

LA
JOLLA
PLAY
HOUSE

2024 POP TOUR IMPACT REPORT



LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE

MISSION & VALUES

MISSION STATEMENT

La Jolla Playhouse advances theatre as an art form, telling stories that inspire empathy and create a dialogue toward a more just future. With our intrepid spirit and eclectic, artist-driven approach we will continue to cultivate a local, national and global following with an insatiable appetite for audacious work. We provide unfettered creative opportunities for a community of artists of all backgrounds and abilities. We are committed to being a permanent safe harbor for unsafe and surprising work, offering a glimpse of the new and the next in American theatre.

VALUES STATEMENT

At La Jolla Playhouse, we believe that stories enhance the human experience, instill **empathy** and help us see the world in new ways. We **respect** all races, ethnicities, cultures, physical/ cognitive abilities, ages, genders and identities, and endeavor to be an anti-racist and **accessible** organization that removes barriers to engagement. As a community of life-long learners who celebrate the spirit of **play**, we **innovate** and **collaborate** to bring theatre to life.

We practice **empathy** by listening, challenging our assumptions and staying open to all perspectives.

We **respect** and recognize the complexities of all lived experiences, identities and cultural backgrounds. We honor the Kumeyaay Nation, the original caretakers of the land on which our theaters sit. We will fight against anti-blackness, the many forms of racism directed at BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) and all types of discrimination and harassment, to be a more inclusive space where everyone feels welcome onstage and off.

We work with our community to identify, understand and address ways to make our theatre more equitable and **accessible**.

We infuse the spirit of **play** into everything we do, sparking creativity, fun and life-long learning.

We **innovate** and take risks to propel theatre as an art form and as a pathway toward fostering belonging and enhancing human connection.

We **collaborate** by prioritizing inclusive practices from which diverse voices, talents and ideas can strengthen engagement and creative thinking.

We vow to grow and embrace these values. When we falter, we will hold ourselves accountable through transparent communication, measurable outcomes, self-reflection and humility. With great joy and a strong sense of responsibility, we commit to these values in every aspect of our work.

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Cover: Kailey Agpaoa and Abby Leigh Huffstetler in La Jolla Playhouse's Performance Outreach Program (POP) Tour production of *Abeba in the Tall Grass*, performed at 2024 WOW Festival; photo by Jenna Jo Photo. Bottom: (L-R) Giancarlo Lugo, Kailey Agpaoa, Abby Leigh Huffstetler and Victor B. Lang in *Abeba in the Tall Grass*; photo by Jenna Jo Photo.



MESSAGE FROM LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

Since 1987, La Jolla Playhouse has committed to creating theatre for young audiences by commissioning a new play by a world-class artist through our Performance Outreach Program, or POP Tour. This year, almost 10,500 individuals benefited from our 2024 POP Tour, *Abeba in the Tall Grass* by Jonathan Norton, introducing thousands of children to the joy of live theatre for the first time.

Abeba in the Tall Grass intricately weaves a tapestry of themes that are timely and pertinent for children across San Diego. The play addresses the dynamics and nuances of young friendships, offering young audiences valuable insights into the complexities of interpersonal connections. This POP Tour places a spotlight on the significance of community, emphasizing the power of unity and collaboration in shaping a supportive environment for growth. The story delves into the exploration of safe spaces for creativity, encouraging children to embrace their unique talents and express themselves authentically. The characters grapple with the challenges of coming of age, exploring the journey of self-discovery, resilience, and the importance of navigating change. These themes serve as a compass, guiding students through the early stages of personal development with empathy, understanding, and a sense of shared experience.

It is our goal to remove the barrier of cost in hosting the POP Tour. This year we were able to provide the POP Tour completely free to 77% of schools, and 90% received the POP Tour free of charge or discounted through subsidies from supporters like you.

Thank you for advancing the new and the next in American theatre by supporting the Performance Outreach Program (POP) Tour. We are so grateful for your generosity.

With gratitude,



Bridget Cavaiola Stone
Director of Learning



Jacole Kitchen
Director of Arts Engagement



ABOUT THE POP TOUR

For more than 35 years, La Jolla Playhouse’s **Performance Outreach Program (POP) Tour** has been sharing the joy of live theatre with children throughout San Diego County. Traveling to schools and community centers, the POP Tour engages children in grades 3-6 with a world-premiere play with an original theme each year.

The POP Tour offers students the ability to experience theatre in a way that is both relevant and accessible to their lives. Before seeing their performance, students may participate in an interactive workshop with a teaching artist where they explore the central ideas and issues of the play through standards-based curriculum. Following the performance, students are encouraged to ask any questions of the performers and crew about the play and production process.

[ACCESS THE 2024 POP TOUR WEBSITE HERE](#)

ABOUT ABEBA IN THE TALL GRASS

The 2024 POP Tour, *Abeba in the Tall Grass* written by Jonathan Norton and directed by Nikki Mirza, is a captivating new play that centers around Abeba, a fifth-grade aspiring horticulturist, and the urban garden that has become her sacred space. When her sanctuary becomes invaded by a couple of goof-offs from school who have been tasked to work in the garden over spring break as discipline, Abeba hatches a plan to teach these boys a lesson, and a little respect for produce. However, in return, Abeba herself learns an important life lesson. Like plants need water and light to flourish, people need friendship and community to thrive.

The 2024 production toured San Diego County Schools from February 26 through April 26. Public performances took place at La Jolla Playhouse’s WOW Festival at UC San Diego on April 6 and April 7.

THANK YOU TO OUR POP TOUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS!

Institutional Support Provided By



Samuel I. and John Henry Fox Foundation
Pratt Memorial Fund
John and Marcia Price Family Foundation
San Diego Scottish Rite Community Foundation

Individual Support Provided By

COMMUNITY LEARNING CIRCLE

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Hanna and Mark Gleiberman
Lynn Gorguze and Scott Peters
Rebecca Moores Foundation
Perlmeter Family Foundation
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ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM

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Barbara Loonin
Leslye Lyons
Ilene Mittman, in memory of Charles Mittman
Karen Quiñones, The Quiñones Family Trust
Beverly Sanborn, in memory of Warren Sanborn
Elizabeth and Joseph Taft Revocable Trust

Listing as of 07/08/24

BY THE NUMBERS

SITES

51 School Sites*
3 Community Centers
TOTAL # OF SITES: 54

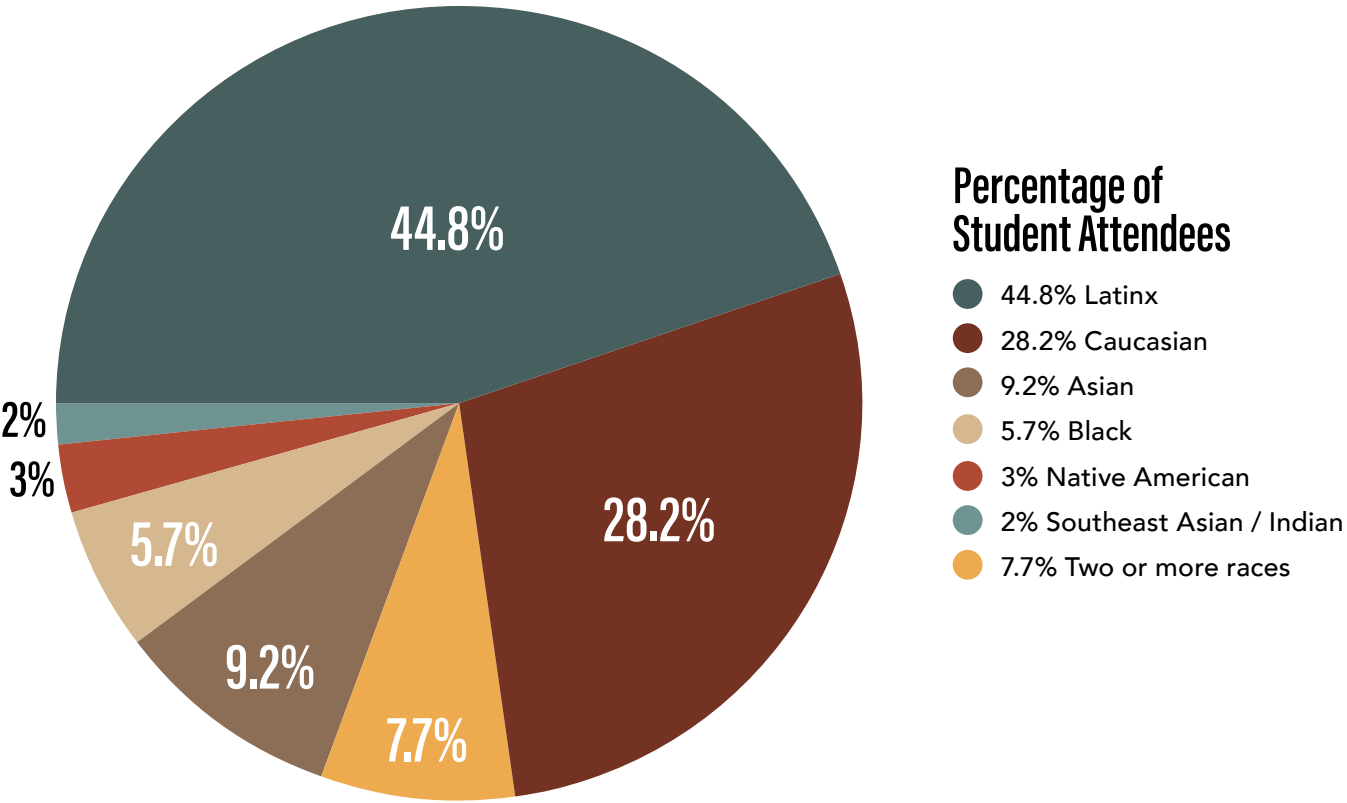
*35 schools (69%) receive Title 1 funding.
Title 1 is a Federal program where at least 40% of students are eligible to receive free/reduced lunches based on poverty levels, therefore measuring low-income status.

SERVED

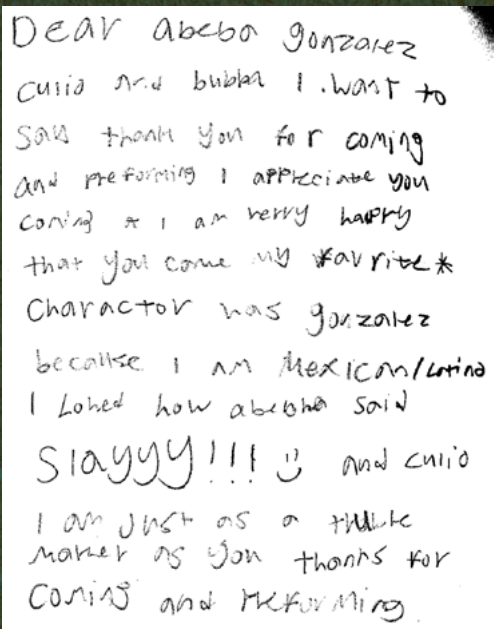
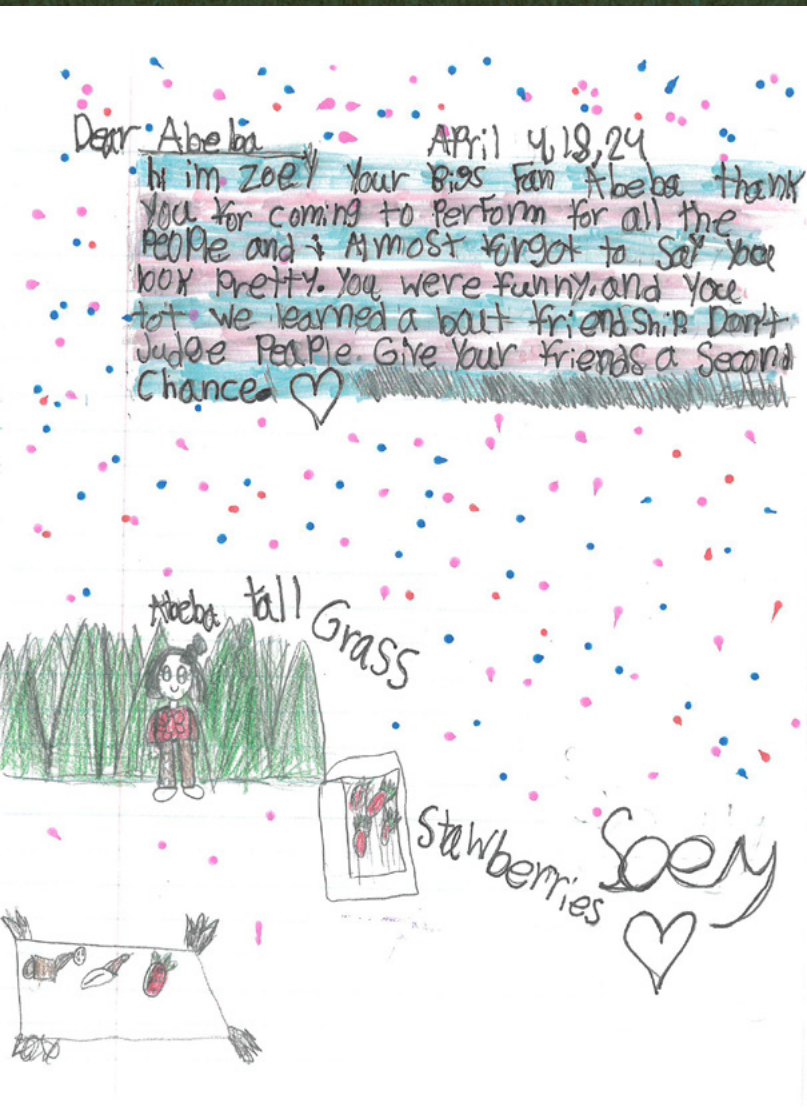
Total # of performances: 66
Total # of children reached: 12,512
Total # of teachers reached: 476
Total # of other adults: 150
TOTAL # OF PEOPLE: 13,138

Total # of workshops: 92
Total # of workshop sites: 15
Average # of workshops per site: 6

DEMOGRAPHICS OF STUDENTS



ENTHUSIASTIC THANKS FROM STUDENTS



TESTIMONIALS

"I really enjoyed not only the acting, but how you introduced the production manager, stage manager and sound manager and taught them about all that goes into making the magic happen. I think it was really inspiring for so many of the children."

– PTA at Curie Elementary

"La Jolla Playhouse ignited curiosity and excitement with many of our students. They were talking about this play, and its message, for days afterwards. One particular student, who has a lot going on at home and struggles to connect, at times, with school, was excited to see another pathway for her; she wants to go into theater. This is how impactful and important the arts are for our students."

– Principal at Cabrillo Elementary

"Our students shared with me that their greatest takeaway was 'Be Yourself'!"

– Teacher at Kempton Street Literacy Academy

SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES SERVED

Schools

- Alcott Elementary*
- Audubon UTK-8*
- Bay Park Elementary SPONSORED BY MICHAEL & MELISSA BARTELL
- Birney Elementary
- Borrego Springs Elementary*
- Cabrillo Elementary*†
- Cadman Elementary* SPONSORED BY MICHAEL & MELISSA BARTELL
- Calavera Hills Elementary*
- Carlton Oaks School
- Central Elementary
- Chesterton Elementary*†
- Chula Vista Hills Elementary*†
- Curie Elementary
- Del Mar Hills Elementary
- Dewey Elementary*†
- El Camino Elementary
- Ella B. Allen Elementary*
- Franklin Elementary*
- Freese Elementary*
- Garden Road Elementary†
- Hage Elementary*
- Hancock Elementary*†
- Hedenkamp Elementary*
- HTE- Point Loma*
- Jefferson Elementary*
- Jones Elementary*†
- Juarez Elementary*
- Kate Sessions Elementary†
- Kempton Street Literacy Academy*
- Kumeyaay Elementary
- La Jolla Country Day School
- La Jolla Elementary
- Libby Elementary*
- Mason Elementary*
- Mendoza Elementary*
- Monarch School*
- Mountain View School*
- Ocean Beach Elementary*

- Our Lady's School*
- Pablo Tac School of the Arts*
- Palomar Elementary*
- Saburo Muraoka Elementary†
- San Diego French American School
- San Marcos Elementary*
- Sandburg Elementary*
- Sequoia Elementary SPONSORED BY MICHAEL & MELISSA BARTELL
- Silver Strand Elementary*†
- Sweetwater Springs Elementary*
- Tierra Santa Elementary†
- Toler Elementary*
- Vista Grande Elementary*†

* Title 1 School
† 20% Military Families

School Districts

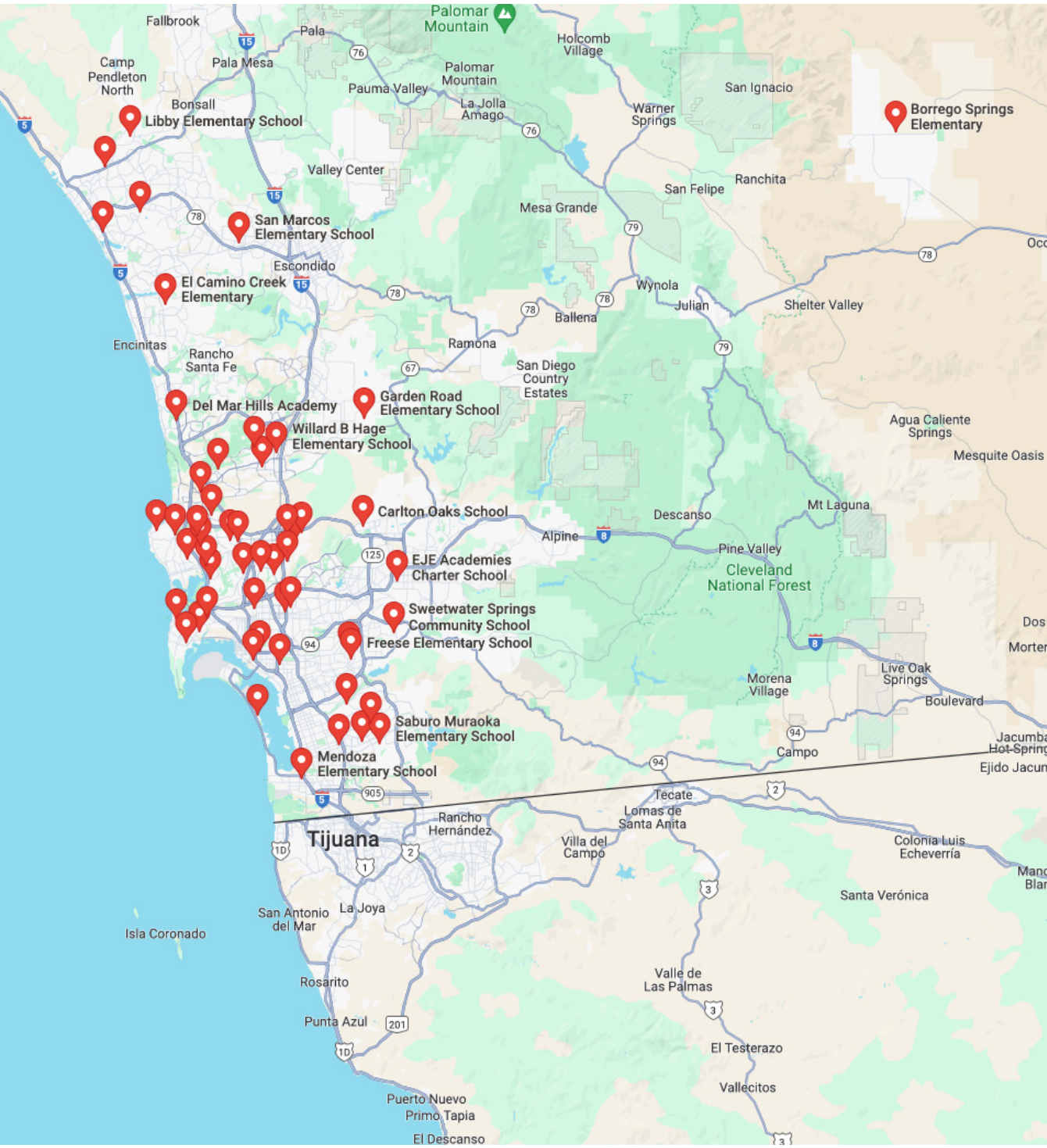
- Borrego Springs Unified School District
- Carlsbad Unified School District
- Chula Vista Elementary School District
- Coronado Unified School District
- Del Mar Union School District
- Encinitas Union School District
- La Mesa-Spring Valley School District
- Oceanside Unified School District
- Poway Unified School District
- San Diego Unified School District
- San Diego County Office of Education
- Santee School District
- San Marcos Unified School District
- South Bay Union School District
- Vista Unified School District

Community Performances

- Linda Vista Rec Center SPONSORED BY CAPDEVILLA-GILLESPIE FOUNDATION
- Qualcomm
- UC San Diego (WOW Festival)

MAP OF SCHOOLS SERVED

This year's POP Tour traveled 1,889.4 miles across San Diego County!



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND RESOURCES

La Jolla Playhouse partnered with local organizations to provide resources to schools for this year’s POP Tour. San Diego County has many farms and community gardens that are wonderful places to visit, find fresh produce, and learn about how to be a friend to the environment!

Roger’s Community Garden
1000 Scholars Drive South, La Jolla, CA 92093
<https://www.rcgucsd.com/>

Roger’s Community Garden (RCG) is a place for UC San Diego students, staff, and community members to come together and grow fresh, organic food. RCG provides education about invasive species, has a 24/7 compost drop-off bin, and offers internships and volunteering opportunities. RCG donates all extra produce and develops sustainability projects to combat food insecurity.

Coastal Roots Farms
441 Saxony Rd, Encinitas, CA 92024
<https://coastalrootsfarm.org/>

Coastal Roots Farm is a nonprofit Jewish community farm and education center that focuses on providing an inclusive space where people can learn about organic farming. Coastal Roots offers a variety of programs for people of all ages, including field trips, volunteering and internship opportunities, lesson plans, an afterschool farm program, and an annual Food Forest Festival.

City Farmers Nursery
3110 Euclid Ave, San Diego, CA 92105
<https://www.cityfarmersnursery.com/>

City Farmers Nursery is a family-owned nursery dedicated to providing accessible farming education and produce. It’s the perfect day trip destination for San Diegans, where they can get free farming and gardening advice, meet farm animals, and get supplies for farming projects. City Farmer also offers the Sunshine Club, a no-cost, no-sign-up needed quarterly program where community members can receive FREE flower seed packets.

Sage Garden Project
270-F N. El Camino Real #313, Encinitas, CA 92024
<https://sagegardenproject.org/program/>

The Sage Garden Project brings California schools the opportunity to learn hands-on gardening skills. With the help of a dedicated instructor, students are able to create and maintain their own school garden, learn how to compost, and cook meals with the food they grow! This year-long program provides lesson plans and emphasizes building lifelong healthy habits.

Master Gardener Association of San Diego County
9335 Hazard Way, Suite #201, San Diego, CA 92123
<https://www.mastergardenersd.org/>

Master Gardeners (MGS) are a San Diego County based organization that provides FREE home gardening and pest control information to the public. MGS offers free growing and planting guides, newsletters, lesson plans, video presentations, and school garden resources found on their website. MGS also helps San Diego schools in creating and maintaining gardens!

Tree San Diego
PO BOX 6324 San Diego, CA 92166
<https://www.treesandiego.org/>

Tree San Diego is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving San Diego’s urban forests. Urban forests are the trees in parks, nature preserves, and open spaces, and are measured in canopies. Currently, San Diego has a lower canopy rate than that is healthy for the community, which Tree San Diego seeks to change. Tree San Diego is improving the quality, density, and sustainability of San Diego’s urban forests.

TIMELINE



WHAT’S NEXT: 2025 POP TOUR

Our 2025 POP Tour production, *The Weather Busters of Beachcastle* by Christin Eve Cato, tells the story of the California town of Beachcastle and its unsettling and bizarre weather patterns. When 12-year-old Jayce and her tech-savvy best friend, Kori, meet a mysterious explorer from beyond the stars, they discover their own extraordinary talents can impact the fate of their community forever. Together, they embark on a journey that blends curiosity with courage, uncovering their power to make a meaningful difference. The production will tour San Diego County schools and community centers in March and April 2025.

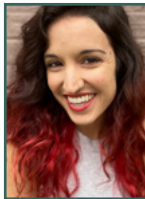
THE CREATIVE TEAM



Jonathan Norton, Playwright

Jonathan's (he/him) work has been produced and developed at Dallas Theater Center, Jacob's Pillow, Actors Theatre of Louisville (44th Humana Festival), National New Play Network, TheatreSquared, PlayPenn, Pyramid Theatre Company, Black and Latino Playwrights Conference, Bishop Arts Theatre Center, Kitchen Dog Theater, Undermain Theatre, Theater Three, and South Dallas Cultural Center. Jonathan's play *Mississippi Goddamn* was a Finalist for the Harold and Mimi Steinberg/ATCA New Play Award and won the 2016 M. Elizabeth Osborn Award. He is a member of the Dorothy Strelsin New American Writers Group at Primary Stages. Jonathan is proud to

serve as the Playwright in Residence at Dallas Theater Center.



Nikki Mirza, Director

Nikki Mirza (she/her) is delighted to return to the POP Tour this year after previously performing in the 2019 tour: *Light Years Away*. She is multi-hyphenate artist who has regionally worked with theatres such as San Diego Rep, Scripps Ranch Theatre, Goodspeed Opera House, Signature Theatre, Olney Theatre Center, Round House Theatre, NextStop Theatre Company, 1st Stage, Constellation Theatre Company, Weathervane Playhouse, and Creede Repertory Theatre. She was last seen at La Jolla Playhouse as the Assistant Director and Swing performer on *Bhangin' It*. nikkimirza.com



Jazmine Logan, Dramaturg

Jazmine Logan (she/her) is a third-year PhD student in Theatre and Drama at UC San Diego. She holds a BA in Theatre Arts and a BA in Politics from UC Santa Cruz, and a MA in Theatre Arts from San Francisco State University. La Jolla Playhouse credits: *Manning* (2023 Latinx New Play Festival- Dramaturg). UC San Diego credits: *Thicker Than* (Wagner New Play Festival-Dramaturg), *Dance Nation* (Dramaturg), and *In the Red and Brown Water* (Dramaturg). SFSU credits: *Spring Awakening: The Musical* (Assistant Director/Dramaturg). UC Santa Cruz credits: *Crowns* (Mabel/Assistant Director), *The Children's Hour* (Peggy Rogers), *Romeo and Juliet* (Juliet), *Hands Up: 7 Playwrights*, *7 Testimonies* (Co-Director), *A Raisin in the Sun* (Ruth Younger), *Zoot Suit* (Guera/Ensemble), *Detroit '67* (Bunny "Bonita"), *The Odyssey* (Trojan/Hecuba/Suitor), *A Dream Play* (Victoria/Ensemble), and *The Waiting Room* (Brenda).



Keira McGee, Costume Designer

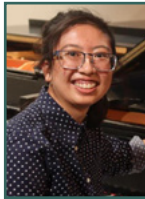
Keira McGee (she/her) works in costume design and construction for both theater and film. Design credits include *Into the Woods* (New Village Arts), *The Servant of Two Masters* (New Village Arts), *Cabaret* (ION Theatre), *Iceman Cometh* (Target Margin Theatre), *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare & Company), and *The Tempest* (Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival). Film credits; Production Assistant for *Top Gun: Maverick* (Paramount Pictures). Keira currently runs her own sustainable clothing company called Keira Designs.



Nicholas Ponting, Scenic Designer

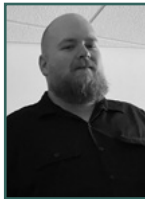
Nicholas Ponting (he/him) is a designer and stained-glass artist based out of San Diego, CA. Recent productions: *Radical, or are you gonna miss me?* (IAMA Theatre Company), *La Lucha* (Optika Moderna in collaboration with La Jolla Playhouse & MCASD), *Everybody* (Antaeus Theatre Company), *Mud Row* (Detroit Public Theatre), *Animals Out of Paper* (Chautauqua Theatre Co.), *Grownup* (The Associates Theatre), *On Gold Mountain* (LA Opera). Nick is a frequent collaborator with David Reynoso and Optika Moderna, creating immersive installations and performances in San Diego. His stained-glass work can be seen in San Diego at the Lafayette Hotel, recently

remodeled and opened by Consortium Holdings Co. Nick is adjunct faculty at San Diego State University. MFA - UC San Diego; BA - Western Washington University. To learn more about Nick, his work and upcoming projects visit nicholasponting.com IG: @nicholasponting



Eliza Vedar, Sound Designer

Eliza Vedar (she/they) is a sound designer, composer, music director, and pianist based in Southern California. Their work has been featured in theatrical productions at La Jolla Playhouse, TuYo Theatre, Diversionary Theatre, Moxie Theatre, Cygnet Theatre, New Village Arts, Common Ground Theatre and various educational institutions including: San Diego State University, CSU San Marcos, and University of San Diego. Eliza holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Performance: Piano from San Diego State University. www.elizavedar.com



Jared Halsell, Stage Manager

Jared (he/him) is a stage manager and member of Actor's Equity Association. He is thrilled to be joining the POP Tour this year! Prior to living in San Diego, he is originally from Lone, CA and worked at The Harris Center for the Arts (formerly Three Stages) as a stage technician in Folsom, CA (2011 - 2016). Select credits include PSM: *Intimate Apparel* (North Coast Rep), *The Four Note Opera* (kallisti, under the artistic direction of Susan Narucki), *Perpetual (E)motion* (Malashock Dance), *Bunny Bunny* (UCSD & the feath3r theory), and *The Who's Tommy* (Falcon's Eye Theatre); ASM: *Evita* (Cygnet Theatre), *Here There are Blueberries* (La Jolla Playhouse & Tectonic Theater Project).

Education: BA Theatre Arts SDSU 2019, MFA Stage Management UCSD 2023. @jbh.stage.management on Instagram.



Brian Salvanera, Production Assistant

Brian Salvanera (he/him) is excited to return to the POP Tour as the Production Assistant for the third year. He graduated from UC San Diego with a BA in Theatre and a minor in Critical Gender Studies. Crew & PA credits include: *Hoopla!* (La Jolla Playhouse), *Cabaret* (Cygnet Theatre), *Jin vs. The Beach* (La Jolla Playhouse), *SUMO* (La Jolla Playhouse), *Globe for All Tour* (Old Globe). He has also performed with the competitive open-style choreography dance team Sleepless Collective.

CAST



Kailey Agpaoa, Abeba

Kailey Agpaoa (she/they) is an actor, singer, and theatre creative based out of San Diego. She grew up moving back and forth between Japan and Hawaii. She is passionate about telling important stories, being a proud representative of the LGBTQ+ and global majority communities in her work, accessibility and EDIB, and all around, spreading joy and truth through creation. She has done work at various theatres around San Diego (including La Jolla Playhouse, Moxie Theatre, New Village Arts, Blindspot Collective, Bocón Arts, and Coronado Playhouse) and is represented by Shamon Freitas Model and Talent Agency.



Victor B. Lang, Baba

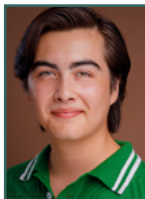
Victor B. Lang (he/him) graduated from high school and and spent 18 years in the USMC obtaining the rank of Gunnery Sergeant (E-7). While in the service, he was a recruiter for the Marine Corps which entailed going into high schools and working with parents and educators. Victor currently studies Communications at City College and assists with Voices of Our City Choir.



Abby Leigh Huffstetler, Coolio

Abby Leigh Huffstetler (they/them) recently earned their MFA in Theatre & Dance from UC San Diego. Abby holds certifications in multiple weapons within the Society of American Fight Directors. They are an actor, educator, intimacy choreographer, actor combatant, and clown. UC San Diego credits: *DANCE NATION*, *Hells Canyon*, *Twelfth Night*, *End Days*. Regional credits: *Streetcar Named Desire*; *Miles For Mary*; *How to Defend Yourself* (Humana Festival of New American Plays) *Dracula*, *The Many Deaths of Nathan Stubblefield* (Actors Theatre of Louisville); *Free Free Free Free* (Exponential Festival). Film credits: *Redrum*, *Dirt*, *CBGB*.

Intimacy Direction credits: *900 Years* (UCSD); *Two Kids That Blow Shit Up* (Endless Summer Productions). Training: Actors Theatre Professional Training Company, BFA: SCAD. There is no space for the perpetuation of white supremacy in their process and exploration.



Giancarlo Lugo, Gonzalez

Giancarlo Lugo (he/him) is thrilled to have the opportunity to perform in the 2024 POP Tour with such an incredible company! Credits include *Fiddler On The Roof*, *Urinetown*, *The Musical* (San Diego Musical Theatre), *Martirio in La Lucha* (Optika Moderna & La Jolla Playhouse), *Earthworm in James and the Giant Peach* (Southwestern College), *Victor Guerra in The Pros and Cons of Feeding Stray Cats* (Playwrights Project). He would like to give many thanks to his family and mentors for the constant guidance! IG: giancarlo.lugo

LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT STAFF



Bridget Cavaiola Stone (she/her) is the Director of Learning at La Jolla Playhouse and leads a department that impacts more than 20,000 San Diegans each year with a team of over 100 contracted staff and volunteers through K-12 programming, internships, and adult learning and engagement opportunities. She is the co-producer for the Performance Outreach Program (POP) Tour. She is a former high school English and theatre teacher and teaching artist, and has extensive training in inclusion, professional learning, and arts integration.



Jacole Kitchen (she/her) is Director of Arts Engagement and In-House Casting at La Jolla Playhouse. As the co-lead of the Learning & Engagement Department, Jacole helps to expand and nurture community partnership, and foster relationships throughout the greater San Diego community of artists. Select directing credits: *Iron* (Roustabouts Theatre Co.), *The Music Sounds Different To Me Now* (La Jolla Playhouse - WOW Festival), *Pick Me Last* and *Light Years Away* (La Jolla Playhouse POP Tour), *Cardboard Piano* (Diversionsary Theatre), *An Iliad* (New Village Arts), *September* and *Her Sisters* (Scripps Ranch Theatre – Out on a Limb). In addition, Jacole is a private acting coach and serves as Executive Director for San Diego Performing Arts League (SDPAL).



Hannah Reinert (she/her) is the Learning & Engagement Manager and Casting Assistant at La Jolla Playhouse. She supports all Learning & Engagement programing and leads the LJP Teen Council and helps guide the internship program. She holds a BA in Theatre & Communications from UC San Diego, Cum Laude, and is the winner of the 2017 UC San Diego Bronowski Award.



Danniell Ureña (he/him) is a Director, Choreographer, Playwright, Producer, and Performer who is currently La Jolla Playhouse’s Learning & Engagement Coordinator. He has worked in theaters across San Diego including San Diego Musical Theater (Audition Assistant), San Diego REP (Latinx New Play Festival Intern), La Jolla Playhouse (Artistic Intern and Latinx New Play Festival Associate Producer), and Diversionsary (Artistic Fellow). He served as an assistant director on a workshop of *The Untitled Unauthorized Hunter S. Thompson Musical*. He recently received his BA from UC San Diego double majoring in Theater and Dance with a Chicax and Latinx minor. During his time at UCSD, he directed his original pieces *Blinded* and *CASA*, as well as *The Rocky Horror Show*, and choreographed *The Rocky Horror Show* and *Blu*. His UC San Diego performing credits include *Blu*, *Fifty Boxes of Earth*, *51Barrio*, and *Sotoba Komachi*.



Photo credit: (L-R) Abby Leigh Huffstetler, Kailey Agpaoa and Victor B. Lang; photo by Jenna Jo Photo.



Board members of Capdevilla-Gillespie Foundation sponsoring Linda Vista Parks & Rec POP Tour performance.



Details from the props in Abeba in the Tall Grass

CURRICULUM & LEARNING RESOURCES

CALIFORNIA ARTS & COMMON CORE STANDARDS

Schools participating in the POP Tour received access to comprehensive pre- and post-show lesson plans that seamlessly align with both California Arts Standards and Common Core Standards. Each lesson plan provides educators with step-by-step instructions, engaging activities, and curated videos, making it easy to integrate into their classrooms. Each of the four lesson plans for *Abeba in the Tall Grass* explores a different theme of the play, preparing students for a better experience and understanding of the play while also fostering critical thinking and interdisciplinary connections.

Examples of the California Arts Standards addressed in the lesson plans include:

- **3.VA: Cr2:1** Create personally satisfying artwork using a variety of artistic processes and materials
- **3.VA: RE:7.1** Speculate about processes an artist uses to create a work of art
- **3.VA:Cr1:2** Apply knowledge of available resources, tools, and technologies to investigate personal ideas through the art-making process.

Examples of the Common Core Standards addressed in the lesson plans include:

- **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.3** Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.

SENSORY GUIDES

Teachers also received access to a sensory guide. The sensory guide is a tool to assist students, especially those with sensory processing difficulties, in preparing for unexpected sensory input. This creates an inclusive environment that supports students’ sensory needs and enhances their ability to focus and participate in learning activities. [Access the sensory guide here](#)

CURRICULUM & LEARNING RESOURCES



Pre-Show Lesson Plan 1: Growing Local in San Diego

[DOWNLOAD LESSON PLAN](#)

Connecting to our wonderful San Diego community garden and farm communities, students will observe active local agricultural spaces in order to create set designs for *Abeba in the Tall Grass*.



Pre-Show Lesson Plan 2: Sustainable Costume Design

[DOWNLOAD LESSON PLAN](#)

In this creative lesson, students will learn about the sustainable costume design practices for the POP Tour in order to create their own unique costume designs.



Post-Show Lesson Plan 1: What’s In A Name

[DOWNLOAD LESSON PLAN](#)

Just as Abeba explores her own identity and name, students will celebrate and explore their identities in order to connect with themes found within the POP Tour.



Post-Show Lesson Plan 2: Prop Garden

[DOWNLOAD LESSON PLAN](#)

Students will create props found within the *Abeba in the Tall Grass* and explore what it means to be a props artisan.



Audiences enjoying
Abeba in the Tall Grass
at 2024 WOW Festival,
photo by Jenna Jo Photo.

Details from the props in
Abeba in the Tall Grass

INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT? ADOPT A POP TOUR SCHOOL!

Join us in supporting Learning & Engagement programs with a gift beyond your annual giving. You can play a crucial role in supporting the POP Tour by sponsoring performances at specific schools in need. Your generosity ensures that every student, regardless of their school's financial situation, can benefit from the POP Tour's educational programming. Thank you!

LEVELS AND BENEFITS OF SUPPORT

\$250 - Support for transportation costs of the POP Tour

- Annual Ovation Club benefits

\$500 - Support for pre-performance workshops and curriculum materials

- Thank you note from students
- Annual Center Stage Club benefits

\$1,000 - Support for building the travel set and props

- Invitation to attend a POP Tour performance
- POP Tour supporter pin
- Annual Inner Circle benefits

\$2,500 - Support for creative team and crew

- Invitation to POP Tour first reading
- Invitations to kick-off event with cast and crew
- Annual Actors Circle benefits

\$5,000 - Underwrite 1 performance & Adopt a POP Tour school

- Invitation to attend other Learning & Engagement events including student matinees, JumpStart Theatre showcase, Conservatory showcase
- Reserved parking when attending Learning & Engagement programs (subject to availability)
- Reserved seating during the POP Tour performance at the Without Walls (WOW) Festival
- Annual Celebration Circle benefits

\$10,000 - Community Learning Circle

- Special invitation to attend Learning & Engagement meet-and-greets, workshops, rehearsals, and private performances
- Hosted lunch and a special performance at a local school
- Annual Director Circle benefits

To learn how you can support our Learning & Engagement programs, please contact Individual Giving Manager Taylor Lehmkuhl at tlehmkuhl@ljp.org or (858) 228-3086.