

# PLAYWORKS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24



PLAYWORKS

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Dear Playworks Southern California Community,

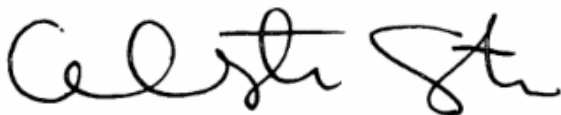
It is with great pride and gratitude that I invite you to celebrate with us the impact of Playworks Southern California's 2023-2024 program year.

In a world where children face unprecedented challenges, the joy and development derived from play continue to be essential. This year, we reached over 176,000 children across Southern California, providing them with opportunities to build social skills, foster teamwork, and develop leadership qualities through play. Throughout the year, our team has collected countless stories of our impact in school and out-of-school time spaces. The below impact was shared by an educator in Paramount Unified School District at the conclusion of the school year, as they highlight the power of play and student empowerment.

*"I no longer hear students say that they are bored during recess. Students are more comfortable with taking the lead with Playworks and other related play activities. Ro Sham Bo (rock-paper-scissors) is now a vital part of our school community and has helped to resolve many conflicts through student-led collaboration and problem solving. The Junior Coach youth leaders in my class understand steps to support other students who are in need. They are keen on determining what the root issue is in a situation, rather than jumping to conclusions. Overall, they are becoming excellent at problem solving for themselves and collaboratively to help others."*

Thank you for being part of our meaningful community. Together, we are making a lasting difference in the lives of children and creating a brighter, more playful future, where everyone has an opportunity to thrive.

With gratitude,



Celeste Soto  
Playworks Southern California  
Executive Director





## OUR IMPACT

**167,569**

# students served

**688**

# of youth leaders

**303**

# of School and Community-Based Organization Partners

**73%**

of students are eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch (across all services)

Every year, Playworks surveys our partner schools to learn about the impact of our programs and find ways to improve. Here are a few highlights from educators surveyed this year:

**95%**

of educators reported Playworks **increases the number of students that are physically active**

**97%**

of educators that agree that Playworks helps create **opportunities for inclusion of diverse groups of students.**

**94%**

of educators reported Playworks helps students **develop the skills to succeed in their learning community.**

**96%**

of educators agree that Playworks helps **create an environment of belonging**



# PLAY DAYS WITH OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS

## BUILDING IMPACT TOGETHER

Here at Playworks we believe everyone can benefit from the power of play. One of the many ways we get to play with our community is through Play Days. Corporate partners are invited to come play with us at a partner school and experience first hand how impactful safe and healthy play is. These engagement opportunities are great for improving team collaboration and morale as employees participate in healthy activities and feel a sense of renewed motivation.



A couple of Play Day highlights of the year include the Galaxy Foundation at Towne Ave Elementary, PwC at 99th Elementary, and AEG at Moffett Elementary. Here's what one volunteer had to say about the full day of fun together:

*"The Playworks staff did a great job of helping guide us throughout the different activities and making it fun. I had a great time interacting and playing with the children which brought me back to when I was in elementary school."*

These partnerships between Playworks and corporate partners is far from transactional; it is a collaboration rooted in a shared commitment to the communities we serve. Their support has made a tangible difference in the lives of countless children, and we are profoundly grateful.

As we look ahead to the upcoming school year, we are excited to continue to build partnerships and achieve even greater heights together. If you are interested in becoming a partner, contact Kira Magruder, CA Development Manager [kira.magruder@playworks.org](mailto:kira.magruder@playworks.org).



# Thank You to Our Partners in Play!

Playworks Southern California extends immense gratitude to the generous support of all our individual donors and volunteers. Our impact is the result of our collective investment and commitment to Playworks' mission to bring safe and healthy play to every kid.

## Our Direct Service Partners

Baldwin Elementary - Alhambra USD  
Brightwood Elementary - Alhambra USD  
Emery Park Elementary - Alhambra USD  
Fremont Elementary - Alhambra USD  
Garfield Elementary - Alhambra USD  
Granada Elementary - Alhambra USD  
Marguerita Elementary - Alhambra USD  
Monterey Highlands - Alhambra USD  
Northrup Elementary - Alhambra USD  
Park Elementary - Alhambra USD  
Ramona Elementary - Alhambra USD  
Repetto Elementary - Alhambra USD  
Ynez Elementary - Alhambra USD  
15th Street Elementary - Los Angeles USD  
20th Street - Los Angeles USD  
49th Street - Los Angeles USD  
93rd Street Elementary - Los Angeles USD  
95th Street Elementary - Los Angeles USD  
96th Street Elementary - Los Angeles USD  
99th Street Elementary - Los Angeles USD  
Carlos Santana Arts Academy - Los Angeles USD  
Charles Barrett Elementary - Los Angeles USD  
Cheremoya Avenue - Los Angeles USD  
Del Amo Elementary - Los Angeles USD  
Figueroa Street Elementary - Los Angeles USD  
Grant Elementary - Los Angeles USD  
Hazeltine Avenue Elementary - Los Angeles USD  
Kentwood Elementary - Los Angeles USD  
Kingsley Elementary - Los Angeles USD

Manhattan Place Elementary - Los Angeles USD  
Michelle Obama Elementary - Los Angeles USD  
Noble Avenue Elementary - Los Angeles USD  
Plummer Elementary - Los Angeles USD  
Plummer Elementary - Los Angeles USD  
Saturn Street Elementary - Los Angeles USD  
Buford Elementary - Lennox SD  
Dolores Huerta Elementary - Lennox SD  
Felton Elementary - Lennox SD  
Jefferson Elementary - Lennox SD  
Moffett Elementary - Lennox SD  
Collins Elementary - Paramount USD  
Harry Wirtz Elementary - Paramount USD  
Howard Tanner Elementary - Paramount USD  
Jefferson Elementary - Paramount USD  
Leona Jackson Elementary - Paramount USD  
Los Cerritos Elementary - Paramount USD  
Major Lynn Mokler Elementary - Paramount USD  
Mark Keppel Elementary - Paramount USD  
Roosevelt Elementary - Paramount USD  
Wesley Gaines Elementary - Paramount USD  
Fairmont Elementary - Placentia Yorba Linda USD  
Harbor City Elementary - Placentia Yorba Linda USD  
Barton Hill Elementary - Westminster USD  
Finley Computer Science Magnet - Westminster USD  
Schmitt Elementary - Westminster USD  
Sequoia Academy - Westminster USD  
Willmore Elementary - Westminster USD

## Our Foundation and Corporate Partners

AEG Community Foundation  
Blue Shield of California  
Dwight Stuart Youth Fund  
Great Public Schools Now  
Johnny Carson Foundation  
Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit  
Kings Care Foundation  
LA Galaxy  
LA84 Foundation

Leonard Hill Charitable Trust  
Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation  
Play Equity Fund  
PricewaterhouseCoopers  
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians  
The Green Foundation  
The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation  
24 Hour Fitness

## Southern California Regional Advisory Board Members

Melanie Smith, Board Chair, Director of Regional Development, Gateway Cities Council of Governments

Katie Ball, Director, PricewaterhouseCoopers

Bryce Brown, Practice Director, Robert Half

Sara Gotfredson, Founder, Trailblazing Sports Group

Justin Radell, Principal Counsel, The Walt Disney Company

Robert Rayburn, Coordinator of Assessment Services (Retired), Norwalk La Mirada Unified School District

Bransby Whitton, Executive Vice President, PIMCO

Robert Vartan, Vice President of Global Partnerships, CrossFit LLC

