

AWBW/About Us



OUR MISSION

A Window Between Worlds is dedicated to cultivating and supporting a network of transformative arts programs that empower individuals and communities impacted by violence and trauma.

OUR VISION

A Window Between Worlds views art as a catalyst to release trauma, build resilience and ignite social change. When individuals create art in a safe community they can be heard and respected – replacing violence and shame with safety and hope.



A Window Between Worlds is at the center of a network of transformative arts programs at partnering human service agencies nationwide. AWWB's programs allow these partnering organizations to expand their offerings to best serve those who are coping with the consequences of a variety of violent and traumatic experiences.

Leadership Trainings

Established employees of human service agencies may apply to become Windows Leaders. Training sessions including trauma-informed care approaches and experiential art workshops. Advanced trainings on specific topics are also available to previously trained Leaders.

Adult and Children's Windows Programs

Through weekly hands-on art experiences on-site at our partnering agencies, participants are provided a safe environment in which to express themselves and tell their stories. Workshop projects center on themes to support the healing process, including resilience-building, healthy decision-making, handling anger, and identifying, naming and expressing emotions.

Ongoing Support and Curriculum

AWBW Program Department personnel are consistently in direct contact with all active Windows Leaders, along with sending monthly email updates. Through awbw.org Leaders can access and search over 500 workshops in our ever-evolving curriculum. Additionally, AWWB allocates art supply allowances and community outreach funding.

Community Art Initiatives

By connecting with local socially engaged artists, such as Kim Abeles and Fabian Debora, AWWB brings Windows art into Los Angeles communities in collaboration with our program partners to raise awareness and strengthen the anti-violence movement.



OUR HISTORY

In 1991 Cathy Salser, Los Angeles-based artist and teacher, set out to share visual expression as a tool for empowerment with survivors of domestic violence. Herself a survivor, Cathy led art workshops at shelters across the country, witnessing new opportunities for healing. She recognized that, through these workshops, windows of safety and time were opened for these women to freely tell their stories, and A Window Between Worlds (AWBW) was born.

As a result of the concrete progress art made possible in these survivor's lives, the Women's Windows Program was soon piloted in 17 Los Angeles-based domestic violence shelters.

In 1994 Cathy was invited by then-Senator Joe Biden and Senator Paul Wellstone to exhibit portraits of domestic violence survivors she had met on her journey at the Russell Senate Office Building as support for the Violence Against Women Act.

In 1996 the Los Angeles Domestic Violence Counsel asked AWWB to create a Children's Windows Program to meet the unique needs of children living in shelters in LA County.

AWBW has grown exponentially in the past 26 years, with workshops now facilitated at 365 partnering agencies nationwide. In 2015 AWWB broadened its mission to make trainings and curriculum applicable to various populations impacted by violence and trauma.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FUNDERS WHO MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE, INCLUDING:

