

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 communities
 - "Women's Windows" name changed to "Adult Windows Program" for gender inclusivity
- 2016** – Held first "Art Transforming Trauma" Conference
- TODAY** – More than a quarter million adults and children have participated in AWWB art workshops



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

