



# YEAR IN ACTION

2023-2024

IMPACT REPORT

Ensuring youth have equitable  
access to high-quality  
expanded learning programs



# DEAR FRIENDS & SUPPORTERS,

As the inaugural Executive Director for the Expanded Learning Alliance (ExpandLA), I am pleased to present to you our Year in Action Impact Report for 2023-2024. This report encapsulates the hard work and achievements of our organization and partners over the past year since our public launch in June 2023, showcasing the positive changes we have collectively brought to the expanded learning sector in the Los Angeles region.

As we reflect on this remarkable first year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the progress we have made. Our mission to support, connect and advocate for high-quality expanded learning opportunities that provide equitable access for all youth in Los Angeles is the driving force in our work and shapes our approach to making positive change. Together, we have built a coalition of over 295 youth-serving organizations, secured much-needed additional funding for providers serving youth in their schools and communities, and created an infrastructure to offer close to 560 hours of professional learning opportunities to our network of partners.

Looking ahead, we are excited to build on this momentum. Our goals for the coming year include:

- Expanding our coalition of youth-serving partners;
- Strengthening our advocacy efforts to increase investments in expanded learning programs;
- Elevating our collective power to activate narrative and systems change that lifts the value of expanded learning work;
- Launching new initiatives focused on creating community-designed Youth Hubs in under-resourced areas;
- Establishing career pathways that link well-trained staff to youth development programs; and
- Developing a quality and impact framework for providers in Los Angeles County.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed to our success, especially our board members, advisors, staff, partners and donors. Your commitment to our vision and mission is truly inspiring, and together, we are making a difference in the lives of countless young people. As we move forward, I am confident that we will continue to achieve great things together and create a brighter future for our youth in Los Angeles County and across the state.

In solidarity,



Lou Calanche,  
Executive Director





**Ethel Fimbres,  
Program Director  
Youth Business  
Alliance**

At Youth Business Alliance (YBA), we have seen firsthand the incredible difference ExpandLA has made for our small nonprofit. From valuable connections to providing essential resources, they have truly helped us grow and succeed. We are so thankful for their impact on the YBA program that brought us together with other organizations and a grant writer which led to the successful award of the CFCI Grant. They've connected us with partner organizations so we were able to participate in a wonderful experience at this year's BOOST Conference which shows the power of collaboration! Their dedication to helping nonprofits thrive is truly inspiring. We are honored to be a part of their network and excited to continue making a positive impact together.



**F R O M O U R N E T W O R K**



ExpandLA has arrived right on time. Undergirded by transformational public investments in OST and coupled with foundational collaborative efforts over the last few years among agencies, funders, and schools, ExpandLA, under Lou Calanche's leadership, can capitalize on this momentum and propel the OST field throughout LA county forward to maximize impact for Angeleno youth.



**Julee Brooks, CEO  
Woodcraft Rangers**



The ExpandLA team have been an invaluable resource for KinFlow. With their mission & collaborative model, they are truly a one of a kind hub for positive impact for California's youth, communities & organizations. I am personally grateful for their generous networking opportunities & believe their hub structure is exactly what is needed to make real change inside & outside of the education system.



**Zach Fisher, Founder  
KINFLOW**



## VISION

The Expanded Learning Alliance (ExpandLA) is a countywide effort to create an equitable system of access for children and youth in the LA area by reimagining where and when joyful learning happens by making the most of the time youth have beyond the school day.

## MISSION

ExpandLA is a countywide intermediary organization that supports, connects, and advocates for expanded learning opportunities that provide equitable access for all children and youth in the LA area. By working collaboratively with school- and community-based organizations, we will build systems, pathways, and processes that strengthen the field to nurture a young person's natural curiosity, empower their self-development, and cultivate the value they bring to making the world a better place.

## EXPANDLA'S 3 KEY ROLES



### SUPPORT

We equip expanded learning providers with resources, knowledge, and capacity building to strengthen programs that yield positive outcomes for youth.



### CONNECT

We build systems and provider capacity to create a strong collaborative network of program providers and to effectively connect families and youth to expanded learning programs.



### ADVOCATE

We represent the collective voice of program providers and will strengthen advocacy efforts of the expanded learning sector to address gaps in the field, ensure equitable access to funding, and ignite widespread support for expanded learning.

## STRATEGIC GOALS

### 1. Data & Impact

In partnership with providers, develop criteria and shared understanding for a “gold standard” high-quality program and co-construct shared metrics to measure impact and positive youth outcomes.

### 2. Coordination & Resource Development

Create a network of providers and foster coordination within the sector to increase access to expanded learning opportunities for youth from historically marginalized communities.

### 3. Advocacy and Narrative Change

Lead strategic communications to shift the narrative and public perception about the importance of expanded learning in youth development. Help systems leaders and funders to understand the needs of the expanded learning sector and what resources and policies would be most impactful.

### 4. Increase Funding & Improve Systems

Assess the true cost of high-quality programming and support providers to leverage private and public funding opportunities from school districts, city, state, and federal sources. Coordinate and lead advocacy efforts to ensure public investments and systems meet the needs of LA's youth.

### 5. Capacity Building

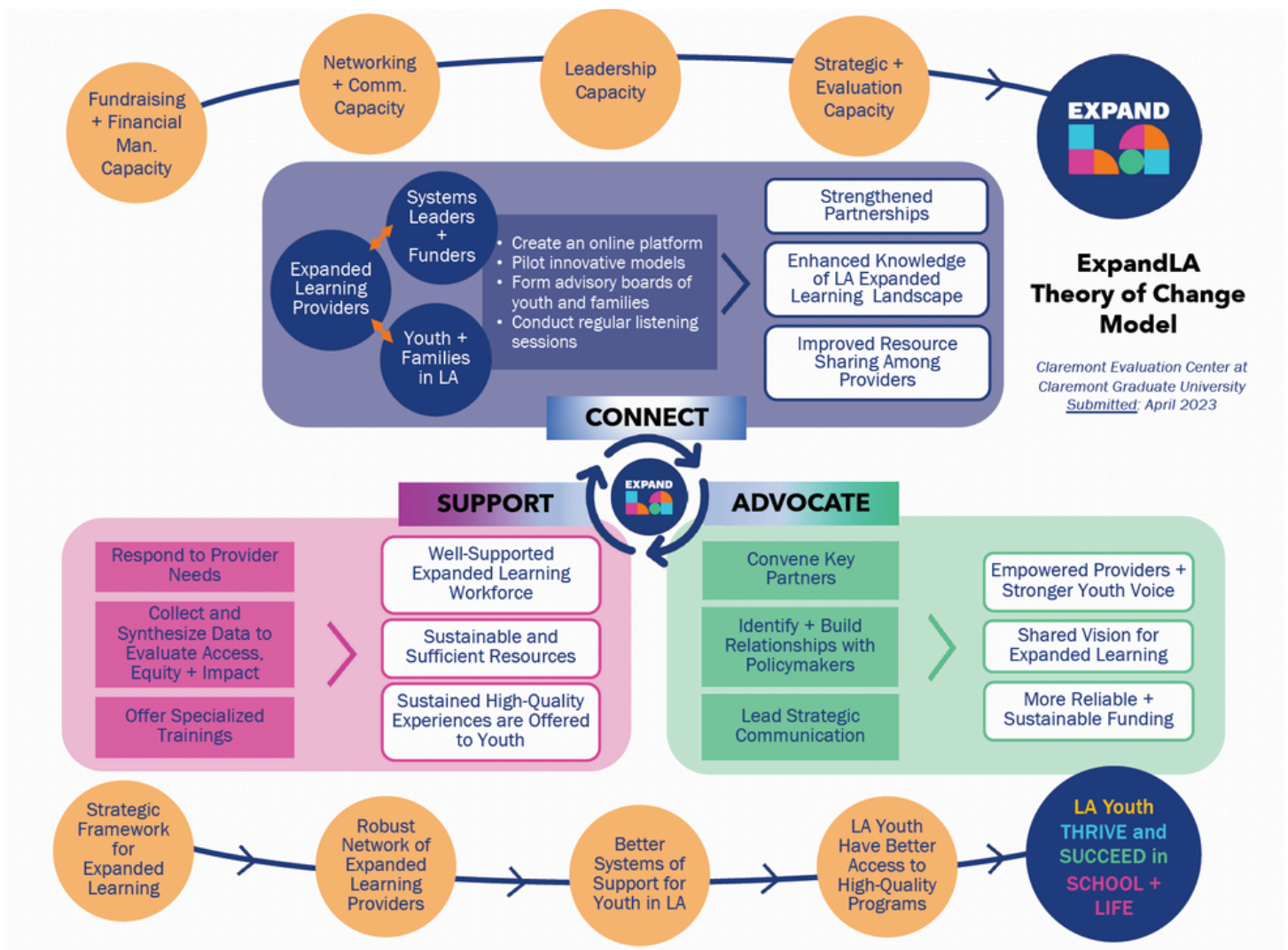
Support program providers, particularly community-based nonprofit organizations, to strengthen organization and program infrastructure. Lead staffing and workforce development initiatives to recruit, retain, and support a strong expanded learning workforce.





# THEORY OF CHANGE

ExpandLA’s Theory of Change model was developed in collaboration with the Claremont Evaluation Center at Claremont Graduate University. Our theory of change model lays the framework for how our key processes (support, connect, advocate) aim to advance our vision and outlines the outcomes that we hope to achieve over time for the expanded learning sector and for youth across Los Angeles County. This theory of change model is a critical component of ExpandLA’s foundation, as it guides our strategic goals and demonstrates how accomplishing those objectives will set the stage for producing wide-ranging positive impact for all youth in LA.



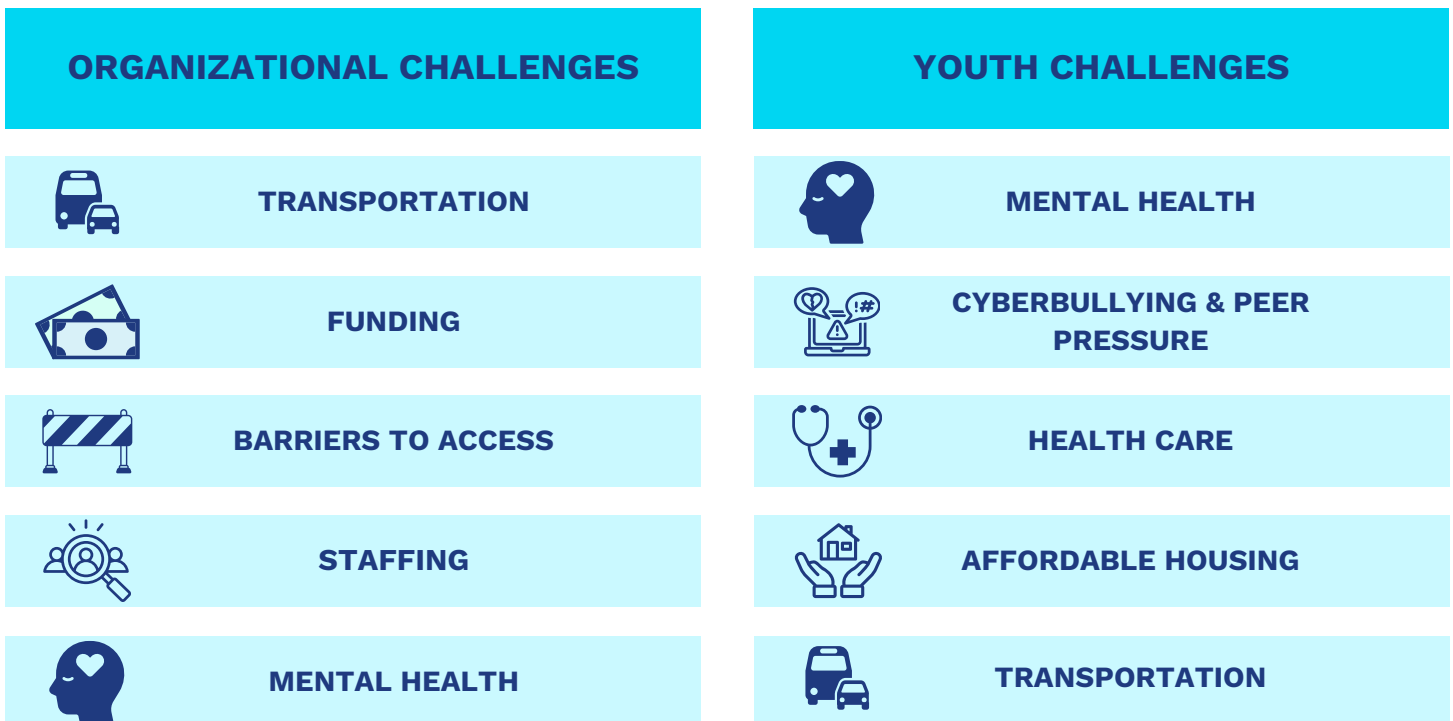
# LANDSCAPE REPORT FINDINGS

We listened and we learned! In an effort to connect with the expanded learning sector and gather feedback to help shape our strategic goals and initiatives, ExpandLA hosted a series of listening sessions for both expanded learning providers and youth, inviting them to share about the needs, challenges, and opportunities that they faced in delivering and accessing out-of-school time programming. Informed by feedback from these listening sessions, ExpandLA developed a first-of-its-kind survey to further capture the challenges and contributions of youth-serving nonprofit organizations across LA County, receiving responses from 228 organizations. Equipped with these findings, ExpandLA is now able to catalyze and unlock the potential of the expanded learning sector to drive positive outcomes and create a Los Angeles that our youth deserve.

## KEY AREAS OF SUPPORT NEEDED IDENTIFIED BY PROVIDERS



## TOP ISSUES IDENTIFIED DURING PROVIDER & YOUTH LISTENING SESSIONS



# SUPPORT

## Building the Capacity of the Expanded Learning Workforce

We are investing in the professional development and support of expanded learning practitioners to ensure that they have what they need to create meaningful learning experiences that inspire curiosity, ignite passion, and unlock the full potential of every young person.



### Professional Trainer Network (PTN)

There is a growing demand within the expanded learning sector in Los Angeles for more professional learning opportunities and resources aimed at enhancing program quality and effectiveness, and equipping staff at all levels with the knowledge and skills they need to advance in their careers. In response, ExpandLA launched the Professional Trainer Network (PTN) program in partnership with California School-Age Consortium (CalSAC) to exponentially increase access to professional development

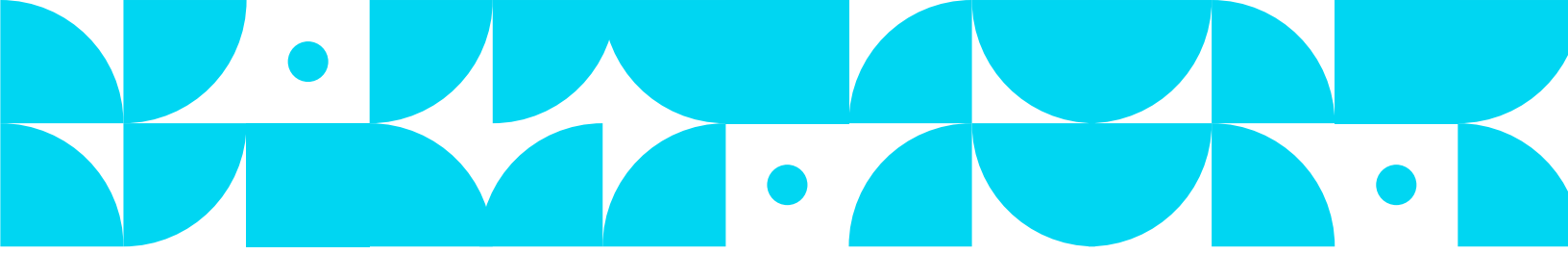
opportunities for LA County organizations. The PTN program provides a cohort of 20 OST professionals, from small and medium-sized organizations, with a free 7-month professional development training program to build the capacity of these professionals to lead trainings. Each trained professional will provide 16 hours of supervised professional development training to their organization, and an additional four (4) trainings over the course of two years to various expanded learning organizations in ExpandLA's network.



*I think that this opportunity can help my organization's staff to be better prepared to become leaders in the expanded learning field and recognize what changes are necessary to make programs stronger and more effective.*

**-PTN Participant**





# SUPPORT

By the numbers...

## PROFESSIONAL TRAINER NETWORK (PTN)

# 560

HOURS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TO OUR NETWORK OF PROVIDERS



<h1>20</h1>	<h1>17</h1>
PROFESSIONAL TRAINERS	PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS
	<i>*listed above</i>





# SUPPORT

## Professional Development Summer Bootcamp

ExpandLA curated a summer bootcamp training and certificate program with an intentional youth development approach that is designed to provide valuable tools and resources to staff and supervisors from 20 small to medium-sized youth-serving nonprofit organizations. The training is led by Dr. Anne Larson, Kinesiology Professor at Cal State LA and founder of AIYDA® – Activating Intentional Youth Development Approach. AIYDA® teaches youth development

professionals to design activities that intentionally foster core SEL skill competencies that promote positive youth development. Dr. Larson’s program builds the capacity of expanded learning professionals to design, deliver, and assess programming that is intentional to help young people develop the key skills they need to thrive. Participants who complete the training will receive a Certificate of Completion from Cal State LA.

By the numbers...



**20**  
Participating  
Organizations



**40**  
Certified  
Staff



### New Initiative:

## Quality Standards and Impact Framework for Los Angeles County

In Los Angeles County, there is little to no consensus on quality program standards, or on the outcomes and indicators needed to measure the impact of expanded learning on positive youth development. ExpandLA, along with its partners, will convene a countywide task force of nonprofit youth-serving organizations, key government agencies, and other stakeholders to develop a comprehensive set of agreed upon quality

standards and clearly defined impact metrics for the expanded learning sector that will serve as a benchmark for excellence. This “gold star” expanded learning program framework will represent a shared vision of quality among diverse stakeholders, set clear expectations for programs, guide continuous improvement, and provide much-needed impact measures for youth outcomes that will inform policy decisions on public investments in expanded learning.

# CONNECT

## Building a Movement for Youth Success in Los Angeles

We are creating a network of expanded learning providers who share a vision, embrace a common agenda, leverage resources and align their actions to achieve systems level change and uplift the sector.

By the numbers...



SERVING ALL  
8 REGIONS  
ACROSS  
LA COUNTY

**200+**

Participants present at ExpandLA's inaugural launch

**295+**

Partner Organizations

**130**

Participants attended our in-person Countywide Network Meeting

**96**

Participants attended our virtual Countywide Network Meeting

**125**

Individuals joined ExpandLA's Network Working Committees

**128**

Individuals participated in funding information sessions

“ There is a huge need for an ecosystem that coordinates equitable access to funding, technical support, data collection, messaging, and access to quality programming. ”  
-Kim Richards, CEO Boys & Girls Club of Carson

### Network of Youth-Serving Organizations

After bringing together 200 providers, elected officials, funders and government leaders for a public launch in June 2023, ExpandLA spent the past year building a coalition of now **over 295** youth-serving organizations dedicated to working together to ensure equitable access to high-quality expanded learning

opportunities to help youth across Los Angeles reach their full potential. As part of this expansive network, these organizations have been engaged in advocacy efforts to increase funding for expanded learning, collaborations to coordinate and leverage resources and planning, and training opportunities to learn new skills and knowledge to better serve youth.



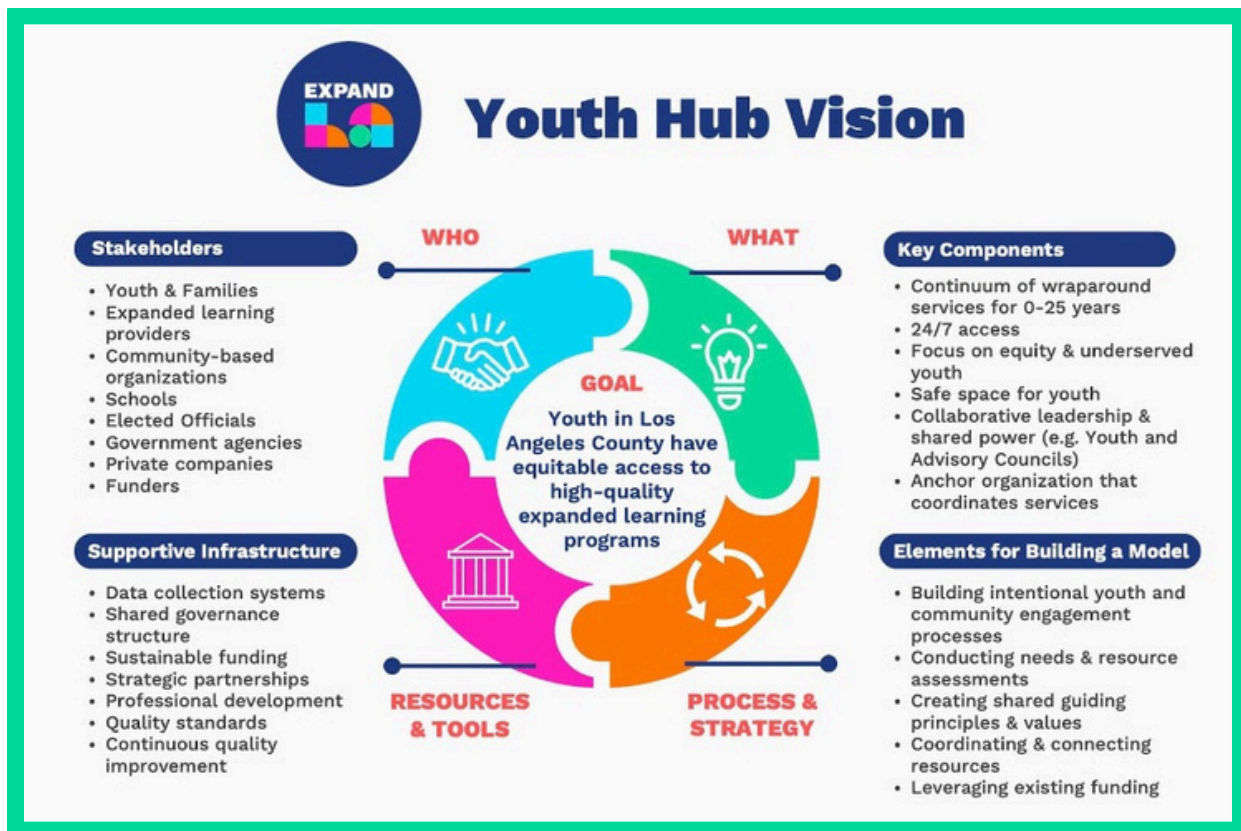
# CONNECT

## Youth Hub Initiative

In fall 2023, ExpandLA began meeting regularly with various stakeholders in Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) and the Antelope Valley (AV), both of which are high-need areas and service “deserts”, with the goal of creating community-designed models for Youth Hubs. This will require a comprehensive and integrated approach rooted in a shared vision and desire for greater coordination among community members, youth-serving organizations,

government institutions, and others.

The Youth Hub model will be designed to fill current gaps in youth services, and leverage and maximize existing expanded learning and community resources to create accessible one-stop hubs for youth to access the programs and services. Once the Youth Hubs are established in these two communities, ExpandLA will support the expansion of the Youth Hub model throughout the LA region.



By the numbers...

35 SELA Youth Hub + 23 Antelope Valley Youth Hub = 58 Youth Hub Committee members

**SUPPORTED BY:**

1 Youth Hub Coordinator

3 Youth Ambassadors

# CONNECT

## Shining the Light on Expanded Learning in Los Angeles!

ExpandLA gathered expanded learning providers from across the Los Angeles region in October 2023 to participate in Lights on Afterschool (LOA), a nationwide event that celebrates afterschool programs and the key role they play in lifting up children, families, and communities. This celebration presented an incredible opportunity to highlight the richness and diversity of LA's out-of-school time programming, build a strong and unified presence for LA's expanded learning sector, and change the narrative about the value that expanded learning brings to young people's lives.

By the numbers...

ExpandLA led a Lights On Afterschool Press Conference and Community Rally with participation from:



**21** Organizational Leaders



**3** Elected Officials



ExpandLA's network partners showcased their programs by hosting events both individually and collaboratively throughout the LA region. ExpandLA supported the regional collaborations for the national event.



**29** LOA events



**5** Regional collaborations

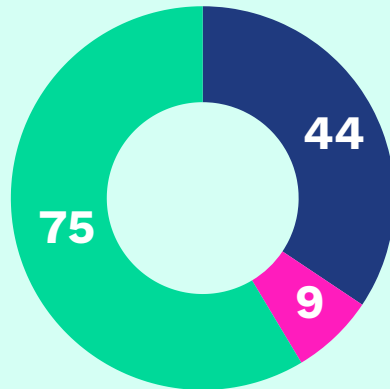


# CONNECTING the Network

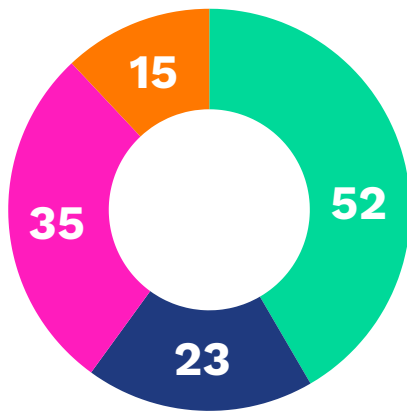
By the numbers...

## 128

Individuals participated in funding information sessions



- LAUSD's Community Challenge Grant
- California's ELO-P, 21st Century and ASES funding
- LA County's Care First Community Investment (CFCI)



- Cannabis Tax Revenue Advocacy Campaign
- Antelope Valley Youth Hub Committee
- SELA Youth Hub Committee
- STORY Committee

## 125

Individuals joined ExpandLA's Network Working Committees



Increased access to local funding opportunities that yielded

## \$2.5+million

in grants to our partners through info sessions and grant writing support



### New Initiative: Narrative Change

ExpandLA will work with a communications firm to develop a comprehensive communications plan that will lift up expanded learning programs and opportunities to change the narrative about the importance of expanded learning programs as a core part of a young person's development.

ExpandLA is also working collaboratively with Partnership for Children & Youth on a "Back to After School" communications strategy for expanded learning so that LA County and statewide efforts are aligned.



# ADVOCATE

## Driving Change Through Advocacy, Data and Organized Collective Power

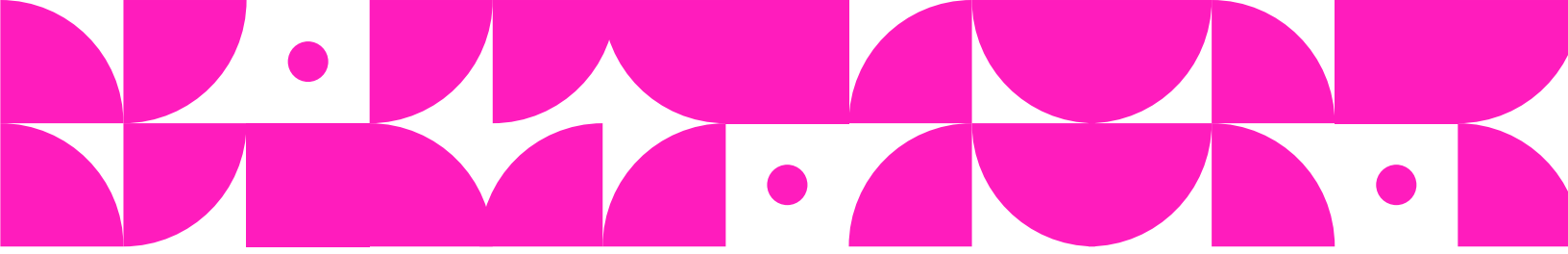
We are advancing the expanded learning field by influencing policy decisions at all levels of government, securing funding, building collective power and driving narrative and systems change that lifts up the valuable role that youth-serving organizations play in youth success in Los Angeles.



## Advocacy and Collective Action


ExpandLA's advocacy to increase the funding and visibility of the expanded learning field has scored major wins! ExpandLA joined forces with state and national policy coalitions, and worked collaboratively with our network partners to successfully secure funding at the state and local levels for expanded learning. ExpandLA met with 38 state legislators, all members of the LA County delegation, and coordinated with other policy advocates to send several sign-on letters to key elected officials in support of the state's continued investment of public funds under the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program. The Governor and legislature keep the over \$4 billion annual expenditure intact despite the state's significant budget shortfall.

Local advocacy efforts resulted in increased funding for school-based expanded learning programs serving LAUSD's students. The LAUSD Board also unanimously passed a resolution that lifts up the significant positive impact of expanded learning programs, and commits the district to celebrating Lights on Afterschool every October. ExpandLA and GPSN worked collaboratively to draft a letter of support and secure signatures from 65 expanded learning organizations across Los Angeles.



# ADVOCATE


By the numbers...



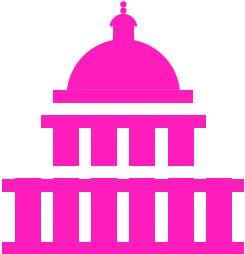
**7**

Meetings with all LAUSD board members to advocate for expanded learning programs

**\$100,000**  
per school site



Advocacy efforts resulted in increased funding for school-based expanded learning programs serving LAUSD's students



**38**

Meetings with state legislators to advocate for sustained funding for expanded learning



**60+**

Expanded learning organizations signed on to our advocacy letters to state legislators



## New Initiative: Cannabis Tax Revenue Coalition

Since the passage of the proposition legalizing cannabis in California, a growing number of cities and counties have passed ballot measures to authorize and tax cannabis sales at the local level which creates new long-term funding streams.

ExpandLA, in partnership with Youth Forward, convened a group of nonprofit youth-serving organizations from across LA County to form a coalition dedicated to advocating for cities to redirect part of their local cannabis tax revenue to support youth and families in under-resourced communities.





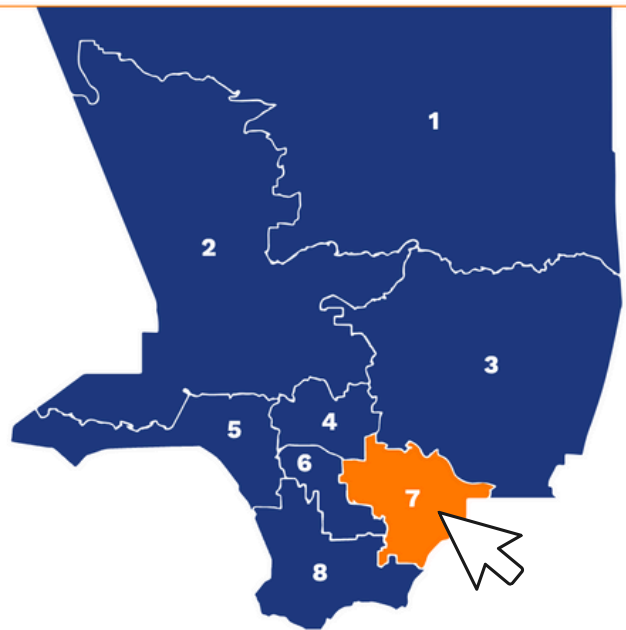
# BRINGING RESOURCES TOGETHER FOR LA'S YOUTH

Over 230 expanded learning and youth-service providers from ExpandLA's network are proudly featured on our website under the [Programs Near You](#) page. This invaluable resource demonstrates the rich diversity of program offerings available across Los Angeles County regions and serves as a tool for increasing access and equity to youth programs.

## PROGRAMS NEAR YOU

SELECT YOUR REGION

- 1 Antelope Valley
- 2 San Fernando Valley
- 3 San Gabriel Valley
- 4 Metro LA
- 5 West LA
- 6 South LA
- 7 East LA
- 8 South Bay/Harbor Cities



- ACADEMIC
- ARTS
- LEADERSHIP
- CAREER
- SPORTS
- WELLNESS



- ACADEMIC
- ARTS
- LEADERSHIP
- CAREER
- SPORTS
- WELLNESS

**+ME PROJECT**  
*Where Every Story Matters*

- LEADERSHIP
- CAREER
- WELLNESS



- ACADEMIC
- LEADERSHIP
- SPORTS



- ACADEMIC
- ARTS
- LEADERSHIP
- SPORTS
- WELLNESS



- ARTS
- LEADERSHIP







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