

AWBW/ About Us



OUR MISSION

A Window Between Worlds is dedicated to empowering individuals and communities impacted by violence and trauma through a transformative healing arts program.

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 (AWBW) collaborates with human service agencies across the country, training and supporting the staff at these partner organizations in facilitating our healing arts curriculum. AWWB's program allows these partnering organizations to expand their offerings to best serve those coping with the consequences of a variety of violent and traumatic experiences.

Our Philosophy

Since the beginning, the AWWB philosophy has been grounded in the idea that the art workshops are a "Window of Time" – a safe, non-judgmental space where participants can authentically express themselves in new ways.

By creating art in hands-on AWWB workshops, participants are provided this safe environment to tell their stories, build resilience, identify and name emotions, self-regulate, gain a stronger sense of self-worth and much more.

Facilitator Trainings

Established employees of human service agencies may apply to become Windows Facilitators. Training sessions include the AWWB philosophy, trauma-informed care approaches and experiential art workshops.

Ongoing Support and Curriculum

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

Our History

1991 – Artist and art teacher Cathy Salser tours the country, facilitating art workshops at domestic violence shelters

– Ongoing art workshops held at a local shelter and A Window Between Worlds is born

1993 – Held first "Women's Windows Program" group Leadership (Facilitator) Training

1996 – "Children's Windows Program" piloted in response to Los Angeles Domestic Violence Counsel request

1998 – Partnerships expand to outside of California

2001 – Teen-specific training materials created

2003 – Partners with first sexual assault agency

2004 – AWWB workshops first held in a prison

2005 – Curriculum available to Facilitators online

2008 – Family-specific training resources created

– First school-based partnership begins

2013 – Embodied art (movement) based workshops added to curriculum

2014 – New mission unveiled, reflecting facilitators' work with additional populations

– "Women's Windows" name changed to "Adult Windows Program" for gender inclusivity

2016 – Held first "Art Transforming Trauma" Conference

TODAY – Reach over 32,000 participants annually through more than 200 partnerships nationwide



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

