



# Tools For Tomorrow

## CREATIVE CLUBS & THEATRE TROUPES

NONPROFIT 501(c)(3)

23,000 students served since 1999

FALL 2025

ART • MUSIC • THEATRE • WRITING

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#### TOOLS FOR TOMORROW

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#### FOUNDER - VISIONARIES

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SCAN ME



### HERB ALPERT GALLERY OF ART & TOOLS FOR TOMORROW HOST FIELD TRIPS

Herb Alpert is a legendary musician known for his trumpet playing but he is also an accomplished artist creating larger-than life sculptures and colorful abstract paintings. Tools For Tomorrow is delighted to partner with the new Herb Alpert Gallery of Art in Palm Springs to offer field trips for our Creative Club students. In this ongoing program, students visit the gallery to look at his artworks and listen to his music. They then create their own sculptures out of clay in the gallery surrounded by his vibrant, expressive works of art. This unique field trip lets students connect to an important contemporary artist and create their own mini-masterpieces. *Pictured: Boys & Girls Club of Cathedral City – 4th & 5th Grade Club Kids & Staff*

### 2026 VISION for the FUTURE AWARD GALA to HONOR SUZ HUNT

Suz Hunt is a dynamic community leader and long term TFT supporter. Since retiring to the desert, Suz has served on many Boards including **ACT for MS** (President), **Waring International Piano Competition (PSIPC)**, **World Affairs Council of the Desert** and **College of the Desert Foundation** (President). Currently Suz is on the Board of the **Living Desert Zoo & Gardens** and the **Literary Society of the Desert**. She also actively supports the **McCallum Educational Committee**, **CV Rep Theatre**, **Eisenhower Circle of Stars**, and the **Barbara Sinatra Children's Center**.

*For Sponsorship Opportunities, Digital Tribute Ads, or Tickets, visit [toolsfortomorrow.org](http://toolsfortomorrow.org) or call 760.601.3954*

**DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY**  
WITH TOOLS FOR TOMORROW

honoring  
**SUZ HUNT**

2026 VISION FOR THE FUTURE AWARD GALA  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23**  
AGUA CALIENTE RESORT CASINO SPA  
RANCHO MIRAGE

*To Reach, Teach and Inspire Children through the ARTS*

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Carolyn Izu Bergmann

“We do not need the Arts to survive, but that’s what we live for . . .”

Tools For Tomorrow continues to transform children’s lives through the arts, thanks to people like you. With a talented team of staff, volunteers and donors, we continue to grow and strengthen our impact!

I am honored to serve with our forward-thinking Board of Directors, and extend special thanks to past presidents Judith Antonio and Robin Nugent for their leadership and guidance. Our Board serves tirelessly and provides invaluable support to benefit our community’s children.

*Why do we support arts in children’s education?*

Because the arts are the universal language. The arts unite us in times where humans continue to struggle with conflict and differences. The arts lift us to another level, giving us joy and replenishing our spirits!

Yes, the arts are what we live for . . .

## YOUR IMPACT AT WORK: 2024-2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

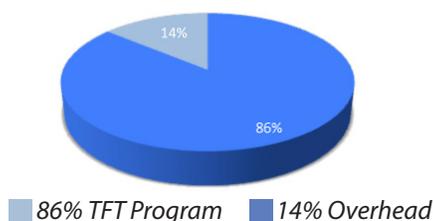


Judith Antonio

Tools For Tomorrow remains in strong financial health. We anticipate covering our 2025–2026 expenses of \$527,000 through memberships, grants, ELOP funding from school districts, and our major fundraising event, *Dancing the Night Away* on February 23, 2026.

Program expenses include teacher salaries, supplies, individual art kits, books, and insurance.

We are grateful for our generous donors and talented staff—your support makes our successful programs possible. Thank you.



## A REPORT FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Andrea Hecht

This year, the TFT staff has embraced professional development as a vital part of serving our students well. We are excited to put into practice what we’ve learned.

Through opportunities with the National and California Art Education Associations and the Riverside County Office of Education, we’ve strengthened our ability to deliver meaningful, hands-on arts experiences for our students. We are connecting with fellow arts advocates across the Coachella Valley through RAP/NPO Centric, Leadership Coachella Valley, and the Association of Fundraising Professionals, opening doors to new partnerships and funding from organizations that understand the powerful role of the arts in supporting social-emotional growth and mental well-being.

Thank you to our Board and Donors who believe, as we do, that the future of TFT depends on a culture of curiosity and continuous learning. With your support, our *Vision for the Future* is bright.

## A REPORT FROM OUR PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Emily Culhan

What truly makes TFT such an amazing organization is the people. Our incredible teaching artists and classroom volunteers bring creativity and joy to every Creative Club and Theatre Troupe class.

Each summer, our teaching artists take part in a fun and meaningful training focused on how to inspire and engage students in an afterschool setting. We talk about meeting kids where they are, encouraging them to explore, and helping them grow as young artists. We keep that spirit alive by coming together between sessions to share stories, successes, and lessons learned. These gatherings keep us connected and always learning from one another.

I’m especially grateful to Noella Lansen, who volunteers as a teacher mentor and visits classrooms to offer feedback and encouragement. Watching our teaching artists in action—seeing the patience, compassion, and creativity they bring to every class—is always inspiring. I feel lucky to work with such a passionate community. We are truly changing children’s lives through the arts.

## VOLUNTEERS IN THE CLASSROOM

Volunteers are essential to our success! Creative Club volunteers support teaching artists by assisting students one-on-one and helping with setup and cleanup. Theatre Troupe volunteers help students learn lines and build focus through theatre games. Through orientation and training, volunteers learn how to foster a positive, creative environment and build meaningful relationships. Your support enriches each classroom and is deeply appreciated.

To learn more about volunteering, contact **Emily Culhan, Program Director** at **760.601.3954** or **emily@toolsfortomorrow.org**



## APPRECIATION LUNCHEON & SPOTLIGHT AWARDS

Teaching Artists and Volunteers make Tools For Tomorrow possible! We celebrated the contributions of our amazing teachers and enthusiastic volunteers at an Appreciation Luncheon on May 31, 2025, at Mission Hills Country Club. TFT volunteers go above and beyond including assembling art kits, helping at the Gala, putting together notecards, assisting in the classroom, and so much more. Our teaching artists are dedicated to enriching children's lives through the arts. It is a tremendous group. We also recognized our outstanding Teacher of Year and Volunteer of the Year.



**Kimberly Steinberg**

*Rachel Bryant Druten*  
Founder  
Teacher of the Year



**Gloria Nixt**

*Volunteer of the Year*

## THEATRE TROUPE 2024-2025



*Theatre Troupe Performance by the students at Rio Vista Elementary School in Cathedral City, CA*



*Theatre Troupe Performance by the students at Harry S. Truman Elementary School in La Quinta, CA*

Our Theatre Troupe has grown! Students at Rio Vista and Harry S. Truman Elementary Schools worked with Melanie Blue and Kieran Sala to learn about theatre, acting, improv, and teamwork. In the fall, Rio Vista students staged a production of *The True Story of Jack and the Beanstalk* by Karleen Hayden for their friends and families. In this hilarious adaptation, Jack's mother sends him out to sell a toilet plunger so they can buy some food. The show was a hit! In the spring, Truman students wrote their own original play, *The Island*. The students were writers, directors, and performers for this story where a young girl followed her mother's last request and set out on an epic journey to find a magical island. We are very grateful to Char Hecht, teaching assistant, and Deb Seles, volunteer, for their support.

Directors: **Melanie Blue and Kieran Sala** | Lights & Sound: **David Hirsch** | Set & Prop Design: **Joe Cassetta**



2025 VISION FOR THE FUTURE AWARD GALA  
honoring PATRICK EVANS

Dinner show directed by Joyce Bulifant  
Performances by The Carothers Brothers  
Featuring Tools For Tomorrow Students  
Emceed by Karen Devine

Monday, February 24, 2025



Photos by Lani Garfield: [www.photosbylani.com](http://www.photosbylani.com)

2026 VISION FOR THE FUTURE AWARD GALA

# DANCING THE NIGHT AWAY WITH TOOLS FOR TOMORROW



honoring **SUZ HUNT**

MC Patrick Evans, KESQ  
Dance Music by "DJ D-Nice"

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23**

AGUA CALIENTE RESORT CASINO SPA - RANCHO MIRAGE  
LIVE & SILENT AUCTION | DINNER & WINE | MUSIC | DANCING

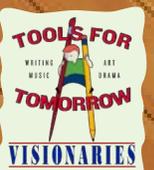


**TICKETS, SPONSORSHIPS & TRIBUTE ADS AVAILABLE NOW**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

[toolsfortomorrow.org](http://toolsfortomorrow.org) | 760.601.3954

*To Reach, Teach and Inspire Children through the ARTS*



# LA QUINTA ART CELEBRATION PARTNERS WITH TFT ON BOOK PROJECT

Tools For Tomorrow thanks La Quinta Art Celebration for their ongoing financial support, especially their recent help in raising funds for children's literature books. Students in TFT's Creative Clubs read the illustrated books, create related art and music projects and then take the books home to share with siblings. Children's books allow students to learn about important people, discover perseverance as they see themselves in stories of overcoming adversity and feel empowered to express themselves. Introducing children to books paired with music and hands-on projects encourages them to become readers and storytellers, building skills and confidence as English Language Learners.

As part of our partnership with La Quinta Art Celebration, TFT volunteers also enjoy assisting at the spring and fall festivals - greeting guests, answering questions, providing directions, selling tickets/merchandise and much more! We thank La Quinta Art Celebration for their generous support of Tools For Tomorrow.



LA QUINTA ART  
*Celebration*

EXPERIENCE AMAZING ART

Experience the finest in local culinary delights, Napa Valley wines, top-shelf spirits, Margarita Island and Live Entertainment throughout the park.

#1 Fine Art & Craft Event in the Nation – Greg Lawler Art Fair Source Book, 2021, 2022, 2023 & 2024

#1: Favorite Outdoor Art Festival – Southwest Art Magazine Reader's Choice Award 2023

FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 1, 2026  
LA QUINTA CIVIC CENTER PARK

INFO & TICKETS: [www.LQAC.ORG](http://www.LQAC.ORG) • 760-628-7770

La Quinta  
— CULTURE —  
Premier Sponsor

## VISIONARIES MEMBERSHIP 2025-2026



Linda Rider

Have you joined the VISIONARIES or renewed your membership? If not, now is the moment! You wouldn't want to miss the wonderful events planned for this coming season.

Two membership levels are available:

**Picasso: \$250 pp/Couples \$500**

*(Includes invitation to a private membership party)*

**General: \$150 pp/Couples \$300**

Thank you all for your generous support and advocacy. You are partners with Tools For Tomorrow in making a difference in our Valley: one child at a time.

*Linda Rider & CJ Westrick-Bomar,  
2025-2026 Membership Chairs*



CJ Westrick-Bomar

## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Walter Gendell

Cathedral City Resident, Walter has 35+ years of HR experience, having worked for Blue Shield of California, Charles Schwab and Bank of America. Since 2010, he served on the Boards and committees of Palm Springs Rotary Club, Palm Springs International Piano Competition and his church. Walter has also

volunteered for the Shanti Project, the San Francisco Aids hotline and the Contra Costa County AIDS Task Force.

A dynamic community leader and culinary professional, Mitch is the former President of Leisure Resorts and served as Manager of Training & Development for Starz Encore Media Group. He is the chef and host of **Neighbors Cooking**, the Director of Volunteers for Palm Springs Pride and City Commissioner for VillageFest.



Mitchell Battersby

## THANK YOU, DAVID W. BRYANT

*Philanthropist and Real Estate Investor*  
The TFT Board and VISIONARIES greatly acknowledge David Bryant for his extraordinary generosity and steadfast support as our Gala Event Sponsor for the fifth consecutive year.



David W. Bryant

## PICASSO-CIRCLE VISIONARIES PARTY AT JEAN CARRUS' HOME

Picasso-Circle supporters and prospective members enjoyed a cocktail party at Jean Carrus' art-filled home. Guests enjoyed David Hirsch's music, appetizers by Lulu's Catering & Events, and Boisset Collection fine wines donated by Judy Mathes. Linda Rider and Claire Smith co-chaired the party. Many thanks to Jean Carrus and Frank Bellagente for generously sharing their beautiful home!



**CONFERENCE INSPIRATION:  
COMMUNITY AND CREATIVITY**



Thanks to generous support from Paul Anderson, SCOPE Events/La Quinta Art Celebration, Executive Director Andrea Hecht and Program Coordinator Sara Waters had the opportunity to attend the 2025 National Art Education Association (NAEA) National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

The keynote speakers were amazing—each using art to inspire change. We came home with new lesson plans, tools for supporting diverse learners, and resources to help our teaching artists strengthen classroom management and creativity.

Your support helps us continue to bring more joyful, creative learning to every child we serve.

*“I returned energized and full of fresh ideas to share with our students and teaching artists.”*

*– Sara Waters, Program Coordinator*

**GEL PRINTING WORKSHOP  
AT RCOE ARTSLIFT CONFERENCE**

Emily Culhan, Program Director, led a workshop on gel printmaking at the Riverside County Office of Education ArtsLift Conference on July 11, 2025. In this interactive session, 20 art educators learned how to teach gel printing to elementary students. Emily’s presentation was one of the top rated of the conference and art teachers loved the session.

Gel printing is a fun and unique way to create monoprints. This is an experience that students are rarely able to get at school as it requires expensive upfront investment in materials. We are fortunate to have a classroom gel printing kit that was funded by the Houston Family Foundation. This allows us to offer this special art-making process in our Creative Club classes.



DEC 3 - 21

JAN 14 - FEB 1



FEB 21 - MAR 15

APR 22 - MAY 10



TICKETS: CVREP.ORG 760.296.2966 EXT 0

# TEACHER FEATURE - Kimberly Steinberg, Teaching Artist

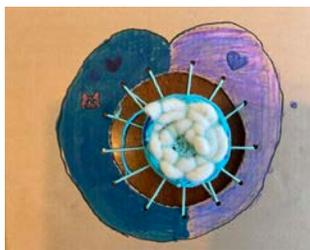


Kimberly has been a teaching artist with TFT for three years and has over 15 years of experience teaching and mentoring children. She believes in the benefits and importance of engaging with art and loves how the artistic process ignites children's creativity. Her favorite lesson to

teach revolves around the textile art of Ani Albers as this lesson allows her students a very tactile way to experience creating art. She particularly enjoys how this lesson encourages students to persevere since the material and process are new and unfamiliar. Students rise to the challenge and create colorful weavings.

Kimberly resides in Palm Desert with her husband, their three children, and one large fluffy dog. She is an accomplished floral designer specializing in using native desert plants. Her unique and beautiful pieces are inspired by her observations of nature and the life cycle of flowers and plants.

## FIBER ART & WEAVING



Alana, Grade 3



Jessica, Grade 4

## CHARLEY HARPER & MEL FELL COLLAGE



Diego, Grade 2



Sky, Grade 2

## MIXED MEDIA CAT HAIKU



Bella, Grade 3



Jasper, Grade 2

## KEITH HARING MURAL



Sky, Grade 2



Mateo, Natalia, Sapphire, Jasmine,  
Grade 2

## ROBOT SELF-PORTRAITS



Mateo, Grade 2



Caleb, Grade 2

## ALMA THOMAS INSPIRED COLLAGE



Arlis, Grade 3



Mia, Grade 1

***"I find immense joy in witnessing my students' growth and the moments when they realize their artistic capabilities."***  
- Kimberly Steinberg

## CV WATERCOLOR SOCIETY AND BOBO PALM SPRINGS



The Coachella Valley Watercolor Society is a continuing supporter of TFT, helping us bring art to children in our Creative Club program by sponsoring supplies. This year, they helped us purchase watercolor

postcards to enhance a new lesson on the National Parks. Students learn about different National Parks throughout the country. Then they create a postcard and write a note detailing an imaginary visit. We are also grateful to Bobo Palm Springs who donated 400 National Parks Travel Journals that we are able to gift to students at the end of the lesson.



## IDYLLWILD ARTS ACADEMY SUMMER THEATRE PROGRAM



Iris Davis, a fourth grader from Vista del Monte Elementary School, was awarded a scholarship to attend the Idyllwild Arts Academy Summer Art Program. She had a life-changing experience:

***"Thank you...my first experience at a sleepaway camp was amazing! I had so much fun painting and making new friends. I liked waking to birds singing and seeing squirrels, chipmunks, and deer. I loved all the activities."***



Her mom, Lena, shared that Iris has always been passionate about art and was so grateful for the opportunity to make art for two weeks, "it is not lost on us how fantastic it is to be able to learn in such an extraordinary environment."

We are grateful for the partnership with Idyllwild Arts Academy that allows our Creative Club and Theatre Troupe students this unique opportunity.



PALM SPRINGS INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION

2025 - 2026

A SEASON OF STARS



[www.psupc.org](http://www.psupc.org)

BACH MEETS THE BEATLES  
FEATURING JOHN BAYLESS



✦ January 13, 2026 | 5:00 pm ✦  
✦ Temple Isaiah, Palm Springs ✦



A STARRY NIGHT  
PSIPC'S ANNUAL BENEFIT



✦ March 2, 2026 | 4:30 pm ✦  
✦ The Club at Morningside, Rancho Mirage ✦



NOCHE DE BOLERO



✦ May 4, 2026 | 5:00 pm ✦  
✦ Casuelas Café, Palm Desert ✦



## RACHEL DRUTEN RECEIVES OUTSTANDING NONPROFIT FOUNDER AWARD



On November 7, 2025, the Association of Fundraising Professionals, CA Desert Communities Chapter, honored TFT founder Rachel Druten with the Outstanding Nonprofit Founder Award.

In 1998, Rachel and a friend developed an afterschool program for four Desert Hot Springs schools, introducing

hands-on arts experiences that help children understand how the arts influence and enhance one another, while also teaching courtesy, kindness, cooperation, and character.

Rachel credits the RAP Foundation for guiding her through the complexities of building a nonprofit, from grant writing to forming a board. She extends her gratitude to the TFT Board of Directors, Claire Smith – VISIONARIES Founder, and the TFT staff for their dedication and hard work, making TFT what it is today.

## TWO TFT BOARD MEMBERS CELEBRATE 95TH BIRTHDAYS



Louise Escoe and Jean Carrus celebrated their 95th birthdays in 2025! Louise is a founding member of

TFT's VISIONARIES support group. In 2025 Jean received Brandeis University's Woman of the Year award. We wish them both many more years of advising and supporting Tools For Tomorrow!

## EMILY CHELEY COMPLETES CERTIFICATE IN NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT



Funded by the RAP Foundation, classes at UCR Extension included grant writing, social media marketing, fundraising essentials and current events.

***"I am grateful for the mentorship, collaboration, and real-world insights this program provided."***

***– Emily Cheley, Development/Events Coord.***

## CONNECTIONS MADE THROUGH LCV

Designed to identify, motivate and develop future community leaders, the Leadership Coachella Valley program provides knowledge and perspective on valley-wide needs and concerns.

***"I was able to engage with others who are committed to the future of our valley and to highlight the meaningful impact TFT is making in our children's lives."***

***– Andrea Hecht, Executive Director***



Executive Director Andrea Hecht and new TFT Board Member Mitchell Battersby, class of 2025.

## EMILY CULHAN COMPLETES AUTISM CERTIFICATE



This training taught best practices for working with autistic learners. Emily applies them guiding TFT teaching artists as they work with neurodivergent children.

***"The most helpful part was learning strategies to support our students with autism so they can be successful in our program."***

***– Emily Culhan, Program Director***

## VISION FOR THE FUTURE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Patrick Evans - 2025  
Joe Giarrusso - 2024  
Jeff McDonald &  
Charles Thomas - 2023  
Sandra C. Woodson - 2022  
Susan Stein - 2020

Lucie Arnaz - 2019  
Linda Rider - 2018  
Barbara & Jerry Keller - 2017  
Charlie Pasarell - 2016  
Harold Matzner - 2015  
Donna MacMillan - 2014

Janice Lyle, Ph.D. - 2013  
Michael Childers - 2012  
Carol Channing - 2011  
Mary T. Roche - 2010  
Steven Nash - 2009  
Jackie Lee Houston - 2008  
Lee Appel - 2007

## HONOREES

David W. Bryant  
2023 - Picasso Party  
Phyllis Eisenberg  
2020 - Vision Event Honorary Chair  
2013 - Fiddler on the Roof Sing Along

Joyce Bulifant  
2017 - Up Close & Personal Book Signing,  
"My Four Hollywood Husbands"  
Jennie Inch  
2016 - Musical Memories Dance Party

Patty & Arthur Newman  
2015 - Sunday in the Park  
Rachel Druten  
2023 - 90th Birthday Celebration  
2014 - Founder Tools For Tomorrow's  
15th Anniversary Celebration

## IN MEMORY OF LONG-TIME SUPPORTERS



Harold Matzner

Harold was known as Mr. Palm Springs for chairing both the PS International Film Festival and McCallum Theatre amongst many other philanthropic causes. Tools For Tomorrow honored him with the Vision for the Future Award in 2015. Harold passed away September 4, 2025.

Anne served on the Tools For Tomorrow VISIONARIES Board for many years. A tireless volunteer, Anne served as co-chair of Game Day fundraisers and handled gala registrations with aplomb! Her spouse Bob served as TFT CFO for 12 years. Anne passed away on May 4, 2025.



Anne Hopkins



Ken Clay

Ken was a staunch supporter of Tools For Tomorrow. A commercial real estate developer from Washington, Ken and his wife Sharon sponsored several TFT galas and donated premium wines for auctions. Ken passed away on March 13, 2025.

Jean volunteered tirelessly for Tools For Tomorrow, helping assemble student art kits and filling the room with her delightful stories. After careers with the airlines and as a realtor in Washington, she unexpectedly passed away January 1, 2025.



Jean Butler

## LEAVE A LEGACY OF IMPACT, A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

By including TFT in your will or estate plans, you help ensure that every child—today and in the future—has access to the transformative power of the arts. Your planned gift sustains imaginative learning and nurtures creativity, confidence, and opportunity for all young artists. A *Legacy for Tomorrow* of any size creates lasting impact. It becomes a promise to future generations—a statement of hope, commitment, and belief in the potential of every child whose life is touched by the arts.

## FREE ART KITS FOR TFT STUDENTS

It's art supplies all the time at the Tools For Tomorrow office! Each student in our Creative Club receives their own set of art materials to use during our program and keep at the end so they can continue their creativity at home. Our art kits include crayons, markers, oil pastels, watercolor pencils, paint brushes, and watercolor pan paints. Students also receive a sketchbook, lined notebook, glue stick, pencil, and eraser.

With three sessions, we are constantly assembling art kits. We could not do this without the wonderful dedication of our Board Members and Volunteers. Each session amazing volunteers put together 350-450 art kits! This fall they created 396 art kits. This means that volunteers labeled 396 lids and 396 journals and organized 4,752 oil pastels and 4,752 watercolor pencils before putting the kits together for each student. They'll do it all again for the winter and spring sessions.

**THANK YOU to the TFT Board Members and Volunteers who help assemble art kits.**



Volunteers Assembling Art Kits in the TFT Office



Desert Sands Unified School District ELOP Vendor Showcase



Teaching Artists – Training and Team Building

## LITERACY DAY WITH READ WITH ME

TFT was excited to partner with Read With Me for their first Literacy Day event on February 1, 2025. This day-long program for students in Desert Sands Unified promoted reading and literacy. Our teaching artists read students *Ish* by Peter H. Reynolds and then led them in an art lesson. *Ish* teaches children that art doesn't have to be perfectly realistic to be perfectly wonderful – it can be “ish”. Students then learned about Pablo Picasso and created their own abstract portraits using watercolor pencils. Our session was well-received and we have been invited back for the next Literacy Day program.



## INTERN PARTNERSHIP WITH CSUSB

We are delighted to again partner with the Cal State San Bernardino, Palm Desert Campus College Corps Fellow Program. College Corps is a state-wide initiative that gives undergraduate students the opportunity to support and learn from community-based organizations working in one of three areas: K-12 education, climate action, and food insecurity. Natalie Perez is our CCF this year and she is interning in three different classes for the fall session. She is helping in two Creative Club classes as well as our Theatre Troupe program and is a tremendous asset to our teaching artists. CSUSB pays her a living stipend as well as provides an Education Award to help with tuition.



## BIGHORN CARES ABOUT OUR STUDENTS



BIGHORN Cares visited a Creative Club class at Roosevelt Elementary to see a lesson in action. Students listened to the story *Change Sings* written by National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman. In this story a young girl, with a group of friends, works to make their community a better place. Students then created their own artistic tambourine with a positive message using acrylic paint markers. TFT is grateful for the support of BIGHORN Cares that allowed us to purchase copies of the book to give to our students and the supplies needed for the art lesson.



## DESERT X WITH WALTER GENDELL



With funding from the City of Palm Desert, students from James Monroe and John F. Kennedy Elementary Schools took a field trip to experience installations from the Desert X biennial exhibition. Each field trip was led by Desert X docent Walter Gendell, and included *Truth Arrives in Slanted Beams* by Sarah Meyohas (located on Portola Avenue in Palm Desert) and *The Living Pyramid* by Agnes Denes (located at Sunnylands in Rancho Mirage).

The students brought the sketchbooks from their TFT art kits and spent time drawing and writing about what they were experiencing. At *Truth Arrives in Slanted Beams*, students learned about intersection of art and the environment. At *The Living Pyramid*, students got up close and personal with a wide variety of plants and insects and how sustainability was part of the design. For many students, this was their first time experiencing Sunnylands Center and Gardens.



## GRANTS & GIFTS – JULY 2024 to OCTOBER 2025

*Tools For Tomorrow* gratefully acknowledges the following foundations and community organizations for their generous support:

Agua Caliente Band Of Cahuilla Indians  
 Alderson Family Foundation  
 Anderson Children's Foundation  
 The Auen Foundation  
 BIGHORN Golf Club Charities  
 bobo design studio  
 Bob's Discount Furniture Charitable Foundation  
 The Coeta & Donald Barker Foundation  
 Connie and Bob Lurie Foundation



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 City of Indian Wells  
 City of Indio  
 City of La Quinta  
 City of Palm Desert  
 City of Palm Springs  
 Coachella Valley Watercolor Society  
 Desert Sands Unified School District  
 The Foundation for PSUSD  
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Grace Helen Spearman Charitable Foundation  
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 Variety Children's Charity

Judy Mathes  
 McCallum Theatre  
 Mission Hills Country Club  
 Mitch's on El Paseo  
 Reese Murakami  
 The Nest  
 Old Spaghetti Factory  
 Palm Springs International  
 Piano Competition  
 PGA West  
 The Polo Club at Trilogy  
 Prescott Physical Therapy  
 Linda Rider  
 Ristorante Mamma Gina  
 Diana Richards  
 Si Bon  
 Irma and Bob Smith

Sneaker Mama Creations  
 Sweet Basil California Eatery  
 Thai Smile  
 TQLAS  
 Trattoria Tiramisu  
 Wally's Desert Turtle  
 Wildest Restaurant + Bar  
 Willie's Modern Faire

**Thank you, all!**



### **SNIPS & SNAILS** - We are grateful to the following:

Winston Gieseke, Nicky Loomis, Kate Franco, Denise Fleig  
 – *The Desert Sun*  
 Jimmy Boegle – *CV Independent*  
 Pat Krause, Max Lieberman – *Desert Star Weekly*  
 Emily Chavous Foster, Franklin Jones, Paulina Larsen,  
 Gracie de la Paz – *Palm Springs Life*  
 Steve Tolin – *Desert Charities News*  
 David Perry – *Community Calendar*  
 Jerry Upham, Patrick Evans, Karen Devine, Saul Romero,  
 Jonathan Rodas - *KESQ TV*  
 Joey English – *Radio*  
 HEALING\_WITH\_HOLLY22 – *Instagram/Social Media*  
 Bill Chojnowski, Steven Recinos, Lani Garfield  
 – *Photographers*  
 Sean Daigle, Memoria Films – *Filmmaker*



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**DONATIONS - July 2024 - October 2025**

Please forgive any inaccuracies or omissions. If you let us know they will be corrected in the next newsletter.

Designed, written, and edited in-house by volunteers and staff.

**Tools For Tomorrow** is a free, after-school arts literacy program integrating the Visual Arts, Creative Writing, Music Appreciation, and Theatre for children ages seven to eleven.

**HOW WE OPERATE**

Qualified Teaching Artists use a professionally designed curriculum to offer lessons in the visual arts, creative writing, music appreciation, and theatre.

**WHERE CLASSES ARE HELD**

Classes are held once-a-week at the school site after regular school hours.

**FREE FOR CHILDREN**

Classes are FREE! All supplies, musical equipment, and snacks are provided by **Tools For Tomorrow**.

**WHO WE SERVE**

All Coachella Valley elementary schools are eligible. We currently have programs in Bermuda Dunes, Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, and Thousand Palms.



**PROGRAM COST**

\$15,000 supports the full program in one school for one year.

**! TFT KIDS NEED YOU !**



**SUSTAINABILITY IS CRITICAL**  
**to maintain the program and qualify for grants**  
*If you would like to help underwrite the costs of printing and mailing, and be acknowledged in our newsletter call 760.601.3954*

**TFT is excited to be working with students at the following schools:**

**Bermuda Dunes:**  
 James Monroe Elementary School

**Cathedral City:**  
 Agua Caliente Elementary School  
 Cathedral City Elementary School  
 Landau Elementary School  
 Rio Vista Elementary School  
 Sunny Sands Elementary School

**Coachella:**  
 Coral Mountain Academy

**Desert Hot Springs:**  
 Bella Vista Elementary School  
 Bubbling Wells Elementary School  
 Cabot Yerxa Elementary School  
 Julius Corsini Elementary School  
 Two Bunch Palms Elementary School

**Indio:**  
 James Madison Elementary School  
 Martin Van Buren Elementary School  
 Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School

**La Quinta:**  
 Harry S. Truman Elementary School

**Palm Desert:**  
 Ronald Reagan Elementary School

**Palm Springs:**  
 Cahuilla Elementary School  
 Katherine Finchy Elementary School  
 Vista del Monte Elementary School

**Rancho Mirage:**  
 Rancho Mirage Elementary School

**Thousand Palms:**  
 Della S. Lindley Elementary School

**Community Partners:**  
 Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Desert  
 Boys & Girls Club of Cathedral City  
 Boys & Girls Club of Palm Springs  
 Boys & Girls Club of Coachella Valley

**SAVE THE DATE**

**February 23, 2026**  
*Dancing the Night Away*  
*honoring Suz Hunt*  
**March 22, 2026**  
*Picasso Party*