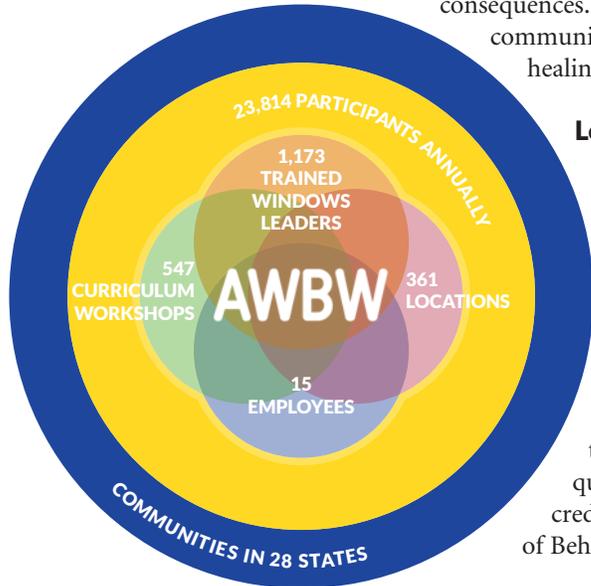


# AWBW / A WINDOW BETWEEN WORLDS

## About Us

**A** Window Between Worlds is at the center of a network of transformative arts programs for facilitators at human service agencies who work every day with those who have endured a variety of violent and traumatic experiences — and are coping with the consequences. Our training, programs, support and community outreach play a prominent role in the healing process of their clients.



### Leadership Trainings

Established employees of human service agencies may apply to become Windows Leaders. These applicants go through comprehensive experiential training sessions, including trauma-informed care approaches, before beginning to facilitate our curriculum. Advanced trainings addressing specific areas of focus are also available to previously trained Leaders. All trainings meet the qualifications for continuing education credits as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences.

### Adult and Children's Windows Programs

Through weekly hands-on art experiences on-site at our partnering agencies, those impacted by violence and trauma are provided a safe environment in which to express themselves and tell their stories. Workshop projects center on themes designed 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 contact with all active Windows Leaders by both phone and email. Leaders also receive a monthly email with updates, new workshops and spotlights of the work others are doing. Through [awbw.org](http://awbw.org) Leaders can access and search over 500 workshops in our ever-evolving curriculum. Additionally, AWBW allocates art supply allowances and community outreach funding.

### Community Art Initiatives

By using connecting with local socially engaged artists, such as Kim Abeles, Barbara T. Smith and Fabian Debora, AWBW brings Windows art into Los Angeles communities through workshops, events and exhibitions in order to raise awareness and strengthen the anti-violence movement. We encourage our Leaders to do the same — working beyond the agency setting to educate and transform individuals, families and communities.

### History

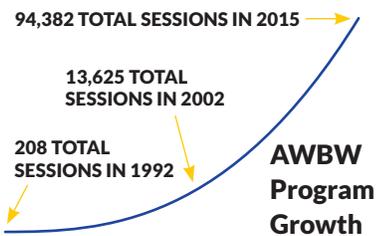
In 1991 Cathy Salser, Los Angeles-based artist and teacher, set out to share visual expression as a tool for empowerment with survivors of domestic violence. Herself a survivor, Cathy led art workshops at shelters across the country, witnessing new opportunities for healing. She recognized that, through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

Cathy also created portraits of the women she spent time with during her cross-country journey. In 1994 she was invited by then-Senator Joe Biden and Senator Paul Wellstone to exhibit these paintings in the rotunda of the Russel Senate Office Building as support for the Violence Against Women Act. According to Wellstone, this exhibition allowed for "a 'window of understanding' into the strength and hopes of battered women nationwide."

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

Today AWBW workshops for people of are facilitated nationwide with a broadened mission to make training and curriculum applicable to various populations impacted by violence and trauma.



OUR WORK WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT. THANK YOU.

