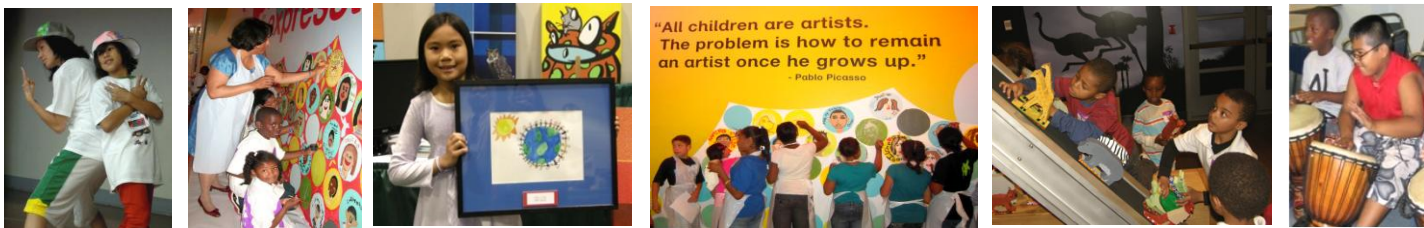




ASAP NEWS

The LA's BEST After School Arts Program: Celebrating Children's Creativity



ASAP's 50,000 Artists: Since its inception in 2003, ASAP has placed more than 1,300 ten-week visual and performing art residencies that have directly served more than 50,000 children enrolled in LA's BEST! As the art education department of LA's BEST, the After School Arts Program (ASAP) provides quality art education opportunities for all LA's BEST sites. The ASAP department primarily provides programming to the sites through art residencies which include a unique culminating event. In addition, ASAP provides arts related field trips and staff development opportunities.

ASAP Facts: ASAP residencies consist of professional artist-educators providing one hour workshops in either the visual or performing arts for two groups of children, twice weekly for ten weeks. Each artist-educator designs and submits a unique residency curriculum that is aligned to the California Visual and Performing Arts Content Standards. The residency plan is then reviewed by ASAP staff to ensure it is consistent with the programmatic goals of LA's BEST. The current selection of residencies is varied and includes Latin percussion, West African dance, multicultural art, stepping, introductory drawing, environmental art, Aztec dance and theatre.



In The News: As a part of Brit Week 2010, celebrity designer Christopher Guy sponsored a design contest at Crescent Heights Elementary and hosted an Angeleno Magazine sponsored event at his Beverly Hills showroom benefiting LA's BEST. A highlight of the night was a live auction led by So You Think You Can Dance's Nigel Lythgoe. Winning student art, created in workshops led by ASAP Instructor Donna Bradley, was showcased at the event.

Councilmember Jan Perry stopped by Brookfield Properties' 7+FIG complex to help children from LA's BEST paint their Dreams for Tomorrow mural which contains a message and self-portrait by every participant. Sponsored by Brookfield Properties, and directed by ASAP Instructor Helen Marish, the mural was created by students from 28th, Lizarraga, Menlo, West Vernon, Trinity and the Accelerated School.

Angelica, a 3rd grade student from Cahuenga, won the Go Green Expo 2010 children's art contest. Go Green Expo, the nation's premier green business and sustainable lifestyle show, asked children from LA's BEST to render their image of a greener world. Angelica's winning entry, created in an ASAP workshop, was featured in the Los Angeles Times and she cut the ceremonial ribbon which opened this year's event.



Partner Spotlight: Theatre Phoenix has taught more than 100 ASAP residencies since joining the ASAP program in 2003. Through theater games and acting out diverse folk tales, students develop an awareness of themselves and their environment. The curriculum is designed to encourage all children to have a stronger sense of self, as well as to facilitate self expression and confidence. Experienced art-educators, Theatre Phoenix instructors utilize their classroom and stage experience to bring a wide breadth of information and enrichment to each LA's BEST site.

Theatre Phoenix was founded and is currently directed by veteran actress of the stage and screen, **Lelia Goldoni**. Ms. Goldoni began her career as a young dancer in Lester Horton's dance company. Soon after, she made her film debut in John Cassavete's groundbreaking film, "Shadows". Most recently, you may have seen her in HBO's mini-series "The Pacific". Ms. Goldoni is also a noted film director, producer, acting coach and educator.

ASAP Around Town: In addition to enjoying the Norton Simon Museum's world-renowned collection of sculptures from South and Southeast Asia spanning a period of 2000 years, students from Sierra Park and Garvanza got to experience a trip through art history.

Children from LA's BEST at 42nd Street and Crescent Heights Elementary visited the Armand Hammer Museum and received tours of the permanent collection where they enjoyed works by Rembrandt, Titian, Mary Cassatt and John Singer Sargent. For most of the children this was the first time visiting an art museum and their excitement was contagious! The children and docents discussed a broad range of topics including the role of the collector, inspiration and creative expression.

Students from Harvard and Santa Monica enjoyed a visit to Fowler Museum at UCLA to experience "Nick Cave: Meet Me at the Center of the Earth", an exhibition consisting of multilayered, mixed media wearable sculptures known as soundsuits. After a guided tour, the students had the opportunity to work with UCLA students to design their own unique soundsuits. This year, we look forward to scheduling field trips to a variety of exciting venues including the Getty, the California African American Museum, and the USC Fisher Museum.



New Art Programs: In May, students from Cabrillo visited Slanguage Studio and participated in workshops led by artists and founders Karla Diaz and Mario Ybarra Jr. Slanguage is an artist group headquartered in Wilmington, California. Currently, members make art, produce events, lead art-education workshops, and exhibit their work throughout the world. Slanguage residencies are among some of the newest ASAP programs which will be offered at LA's BEST sites in the fall, others include; Brazilian dance, drum-circle, collegiate stepping, contemporary dance and chorus.

We want to hear from you! What is the most popular arts activity at your site? Email us a brief description of a recent project, performance or club and be eligible to win art supplies for your students!

"The real purpose of arts education is to create complete human beings capable of leading successful and productive lives in a free society." **President Barack Obama**