

African Soul International Cultural Arts Center – 4302 Crenshaw Blvd.

Program Area 9 - Community Centers, Cohort 2

Target Population

- At-risk youth*
- At-risk families
- Women 30 and over

*At-risk of increased justice involvement based upon location, community and familial factors, i.e, poverty, single parents, living in impacted zip codes

Overview of Services

- Dance classes- Indigenous Arts including W. African Dance, Afro-Brazilian, Afro-Cuban, Step, Hip hop, etc.
- Drum classes
- Theater/Drama classes
- Digital learning, film making
- Financial literacy

Funding Overview & Spenddown Status

[Total Funding Allocation: \$1.2 M



Funding Allocation Breakdown

- Direct services, staffing, operations, rent and development of cultural arts center in South Central Los Angeles

Underspend

- Funds are actively being spent
- We don't anticipate any underspending

Impact & Outcomes

Demographic & Geographic Data

- South Central Los Angeles
- SPA 6
- Supervisorial District 2

Through the CFCI grant, we have been able to offer programming in 3 schools in our immediate community: Dorsey High, Audubon Middle and Baldwin Hills Elementary. Students from these schools can now register for our free classes, traveling the world through dance every day and getting much needed social interaction and exercise.

Program Impact & Outcomes

- Key Outcomes Achieved
 - Established Cultural Arts Center
 - Developed strong relationships with neighboring schools in the S. Central community

Gaps & Challenges

Service Delivery

- Our services were greatly impacted by a negative relationship with our previous 2 fiscal agents. Our first fiscal agent was housing our programming, then abruptly closed it's doors. They kept the fiscal agent fee for the year, leaving us in the red and homeless. It took us 10 months to find a suitable new home for our programming.
- Our 2nd fiscal agent was unsupportive in ways that held up our disbursements which negatively impacted the consistency of our programming.
- Fortunately, the very supportive Amity staff helped us navigate these very real challenges and salvage our programming. We are now in our first full month of programming, and although it is taking time to rebuild our traction, we are seeing more community members dropping in each day for our free classes, live drumming in our supportive cultural hub.

External Challenges

- The fiscal agent challenges led to sporadic and inconsistent programming. We are working hard to rebuild the consistency through FREE daily classes from Monday-Saturday of each week.
- Risks to sustainability- we are learning more about marketing and brand management so that we can build a consistent social media and online presence. We believe that our ability to provide consistent and reliable services that engage the community is a key to our sustainability
- Another key to our sustainability is our partnerships. We are increasing our partnerships within LAUSD and are looking for other community partners that we can share services with, ie, youth programs that may not have what we offer, can bring their students to our hub for programming.

Opportunities & Next Steps

Opportunities for Improvement

- Increased cross communication with providers. We all have unique programming, it would be great if we could identify how we can supplement each other's programming.
- Are there current or future partnerships to be explored? We are increasing our communications with both the LAUSD and charter schools in the area and hope to have a strong partnership commitment for our summer programming

Recommended Next Steps

- Not at this time.