

**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, selfcare as a foundation for advocacy, and creativity as a pathway to reimagine what is possible.

At AWBW, 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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### Our 2024 Impact



### Our Reach



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South Africa • South Korea • Mexico • Venezuela

\*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**

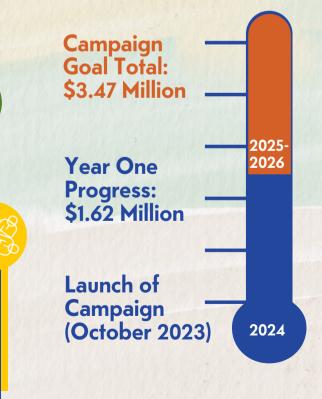
Build pathways for participants and Facilitators to co-innovate through sector landing pages, self-recording tools, and a revised interactive Facilitator dashboard.

#### 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.



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.



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### Fueling the Future Campaign



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

### 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** 

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<br/>orige Gift of \$15,000

Spark:
\$5,000/year for 3 years<br/>or single Gift of \$30,000

Star:
\$20,000/year for 3 years<br/>or single Gift of \$60,000

Constellation:
\$50,000/year for 3 years<br/>or single Gift of \$150,000

### Learn more at: <u>AWBW.ORG/FUEL</u>

### Scholarship Impact

### Celebrating the Impact of Legacy Scholarships

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Legacy Scholarships expand access to AWBW'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 AWBW 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

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

#### babs Mayer Legacy Scholarship

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

#### Jeannine Helmstetter Legacy Scholarship

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

#### Serenity Legacy Scholarship

<u>Scope</u>: 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 AWBW'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 AWBW's mission because of my love for art and my commitment to empowering women who have experienced domestic violence. The need for AWBW's programs will only continue to grow."

AWBW.ORG/LEGACY

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:







### Wellness in the Workplace

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### **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.

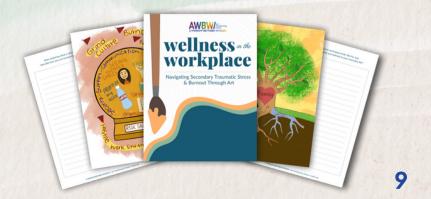
## wellness in the workplace

Virtual Conference<br/>& Toolkit LaunchPRESENTED CAPITAL<br/>BY: 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 <u>Wellness in the Workplace Toolkit</u>, 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** <u>Keynote</u> Speakers



La Shonda Coleman, LCSW PhD. Candidate, CPLC, RYT200 Founder of Trauma & Healing in Colour, AWBW 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** 

rsformin

National Consultant & Trauma Informed Trainer

#### Shared Strength: The Power of Collective Care





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





While best known for our impact on the healing of trauma, AWBW'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



Leadership Development

**Community Building** 

- Emotional Awareness & Regulation
- Personal Wellbeing & Resilience
- Trauma Recovery & Healing
- Community Care & Staff Wellbeing
- Self-Confidence & Motivation
- Strategic Visioning
- 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 AWBW has grown to become a force for change."

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

### **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, <u>Windows Facilitator since 2018</u> Family Crisis Services, Inc., Garden City, KS

#### Personal Wellbeing & Resilience

"Every AWBW event and training I attend builds on a sense of becoming myself. Through AWBW 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, <u>Windows Facilitator since 2017</u>

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. <u>Click here to hear Manuela's story.</u>











### 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, <u>Windows Facilitator since 2018</u> 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 AWBW'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, <u>Program Partner since 2022</u> Board President of Volusia Recovery Alliance, Ormond Beach, FL

### **Collective Action & Systemic Change**

#### Nikki Crow, Windows Facilitator since 2020

United American Indian Involvement (UAII), 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

**Community Building** 

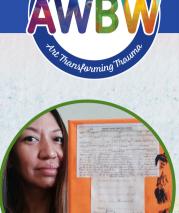
"For more than 20 years, Peace Over Violence has partnered with A Window Between Worlds to harness the power of art in facilitating healing for survivors of sexual and domestic violence. Now, more than ever, we must uplift survivor voices—sharing their stories through art to foster understanding, drive 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



children's

institute







### 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.

- <u>A Strong Partnership</u>: We found a key partner in Just Detention International (JDI) to support currently and formerly incarcerated survivors of trauma.
- <u>Training for Change</u>: Over three years, we will train 30 survivor service providers, equipping them with tools to foster healing in their communities.
- <u>Sustainable Growth</u>: Through structured training, mentorship, and ongoing support, Facilitators are bringing lasting art programs in detention and reentry settings.
- <u>Amplifying the Work</u>: 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 AWBW'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 Los Angeles County Department of Arts & Culture Stacia Kato\* **Thomas Stempel** William & Charlene **Glikbarg Foundation** Willmas Charitable Trust \$5,000-\$9,999 Andrew Watt Cathy Salser\* Celia Bernstein Charlotte Kuo Harold & Stephanie Bronson Fund Paula Litt

Terry Ball Vistas for Children Inc. Yvonne Hsieh\* Zachery & Lior Scott-Hillel\*

### \$1,200-\$4,999

Bruce Tyson\* Cathleen Hession Cedars-Sinai Hospital Foundation Church of the Foothills Erin Berrios Heidi Gray\* Joohyun Oh Kadi Aguilar Kim Cummings Kim Thies\* Lucille Ellis Simon Foundation



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\*denotes sustaining donor



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Andrew Szumlas **Judith Szumlas** Peter Szumlas Nick Szumlas Clav Taylor Cami Teel\* The Greenberg Foundation Dennis Torres Lucy Tschachtli\* Peter Tunnev\* Bob & Judy Turek Kelly Turner Arzie Umali\* Allison Unruh\* Sharon Uv\* Bart Verry\* Kyle Wadsworth Deirdre Wallace Tiombe Wallace\* **Kimberly Wannop** Linda Warren Conrad Washburn\* Len Wechsler Nicole Welch\* Wesla Weller\* Carol Wells John Weltman Andrea Weltman\* Felice Willat Kathryn Williams Elissa Wingate\* Belinda Woolfson David Yaskulka\* Janice Yong Jo Young Ramona Young\* Maricela Zavala Don Zminda

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### 2024 Financials

Revenue



				-17 - 19 -17 - 19	
				The second	
	2024	2023		2024	2023
Foundations/	611,723	629,000	Program Services	1,052,109	1,013,015
Corporations			General & Admin	189,286	181,040
😑 Individuals	553,999	233,001	- Fundraising	33,658	64,797
Program Fees	347,050	327,511		\$1,275,052	\$1,219,105
Other	34,856	33,293			
	\$1,547,628*	 \$1,268,905	All FY24 financial figures		es
	*(Restricted - \$261,284)		presented have been audited. 18		

**Expenses** 

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 Traininees 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

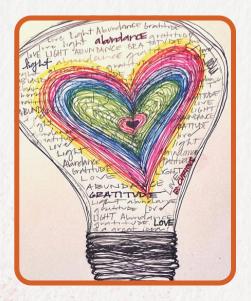
# WHOOW BETWEEN HORES

### Deepen your impact

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

- 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 <u>info@awbw.org</u>



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

transforming



### **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



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