

Evaluation Summary 2021-22

The 2021-22 Venice Arts workshop cycle was a year of reconnecting and rebuilding. Striving to reach pre-pandemic levels of service, our workshops were back 100% in-person, and the following evaluation data suggests that Venice Arts students were excited and grateful to be amongst their peers and Teaching Artists, engaged in creative learning. In particular, confidence and proficiency in Technical Skills greatly exceeded previous years.

Year-End Evaluation Results:

Creativity: 88% of our students learned how to creatively express personal ideas/feelings and how to use writing to add meaning to their creative projects.

Storytelling: 87% of students learned how to tell a story through media.

Artistic Knowledge: 85% of students learned design, composition and style; 83% of students learned how to present their work and respectfully critique others.

Technical Skills: 87% mastered the majority of the technical skills required for their medium. (All the skills for each medium are tracked individually for each class.)

Media Literacy: 78% of students learned how media/photography & visual communication affect people and society.

Mentoring plays a key role in our workshops and is critical to student success. All students are asked if they feel supported and respected by their artist-mentors. 99% answered “Quite a bit” and “A lot”. 98% of students felt that they were able to express their creativity in class, and 100% of students said that Venice Arts students treat each other with respect.

In Our Students’ Own Words:

“[Venice Arts] has affected my life a lot. I always am happy to come after a long day at school. I have learned so much about drawing and photography and really love the mentors and teachers. They really teach well and help a lot.” – Amber, 13

“Venice Arts has taught me that you can express so much in just one photograph. It has taught me how to add certain elements that tell a story as well as how to create mood. Through different classes and activities, I have learned how to express my creativity and develop it.” – Camila Prieto, 14

“Taking classes at Venice Arts has positively impacted my life and has been sort of been therapeutic in helping me become a better version of myself.” – Daniel Leon, 16

“Taking classes at Venice Arts has allowed me to be more confident and more thoughtful about everything around me.” – Yuliana Reyes, 17

“My experience here has helped me spark my ember of a soul to keep pursuing what was keeping it lit in the first place.” – Michael Blackburn, 18

Mid-Semester Survey Results:

New to this year, we conducted a completely anonymous mid-semester survey to measure students' overall impressions and attitudes towards their class. This evaluation revealed:

98% of students understood what their class was about and what skills and techniques they were going to learn.

94% were interested in the topics covered in class and felt that the class was organized and easy to follow.

100% felt that the teacher knew a lot about the subject.

94% felt that the teacher was prepared for class each week.

92% would recommend their class to a friend.

In their own words:

"I like how every time I go to this class, I have loads of fun while learning something new each time."

"I like how it is a free paced class where everyone is at different stages of the process and we all get individual help."

"I like that we explore artists and their ways of taking pictures."

"I like working and experimenting with cameras. The walk we took outside was really cool and helped me figure out what I actually want in a shot."

How We Evaluate:

The learning objectives in our sequential arts education workshops are underpinned by five Learning Pillars: Creativity, Storytelling, Artistic Knowledge, Technical Skills, and Media Literacy. Each Pillar supports proficient to advanced learning and directly aligns with Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Media Arts Standards and California Visual and Performance Arts Content Standards. We also track our students' accomplishments, including college scholarships, awards, and internships.

Annually, we implement a formal survey based on learning objectives in relation to our core curriculum customized (age & subject) for each workshop series. Quantitative data is obtained using a 6-point Likert scale evaluation instrument: 1-No learning, 2-A little bit, 3-Some, 4-Quite a bit, 5-A lot, 6-Not Sure. "Learning" was established based on answering Quite a Bit or A Lot and was further considered proficient or advanced.

The Art Mentoring program evaluations were administered in spring 2022 on the final day of each 24 week workshop via Survey Monkey online. 46 of 83 (55%) participants completed evaluations for 7 workshops. 54% of respondents were 9-13 years old, 37% were 14-17 years old, and 9% were 18+. 77% of respondents have attended Art Mentoring workshops for 2 or more years.

Results were tabulated and summarized first by workshop, providing meaningful data on the success of each Teaching Artist and their curriculum. Program-wide results were then combined and tabulated by each learning pillar.