork that the participants selected during their last session. We also surprise the participants with complimentary snacks and drinks to make it feel like a celebration. It's an enjoyable way to cap off the 10-week program.

## *Let's Make It A Success!*

At GIVE KIDS ART, we value our partner's and participants' feedback. This is a collaborative process. Please help our program flourish and continue helping others by sharing your thoughts. With our partner organization's consent, we will administer an end-of-program evaluation to our participants via a very simple survey. Additionally, we will meet with our primary contact at the partner organization to evaluate our on-going relationship