



COURAGE
CULTURE
ENGAGEMENT
LEADERSHIP
INCLUSION
COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE
VISIONING
CHANGE
ADVOCACY

ART IMPACTING...

EMPOWERMENT
WELLNESS
DISCUSSION
TEAM BUILDING
ACTION
CONNECTION
AWARENESS
HEALING
COMPASSION
CULTURE

A WINDOW BETWEEN WORLDS

2024 Impact Report

Letter *from our* Executive Director



Friends,

As we celebrate another year of incredible growth, **A Window Between Worlds (AWBW)** continues to be a powerful force in lifting up marginalized communities nationwide—believing that healing rarely happens in isolation.

In a time when the world feels increasingly fractured, especially as we stretch to respond to the devastating fires impacting our local Los Angeles communities, our commitment to using art as a bridge for connection, community, and change has never felt more necessary.

AWBW's 2024 Impact Report highlights the expansive impact art can have on ourselves, our relationships, our workplace culture, and even the systems within which we all exist. Through our research-informed Windows Program, art is not just another tool for healing trauma—it is a catalyst for individual growth, leadership development, and community-building.

The sectors and populations we serve are as diverse as the people who bring this work to life. Whether addressing domestic violence, homelessness, mental health, or systemic injustice...

...AWBW is part of an urgent, ongoing movement—one that recognizes healing as an act of resistance, self-care as a foundation for advocacy, and creativity as a pathway to reimagine what is possible.

At AWWB, we do not simply make art—we create opportunities for dialogue, movement building, and shifting culture.

This report is both a reflection of where we've been and an invitation to imagine the possibilities of what we can change together. With gratitude and hope,

Zachery Scott-Hillel,
Executive Director



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Explore our Work

Our 2024 Impact



142,000

survivors & participants
served nationwide and abroad



46

new community partners
nationwide & abroad including:



RIVERSIDE COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION
EDWIN GOMEZ, Ed.D. | County Superintendent of Schools



\$111,730

in Training
scholarships
awarded to...



97

frontline human service
providers at community-
based organizations.



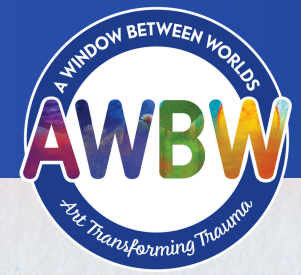
397

new and renewed
Windows Facilitators
trained

91%

of survey respondents said
our art workshops helped
participants feel more
positive about their future

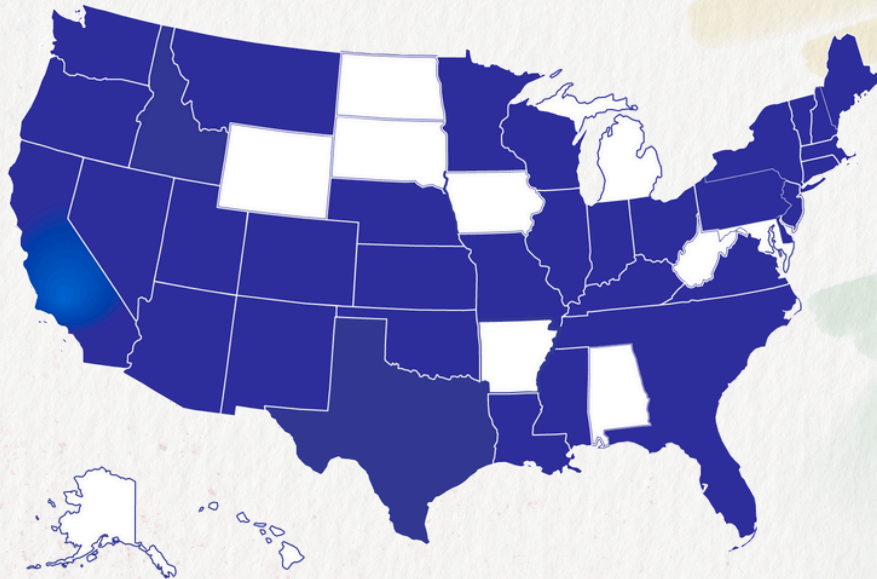
Our Reach



Los Angeles: **425** Windows Facilitators
137 Program Partners

California: **831** Windows Facilitators
267 Program Partners

**Nationwide
+ Abroad:** **1291** Windows Facilitators
496 Program Partners



+ Australia • Cameroon • Canada • Guam
South Africa • South Korea • Mexico • Venezuela

Sectors We Serve:

Our Windows Facilitators serve a variety of communities and address multiple intersecting life experiences.



*Circles proportionate to percentage of reported areas of services.

Fueling *the* Future Campaign



Building Internal Capacity and Strengthening Community-Based Leadership

Over a year into our **Fueling the Future** campaign, we are seeing firsthand how strategic investments in staffing and technology are strengthening our ability to support an ever-expanding circle of **Windows Facilitators**. Our commitment remains clear: to equip community leaders with the resources and infrastructure needed to meet the growing demand for this work.

Fueling The Future is about ensuring that AWBW has the capacity it needs to remain a powerful and sustainable force to drive individual and collective healing for years to come.

Investment Focus

Staff Infrastructure

Increase the capacity of our staff and equip them with tools to adequately respond to increased demand for our healing arts programs.

Connective Technology

Build pathways for participants and Facilitators to co-innovate through sector landing pages, self-recording tools, and a revised interactive Facilitator dashboard.

Community-based Leadership

Center investment in new opportunities in the ladder of leadership, fueling specific sector work, and exploring pathways for income streams for arts programming.

Ahead of Schedule!

Thanks to you, our incredible community of supporters, our first year of the campaign was a huge success, surpassing our goal and propelling us forward on the path to our overall goal.

Campaign
Goal Total:
\$3.47 Million

Year One
Progress:
\$1.62 Million

Launch of
Campaign
(October 2023)

2025-
2026

2024

Fueling *the* Future Campaign



We invite YOUR leadership to build on AWBW's legacy of 34 years supporting survivors and the community-based organizations that serve them.

We invite your investment in this campaign as we strengthen our internal capacity to sustain a dramatic increase in demand for our programs, as well as investing in individual sectors themselves - including domestic violence, homelessness, K-12 education, foster care, and others.

 **Spark:** \$5,000/year for 3 years
or Single Gift of \$15,000

 **Sunrise:** \$10,000/year for 3 years
or Single Gift of \$30,000

 **Star:** \$20,000/year for 3 years
or Single Gift of \$60,000

 **Constellation:** \$50,000/year for 3 years
or Single Gift of \$150,000

Thank you to our generous investors!

Anonymous

babs Mayer Legacy Gift

Cathy Salser

Celia Bernstein

Charlotte Kuo

Elisa Perlman

Helmstetter Family Foundation

John Gogian Family Foundation

Just Detention International

Paula & Barry Litt

Robin Rea Scarborough

Salser Family Foundation

Santa Monica Westside Legacy

Fund for Women and Girls

Chicago Community Foundation

Sherrill Kahn Legacy Gift

William & Charlene Glikbarg Foundation

Winston Salser

Yvonne Hsieh

Learn more at: AWBW.ORG/FUEL

Scholarship Impact



Celebrating the Impact of Legacy Scholarships

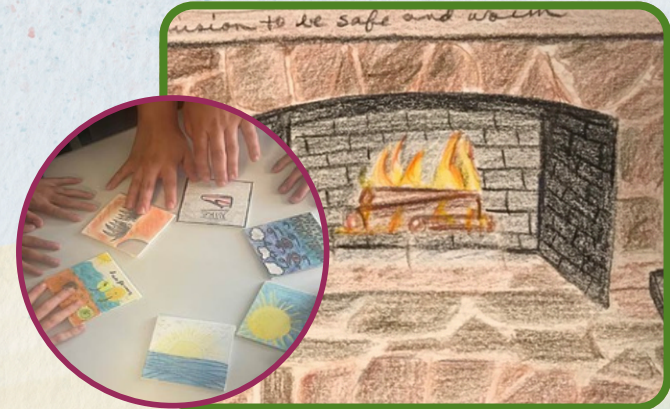
Legacy Scholarships expand access to AWWB's trauma-informed Windows Facilitator Training, empowering advocates, social workers, and therapists from under-resourced backgrounds to bring healing arts to their communities. With each recipient serving an average of 45 trauma survivors annually, these scholarships create a lasting ripple effect for generations to come.



Annual Full Scholarship:
\$60,000 contribution



Annual Scholarship:
\$30,000 contribution



Artwork by Recipients of Legacy Scholarships

“

The Westside Legacy Fund for Women and Girls is proud to support AWWB with a full legacy scholarship, empowering community leaders to bring healing arts to those who need it most. By funding the training of a new Facilitator each year, we are investing in a ripple effect of healing that will reach thousands of individuals over the next decade.

Seeing the impact of our scholarship recipients each year reaffirms our belief in the power of storytelling, creativity, and community. **We are honored to be part of this lasting legacy.”**

-Santa Monica Westside Legacy Fund for Women and Girls

Scope: Organizations & individuals who serve women or girls in West LA/Santa Monica communities

babs Mayer Legacy Scholarship

Scope: Those serving cancer or domestic violence survivors, as well as LGBTQ+ or rural populations

Jeannine Helmstetter Legacy Scholarship

Scope: Service providers in LA County who serve youth/children

Serenity Legacy Scholarship

Scope: Providing services to individuals facing substance use challenges at a dedicated facility

Healing heARTs Legacy Society

By including **A Window Between Worlds (AWBW)** in your will, estate plans, or making an upfront seed gift today, you become part of the **Healing heARTs Legacy Society**—a community of visionary supporters ensuring the future of trauma-informed healing through art. Your legacy gift sustains AWWB's mission, expanding access to creative tools that empower individuals and communities while allowing you to care for your loved ones and financial priorities.



Legacy in Action: Two People Making an Impact

“

AWBW has changed thousands of lives. My husband and I want to ensure that future generations have the same opportunities to heal, grow, and create change. Our legacy gift is a commitment to keeping this work alive for years to come.”

Zachery Scott-Hillel,
AWBW Executive Director

“

Planned giving is the ultimate expression of free will. I believe in AWWB's mission because of my love for art and my commitment to empowering women who have experienced domestic violence. The need for AWWB's programs will only continue to grow.”

**Elka Kazmierczak: Longtime donor
and Windows Facilitator**

Be One of 10: Shape the Future of Healing

This year, we are inviting **10 visionary supporters** to pledge a **planned gift**, securing access to healing, hope, and creativity for generations to come. Two have already stepped forward—**will you join us?**



Your legacy gift will plant the seeds for **survivors and communities** to find healing, resilience, and transformation through art. Learn more at:

[AWBW.ORG/LEGACY](https://www.awbw.org/legacy)

Wellness *in the* Workplace



Our Largest Event Yet!

Our *Wellness in the Workplace* conference reached **750+ individuals** to connect, learn, and explore challenges and innovations in employee wellness through peer learning, a hands-on workshop, and the launch of our toolkit—reinforcing the need for workplace well-being and providing actionable resources for change.

wellness *in the* workplace

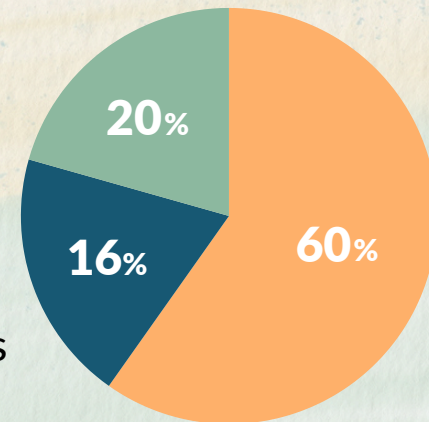
Virtual Conference
& Toolkit Launch

PRESENTED BY: **CAPITAL GROUP®**



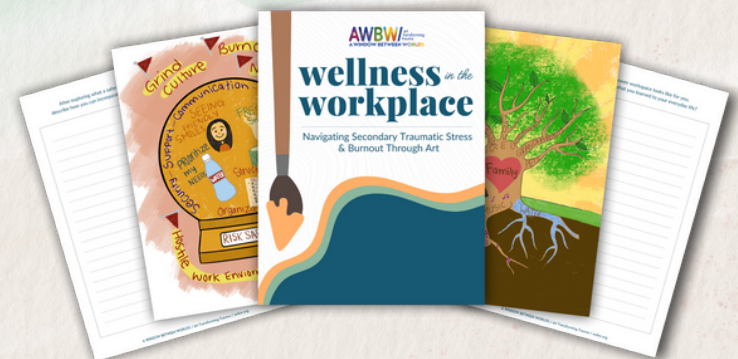
Who Registered?

- Frontline Staff
- Directors & Founders
- Manager & Supervisors



A Resource Years in the Making

Conference participants were the first to gain access to our [Wellness in the Workplace Toolkit](#), developed with the support of Cedars-Sinai, designed to equip workplaces with essential tools to combat burnout and foster well-being.



Wellness *in the* Workplace



Thank you to those who helped lead the discussion!

Conference Keynote Speakers



La Shonda Coleman, LCSW

PhD. Candidate, CPLC, RYT200
Founder of Trauma & Healing in
Colour, AWWB Board Member,
Windows Facilitator



Susan Hess, MSW, LCSW-IL

Clinical Associate Professor at
USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck
School of Social Work,
Co-Founder of Trauma Informed LA

Workshop Facilitator



Aaron Mason, LMFT

Clinical Director of REACH LA,
Wellness in the Workplace
Toolkit Workshop Author,
Windows Facilitator

Breakout Room Facilitators

Leadership Evolution: Cultivating a Culture of Wellness



Zachery Scott-Hillel

Executive Director
A Window Between Worlds



Elizabeth Eastlund, LCSW

National Consultant &
Trauma Informed Trainer

Shared Strength: The Power of Collective Care



**Sherisa Dahlgren,
LMFT**

Program Consultant
A Window Between Worlds



Adrienne Hillman, Ph D.

Program Officer
California Community Foundation

From Impacted to Empowered: Daily Shifts for Lasting Change



**Tiombe Wallace,
LCSW**

Trauma-Informed Trainer
Owner, Lavender Healing
Collective



Christy Turek Rials

Director of Training & Outreach
A Window Between Worlds

Avenues of Impact



While best known for our impact on the healing of trauma, AWWB's community of Facilitators integrates Windows into diverse spaces, from **team building and leadership development** to **advocacy and community building**. In the following pages, we hope to highlight their voices and the transformative work they lead across these avenues, inviting our community of supporters to explore the possibilities art can hold within our personal and professional spaces.

AWBW AVENUES of IMPACT

Individual Growth

- Emotional Awareness & Regulation
- Personal Wellbeing & Resilience
- Trauma Recovery & Healing

Leadership Development

- Community Care & Staff Wellbeing
- Self-Confidence & Motivation
- Strategic Visioning

Community Building

- Collective Action & Systemic Change
- Public Awareness
- Advocacy



“

Since A Window Between Worlds began nearly 34 years ago, we have witnessed the power of art expand beyond individual healing into a catalyst for change at every level **within organizations, communities, and systems**.

Our ever-evolving community of Facilitators has embraced this work in ways we never could have imagined, integrating creative expression into **leadership development, advocacy, and collective transformation**. It is through their imaginations and innovations that AWWB has grown to become a force for change."

-Cathy Salser, Artist & Founder, A Window Between Worlds

Avenues of Impact



Emotional Awareness & Regulation

*"The Windows program impacted my life by assisting me in being more aware of my PTSD, and when I am unable to use words to express my feelings, I use art. This helps me express my thoughts and feelings in a safe way. **It brings awareness to light so I can effectively manage my emotions.**"*

-Robin Eaton, Windows Facilitator since 2018

Family Crisis Services, Inc., Garden City, KS



Personal Wellbeing & Resilience

***"Every AWWB event and training I attend builds on a sense of becoming myself.** Through AWWB support groups, I have seen lives changed: Folks finding their voices, finding their freedom, finding themselves. It literally saved my life to convey through art all the things I could not say out loud. What a gift to the world."*

-Beth Hope, Windows Facilitator since 2017

Soul Survival Project, Rockaway Beach, OR



Trauma Recovery & Healing

Manuela Rojas, Windows Facilitator since 2024

Safe Passage, Northampton, MA

Manuela leads healing-centered art workshops for Latinx immigrant caregivers—many of whom are survivors of domestic violence and face systemic barriers to support. Conducted in Spanish, these workshops create an affirming space for reflection, reconnection, and reclaiming well-being through creative expression. [Click here to hear Manuela's story.](#)



Avenues of Impact



Leadership Development

Community Care & Staff Wellbeing

*"I was able to facilitate a great self care activity with our organization to **keep staff regulated, healing, and maintaining a sense of self** so that these emotions can also transfer to our clients."*

-Jocelyn Rochin, Windows Facilitator since 2018

Home-SAFE a Division of Vista Del Mar, Los Angeles, CA



Self-Confidence & Motivation

*"I really appreciated this workshop because it validated many of my fears about being a good parent. Most of the time, I feel uncertain, which heightens my anxiety around certain parenting topics. But today's workshop was exactly what I needed; **I no longer feel lost in the process of parenting. It boosted my self-confidence in this area.**"*

-A participant in AWWB's Good Parent Workshop

Shared by Martha White, A New Leaf, Mesa, AZ



Strategic Visioning

*"For the past two years, our board of directors has incorporated A Window Between Worlds' healing art workshops into our annual retreat, and each time, the experience has been profound. **Engaging in creative expression allows us to step away from day-to-day logistics and reconnect with the heart of our mission—why we do this work and the impact we strive to make.** It grounds us in our purpose, strengthens our passion, and deepens our commitment to those we serve."*

-Jim Flatley, Program Partner since 2022

Board President of Volusia Recovery Alliance, Ormond Beach, FL

Avenues of Impact

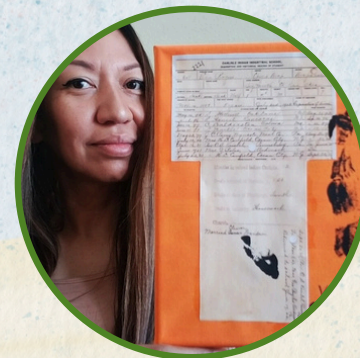


Collective Action & Systemic Change

Nikki Crow, Windows Facilitator since 2020

United American Indian Involvement (UAI), Los Angeles, CA

In response to the 2021 discovery of the remains of 215 Indigenous children at a residential school in British Columbia, artist and advocate Nikki Crow, an enrolled member of the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes, is using art as a catalyst for truth, healing, and systemic change. [Learn more about Nikki's project.](#)



Public Awareness

Sandy Morales, Windows Facilitator since 2017

Children's Institute, Los Angeles, CA

Longtime Facilitator Sandy Morales reflected on the annual Healing from Gun Violence event, held each June, where the team led a large-scale stained glass window workshop, inviting community members of all ages to share words of hope or what has helped them cope in challenging times. [Click to read Sandy's story.](#)



Advocacy

*"For more than 20 years, Peace Over Violence has partnered with A Window Between Worlds to harness the power of art in facilitating healing for survivors of sexual and domestic violence. Now, more than ever, we must uplift survivor voices—sharing their stories through art to foster understanding, drive awareness, and influence public policy. **Art is not just a means of expression; it is a powerful tool for advocacy, shedding light and humanity on vulnerable communities with stories to share.**"*

-Patti Giggans, Founder & CEO, Peace Over Violence, Los Angeles, CA



Program Partner Highlight



**Committed
to Impact**



Rooted in Resilience Project

AWBW is dedicated to investing in individual sectors and expanding access to trauma-informed art workshops.

- **A Strong Partnership:** We found a key partner in Just Detention International (JDI) to support currently and formerly incarcerated survivors of trauma.
- **Training for Change:** Over three years, we will train 30 survivor service providers, equipping them with tools to foster healing in their communities.
- **Sustainable Growth:** Through structured training, mentorship, and ongoing support, Facilitators are bringing lasting art programs in detention and reentry settings.
- **Amplifying the Work:** To support all Facilitators serving incarcerated populations, we're creating facilitator guides, recorded discussions, and conference presentations to share best practices and inspire broader adoption.
- **Looking Ahead:** As we enter our second year of partnership, we're excited to deepen this work and collaborate with JDI to further strengthen this sector.



2024 JDI Cohort



Carl Mucha,
Monterey County Rape Crisis Center,
JDI cohort member

“People who are incarcerated live with so much trauma. But the art workshops help them process difficult feelings - and create a space where they feel safe enough to embark on a path to healing.”

-Linda McFarlane,
Executive Director, Just Detention International

Major Donors



Thank you to our major donors who help lay the foundation for AWWB's transformative art-based tools across sectors.

\$50,000+

Ahmanson Foundation
Anonymous
Capital Group
Chicago Community Foundation
Elisa Perlman*
Rose Hills Foundation
Salser Family Foundation

\$25,000–\$49,999

Anonymous
John Gogian Family Foundation
Robin Rea Scarborough*
Santa Monica Westside Legacy
Fund for Women and Girls
Susan Salser
Universal Studios Hollywood
Discover a Star
Winston Salser*

\$10,000–\$24,999

DevTo Support Foundation
Helmstetter Family Foundation
Lenart Art Education Foundation
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of Arts & Culture
Stacia Kato*
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Glikbarg Foundation
Willmas Charitable Trust

\$5,000–\$9,999

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Harold & Stephanie Bronson Fund
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Yvonne Hsieh*
Zachery & Lior Scott-Hillel*

\$1,200–\$4,999

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*denotes sustaining donor

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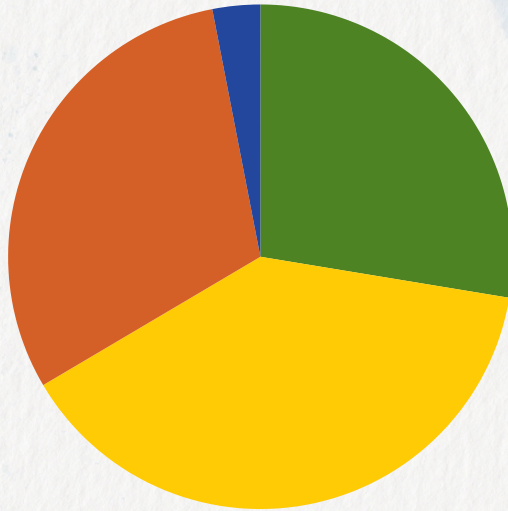
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*denotes sustaining donor

2024 Financials



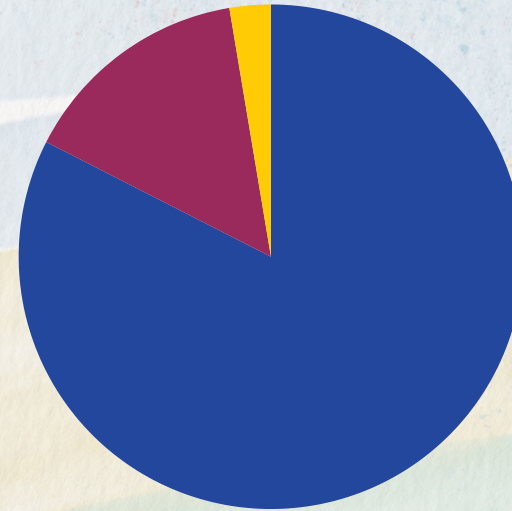
Revenue



	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Foundations/ Corporations	611,723	629,000
Individuals	553,999	233,001
Program Fees	347,050	327,511
Other	34,856	33,293
	<u>\$1,547,628*</u>	<u>\$1,268,905</u>

*(Restricted - \$261,284)

Expenses



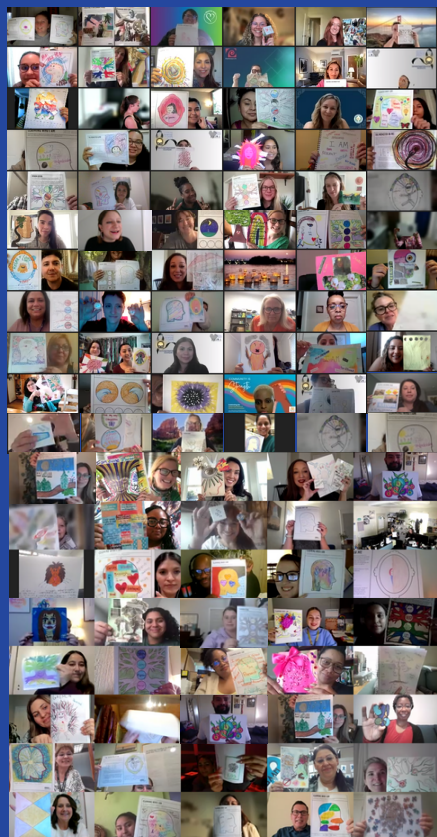
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Program Services	1,052,109	1,013,015
General & Admin	189,286	181,040
Fundraising	33,658	64,797
	<u>\$1,275,052</u>	<u>\$1,219,105</u>

All FY24 financial figures
presented have been audited.

AWBW Leadership



A Window Between Worlds' leadership team, from board of directors and advisory board members to our staff and national network of trained Facilitators, naturally reflects and is birthed through the diverse populations that we serve.



Some of the Windows Facilitator Trainees from 2024

Board of Directors

Shelley MacKay** - Chair
Urban Peace Institute

Yvonne Hsieh** - Vice Chair
Bruin Lake, Inc.

Stacia Kato** - Secretary
Capital Group

Richard Crowe - Treasurer
Asian Americans Advancing
Justice SoCal

La Shonda Coleman, LCSW**
California State University
Northridge (CSUN)

Erin Jourdan Berrios
Capital Group

Zachery Scott-Hillel**
A Window Between Worlds

****Trained Windows Facilitator**

Staff

Sofia Acero**
Development Operations
Assistant

Rudy Hernandez**
Windows Program Director

Kate Majerus**
Marketing & Communications
Manager

Kat Mardo**
Training & Outreach Coordinator

Rachel Price**
Program Coordinator

Cathy Salser**
Founder; Strategic Vision &
Partnership Advisor

Zachery Scott-Hillel**
Executive Director

Sarah Shockey**
Institutional Giving Manager

Christy Turek Rials**
Training & Outreach Director

Consultants

Sherisa Dahlgren, LMFT**
Program Consultant

Tiombe Wallace, MS, MFT**
Training Consultant

Carla Vargas**
Program Consultant



Together, we are a co-creative circle of survivors, artists, and community leaders.

Community Advisory Board

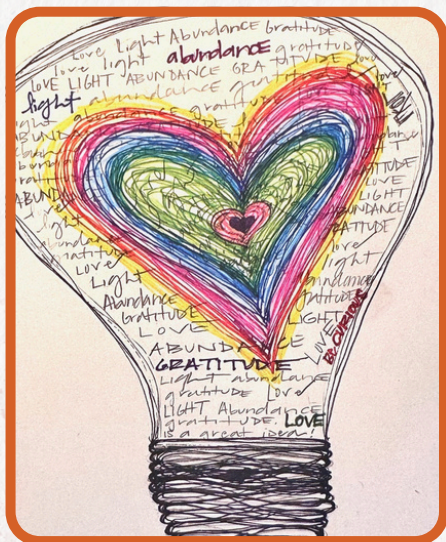


Deepen your impact

Join our Advisory Board today and actively shape the future of AWWB!

- Engage in strategic brainstorming sessions
- Collaborate with a passionate community of supporters united by the healing arts
- Bring your unique insights and expertise to the table
- Meet quarterly over lunch to drive change and inspire growth

For more information and to get involved, please email info@awbw.org



The light bulb reflects my value of curiosity and those aha moments of pure love and joy we need to embrace whenever they come about.

“Love Is A Great Idea”
Claiming Who I Am workshop
Elizabeth Eastlund

Pat Acosta

Suzanne Brogger

Sunny Cho

Carolyn Coleman

La Shonda Coleman

Kim Cummings

Sherisa Dahlgren

John DeLoof

Elizabeth Eastlund

Jamie Escoto

Sonia Greaven

Christi Helmstetter

Rudy Hernandez

Susan Hess

Yvonne Hsieh

Stacia Kato

Alyce LaViolette

Susan Lee

Sally Lokey

Kate Majerus

Nellie Newman

Elisa Perlman

Cathy Salser

Zachery Scott-Hillel

Teresa Smith

Ondy Sweetman

Namuyaba Temanju

Lucy Tschachtli

Christy Turek Rials

Arzie Umali

Tiombe Wallace

Andrew Watt

Cordell Williams

Explore *the* Impact of our Work



Mission & Vision:

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

We view 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.

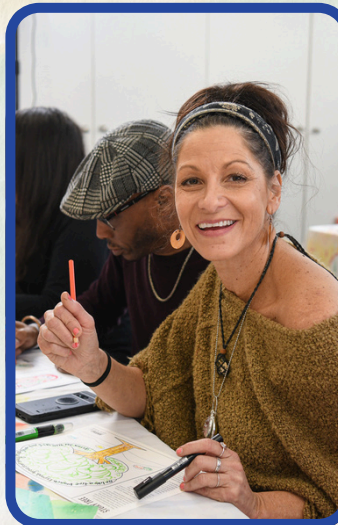
Explore Facilitator Voices & Innovations



Facilitator Blog

We encourage you to explore and access these resources, celebrate the beautiful array of voices, innovations, and impacts of our Facilitators on our blog page, find the link below:

[AWBW.ORG/BLOG](https://www.awbw.org/blog)



AWBW Story Share

Launched in 2023, this evolving collection illustrates the transformative power of creative expression that is experienced by individuals and communities Facilitating and participating in our art workshops.

[AWBW.ORG/STORIES](https://www.awbw.org/stories)

