

GPSN

EDUCATION RECOVERY

2022



Summer

of Joy

**The first summer of free field trips in every
low income Los Angeles community**



This summer emphasized for us the importance of providing our students with fun and engaging opportunities and programs. Throughout the summer we witnessed how providing opportunities outside the normal classroom supported our students in connecting, building friendships, developing social-emotional skills, and identifying new interests and motivations for learning. – LAUSD partner

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Dear Reader,

This year we were able to provide another Summer of Joy in Los Angeles, ensuring that students in every low-income community had access to free, in-person summer programs. Building on the success of our inaugural Summer of Joy in 2021, we expanded our reach to serve more students and sites, while deepening our public/private collaboration. This report documents the vision, outcomes, and lessons learned from our second year of this work.

While we started this effort in response to the ongoing academic, mental, social, and emotional impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, summer has always been a critical moment for students. Summer programming helps offset the “summer slide.” It also provides students safe and structured outlets to socialize, while exposing them to new experiences. For students of color and those living in poverty—who have disproportionately borne the toll of COVID-19 and the opportunity gaps that preceded it—these programs offer experiences to positively change the trajectory of their lives. We are committed to supporting their access to quality summer programming annually.

In 2022, we strengthened our efforts to increase access and improve quality. We achieved this by supporting our partners in new ways. We organized a job fair and piloted a digital marketing campaign to support recruitment. To learn more about our collective impact, we conducted an unprecedented mass data collection effort. And to maximize the student experience, every student enrolled in summer programming provided by Los Angeles Unified, the City of Los Angeles, and participating charter schools had access to a field trip experience.

None of this would be possible without the collaboration of our public and private partners. We are deeply grateful to our anchor partners—Los Angeles Unified, the City of Los Angeles, and nonprofit organizations across greater Los Angeles—for their continued leadership. We especially want to thank our generous donors, including the Ballmer Group, the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, and the Joseph Drown Foundation, for believing in the power of summer learning and investing in the students who need it most.

We are excited to continue this momentum into 2023. We have only just scratched the surface of what we can collectively make possible for Los Angeles students. We remain humbled and honored to be part of the community bringing this work to life.

In partnership,

Dr. Ana Ponce



Executive Director
GPSN

Summer of Joy: Origins and History

Responding to Crisis: One Family LA + Educational Recovery Now

When Los Angeles shut down schools and businesses in March 2020 because of COVID-19, it was clear that low-income and immigrant families would be the most vulnerable to both the severe health impacts and the economic devastation brought on by the pandemic. GPSN and over 30 community partners came together to launch One Family LA as a direct relief initiative to support families most economically affected by the pandemic. Through this effort, over \$2.5M was raised and distributed in financial assistance to more than 8,000 of the most affected families in Los Angeles. Once government financial relief became more widely accessible to families, GPSN transitioned our pandemic response to focusing on the educational impacts.

In March 2021, GPSN released [Educational Recovery Now](#), a first-of-its-kind report on the academic and social-emotional impact of the pandemic on Los Angeles Unified students. The report exposed some of the effects of a year without in-person instruction, especially on students of color and those living in poverty. The report also highlighted a need for a comprehensive, coordinated, and cross-sector response to address those impacts.

Reimagining Summer: The Education Recovery Fund + Summer of Joy 2021

Shortly after the release of Educational Recovery Now, GPSN launched the Education Recovery Fund (ERF). Managed by GPSN, ERF brings together public and private partners to develop and push for systemic solutions to pandemic learning challenges and beyond. ERF's focus is on funding academic, enrichment, and mental-health supports to help students recover from the pandemic and thrive.

Summer of Joy 2021 was the first initiative launched by ERF. We saw that Los Angeles students—especially those living in poverty—needed an opportunity to experience joy through engaging in-person summer programs. This kind of widespread access to free summer enrichment had never been done in Los Angeles since the passage of Proposition 13.

The inaugural Summer of Joy initiative supported 35,000 students across 737 sites. In collaboration with 72 nonprofit partners from across the city, we raised nearly \$10 million in order to expand access to in-person programs at Los Angeles Unified, charter school, and community-based sites. Through this collaboration, we were able to ensure that—for the first time ever—students in every low-income neighborhood in Los Angeles had access to a free, in-person summer enrichment program.

Our Vision for Summer 2022

For the inaugural Summer of Joy in 2021, our focus was on access: expanding the number of summer enrichment programs so every low-income community in Los Angeles provided at least one free, in-person summer enrichment program.

As we began planning for 2022, we upheld our commitment to prioritizing access in low-income communities. But we also wanted Summer of Joy 2022 to deepen our impact by maximizing both **access** and **quality**. We wanted to expand, not just the number of programs, but the kinds of experiences students could have over the summer.

The key to improving access and quality—for 2022 and every year—is deeper and stronger collaboration among our Summer of Joy partners. We approached our work together with intentionality, to identify where and how we could best leverage the collective assets of Los Angeles Unified, the City of Los Angeles, and our nonprofit partners to make the greatest impact.

Our vision for Summer of Joy 2022 was to increase the diversity and variety of programming available to students across Los Angeles. Beyond addressing the ongoing impacts of the pandemic, we have also learned through this work the huge disparity of opportunity between higher and lower-income students in the types of programs and experiences they access over the summer. By expanding access to specialty programs—like STEM, arts, and sports—that students could participate in on-site, we could improve the overall summer experience for students. We also wanted to provide field trips and other activities that were previously not available due to the pandemic.

Even as we worked to realize Summer of Joy 2022, we were also looking to the future. Building on the foundation laid in 2021, we saw 2022 as a chance to refine what a Summer of Joy could provide Los Angeles students every year. Ultimately, we hope our work offers proof points for continued and greater public investment in order to provide annual Summers of Joy.



The LA Summer Collaborative: Overview

GPSN's Summer of Joy initiative would not be possible without the LA Summer Collaborative. In April 2021, a group of public and private partners came together to develop what would become the inaugural Summer of Joy. Following the success of 2021, we began to formalize this collaboration for future years, with the shared goal of improving access and quality of summer enrichment programs for Los Angeles students.

The LA Summer Collaborative—as our ongoing partnership is now known—is an all-hands-on-deck effort among Los Angeles Unified, the City of Los Angeles, nonprofit partners, and local philanthropy. Since December 2021, the LA Summer Collaborative has convened on

a monthly basis, with partners affirming their commitment to continuing our collaboration and programming from Summer 2021 into Summer 2022 and beyond. After debriefing Summer of Joy 2021, we identified four key focus areas for our collaboration in 2022: **Program Enhancements & Field Trips, Family Awareness & Access, Summer Staffing,** and **Data Collection.**



GPSN plays a unique role. They help bring all of us together to expand our collective impact.

– Debe Loxton, Executive Director, LAUSD Beyond the Bell Branch

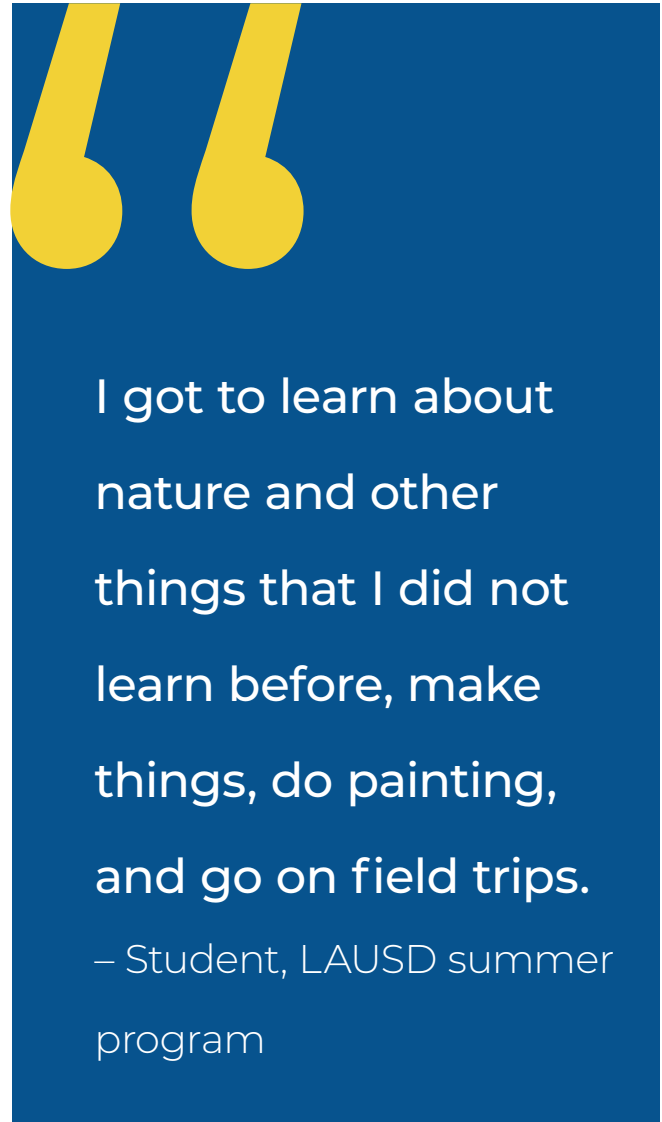
The LA Summer Collaborative: 2022 Focus Areas

In planning for Summer of Joy 2022, the LA Summer Collaborative identified four key focus areas around which to structure our work: **Program Enhancements & Field Trips, Family Awareness & Access, Summer Staffing,** and **Data Collection.** These four areas were determined based on their potential to expand access, improve program quality, and build the necessary infrastructure for continuing to improve summer programming in future years.

Program Enhancements & Field Trips

Although there is an unprecedented amount of public funding available for summer programming in Los Angeles—as a result of both pandemic response funding and California’s historic passage of ELO-P—that money has overwhelmingly been used to open new sites and increase student attendance. The LA Summer Collaborative identified a gap in funding where philanthropic support could have a major impact: enhancing and diversifying summer program offerings.

Compared with the inaugural year in 2021, Summer of Joy 2022 provided greater options for specialized summer programming, including over 9,000 hours of specialized STEM, arts, and sports enhancements. GPSN directly coordinated with 16 partner organizations providing program enhancements for Summer of Joy sites, including local arts and science institutions, sports teams, and



specialty instructors. We also deepened and streamlined partnerships with two umbrella organizations:


- The LA STEM Collective represents over 40 museums, cultural institutions, and community-based science organizations providing STEM programming. Fourteen member organizations from

the LA STEM Collective participated in Summer of Joy 2022—double the number who participated in 2021—and together they conducted over 1,000 STEM enhancement visits to summer program sites.

- The LA Sports Council Foundation participated in Summer of Joy for a second consecutive year in 2022. They provided specialty sports programs from eight partner entities including the Los Angeles Dodgers, Kings, Rams, and Sparks, as well as Ready Set Gold! In total, participating organizations conducted 175 sports clinics at Summer of Joy 2022 sites, representing a total of 240 hours of sports programming.

Every Summer of Joy student also had access to at least one field trip. This encompassed all sites within the Summer of Joy partnership, including Los Angeles Unified, the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, and participating charter school sites. Students were able to expand their learning by visiting institutions including the Los Angeles Zoo, Aquarium of the Pacific, El Capitan Theatre, Discovery Cube, and the La Brea Tar Pits. These experiential opportunities are critical for bridging opportunity gaps between students from high- and low-income households. Oftentimes, field trips are the only opportunities for students to visit areas outside their immediate neighborhood or take advantage of the assets within their community.

We have begun to see how our work is influencing systemic change. Los Angeles Unified's Beyond the Bell Branch recently issued a Request for Proposals to expand and diversify their providers of after-



The expressions of joy on the faces of children who have been disproportionately impacted by trauma were a highlight of the summer. – Robin Manzer, Director of Institutional Giving, LA's BEST

school and summer enrichment offerings year round. We believe our investment in enhanced specialty programming has provided a proof point for the value and impact of expanded and diverse program offerings.

Family Awareness & Access

Since summer programming has not been universally and consistently available, we have prioritized increasing family awareness and access. This year, we focused on ensuring that families could easily access information about free, in-person summer programs that best met their children's needs and interests.

Building on our 2021 efforts, the LA Summer Collaborative formally coordinated a joint advertising and outreach campaign with Los Angeles Unified and the City of Los Angeles for summer 2022. The campaign created a unified brand so that, regardless of location, families had a central place online to find all the relevant information on available summer programs. For the first time, Los Angeles Unified also branded and launched a standalone website for summer programming.

The coordinated outreach campaign included online advertising, radio advertising, and billboards. All outreach modes drove families to a central website and landing page where they could click through to Los Angeles Unified summer programs as well as the City of LA's Earn Learn Play summer programs.

Results from outreach campaign: City of LA Earn Learn Play website

15,184 New Users

281% ↑ Increase from Summer 2021

26,802 Page Views

420% ↑ Increase from Summer 2021

Summer of Joy central website

1.7M Total views/ impressions

64K Clickthroughs to our website

28K Clicks once on our website

(23K English, 5K Spanish)



Our greatest success this summer was our Earn Learn Play website launch. We broke the views and visits records on our website from previous

years. – Aksel Palacios, Director of Strategic Partnerships and Government Affairs, City of Los Angeles Youth Development Department

Summer Staffing

In LA Summer Collaborative meetings, Los Angeles Unified and the City of Los Angeles highlighted staffing as an area of high need. This mirrors trends across public education as a whole. Finding and retaining enough staff for summer enrichment programs is an ongoing challenge, exacerbated by broader teaching and school staff shortages.


Collaborative partners had already begun making investments in this area. In fall 2021, GPSN piloted a grant program to support Los Angeles Unified after-school partners with staff recruitment and retention. The LA Summer Collaborative affirmed that this was an area of high priority for summer 2022.

The Collaborative planned a joint job fair to recruit young adults for available summer enrichment jobs. Officially co-hosted by Los Angeles Unified, the City of Los Angeles, and GPSN, the event was held in late May 2022 at the Roybal Learning Center in downtown Los Angeles.

22 Employers
including the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Unified, Beyond the Bell, and nonprofit and community-based partners.

134 Job seekers

100+ Job offers



Our staff retention rates were way higher [this summer] because increased funding has allowed us to professionalize our staff so they don't have to find another job over the summer. This is because of ELO-P, and the recognition of the philanthropic sector of what the public sector is putting in. The combination of the two funding sources is phenomenal. – Brad Lupien, President & CEO, arc

Data Collection

Prior to 2022, there was some summer data collection among LA Summer Collaborative partners and other program providers, such as community-based organizations, but it was largely siloed within individual programs. For this year, the Collaborative set a goal of using common data collection across all partners and programs, in order to develop a shared baseline from which to improve access and quality. This is an important step towards building capacity and improving infrastructure so that the impact of Los Angeles’s summer efforts is consistently captured from year to year.

For the first time, in 2022 all program partners in our Summer of Joy initiative—including Los Angeles Unified, City of Los

Angeles, and charter school programs—administered the same feedback surveys and collected the same descriptive data. This included student enrollment and attendance numbers; student and staff demographics; program financials; and student, family, and staff surveys. Our findings and methodology are detailed in subsequent sections of this report.

We have also expanded our unified data collection efforts beyond the LA Summer Collaborative itself. Through our collaboration with the California Community Foundation (CCF), nonprofit organizations funded by CCF’s Summer Learning Initiative also administered the same surveys and collected the same descriptive data. As a result, **2022 will be the first year for which we have comprehensive baseline data across all summer programs in Los Angeles County.**



An Unprecedented Partnership

By: Jessica Gunderson, Co-CEO, Partnership for Children and Youth

Summer of Joy is the largest summer collaboration in the state, in terms of both students served and number of sites. On top of its scope and scale, Summer of Joy stands out further based on its:

- **Rapid, action-oriented, and centralized coordination.** The collaboration began in April 2021, only two months before programs were first launched in Summer 2021. The execution across so many agencies in such a short timeframe illustrates that many rules and silos are more malleable than perceived. There was buy-in early for a coordinating entity like GPSN in key areas such as outreach to families, data collection, and coordinating external partners. In only two months, GPSN granted over \$7 million to 75 nonprofits, impacting nearly 35,000 students over 737 sites.
- **Nimble and trusted ecosystem of partners.** Leaders across the system stated that this herculean effort would not have been feasible or as impactful without the flexibility of the existing school-community infrastructure and expertise of over 70 partners, including a diverse ecosystem of community-based organizations, that stepped up within a condensed time frame to serve every family that wanted a summer program.
- **Bold institutional shifts and infrastructure-building.** This work exceeds an emergency pandemic response and any one leader's vision, signaling a longer-term shift in what LA can come to expect from summer programs. GPSN's Summer of Joy 2022 provided every student a field trip, illustrating how to institutionalize the learning experiences students and families need and want amid pressure to narrowly use summer time to recoup "lost" learning. Significant public investments have already been committed and coordination infrastructure built; partners are already planning for summer 2023 and how this collaboration can impact learning year-round.

Our Impact

Impact by the Numbers

\$5.8M

Philanthropic investment

49

Partners funded

57,977

Students served

68% ↑

Increase in students served from Summer 2021

781

Sites served

6% ↑

Increase in sites from Summer 2021

905

Field trips¹

9,031

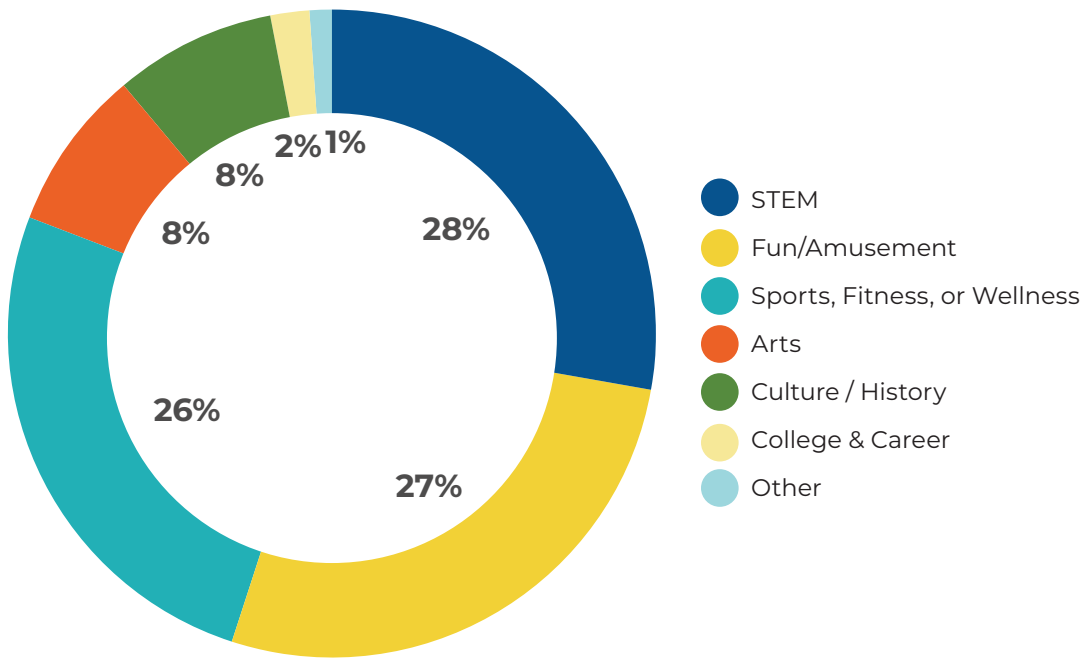
Program enhancements in hours

12.6

Average number of program enhancement hours per site

¹ Defined as individual trips, or a unique combination of organization, date, and place (e.g. multiple sites within the same organization going to the same destination on the same date did not count as a unique trip). Total trips defined instead as total number of trips from a site to a destination (all buses) is 1,785.

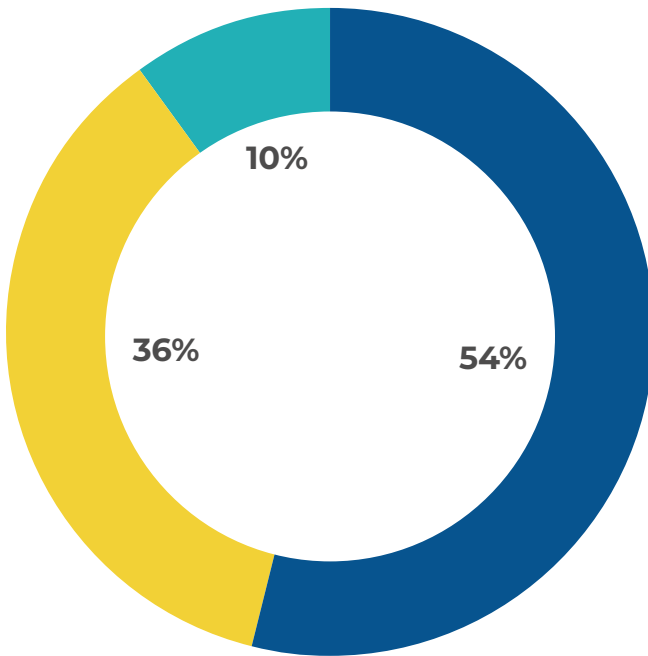
Type of Field Trips



Who We Served

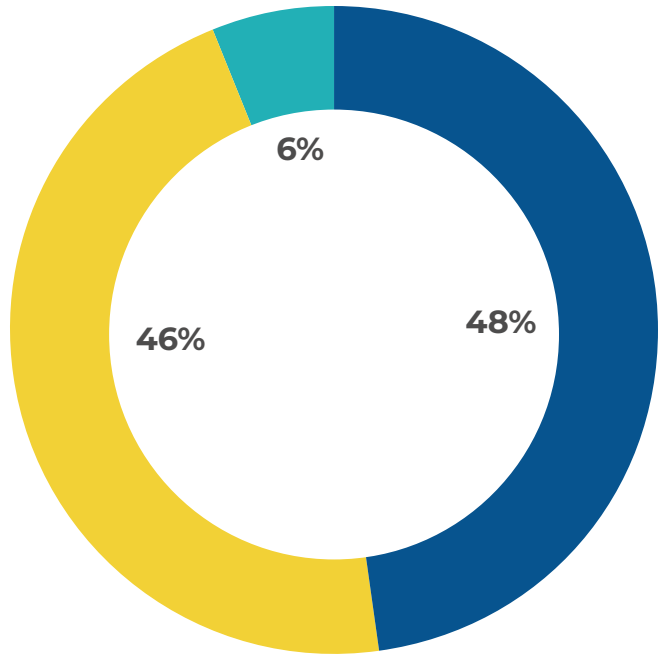
Student Demographics²

Grade Levels³



- Pre-K/TK through 2nd grade
- 3rd-8th grade
- 9th-12th grade

Gender⁴



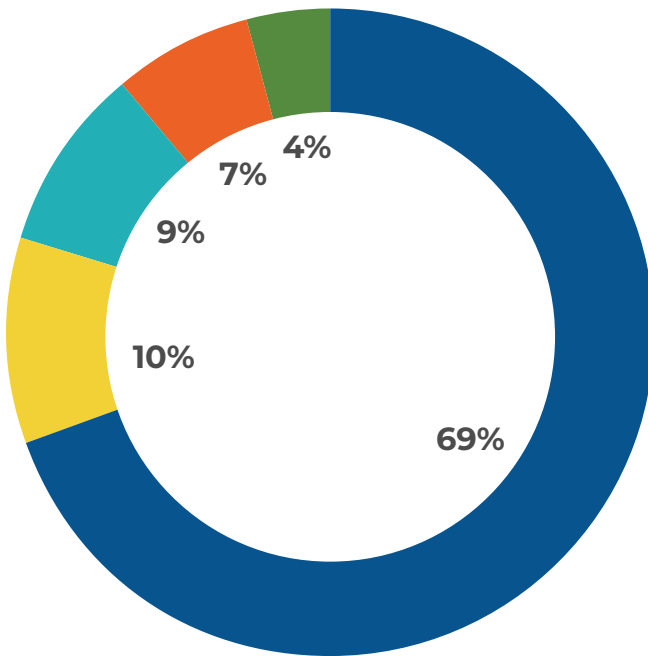
- Female
- Male
- Gender unknown/not collected

² Percentages may not add up exactly to 100% due to rounding.

³ Two LAUSD programs did not collect this data.

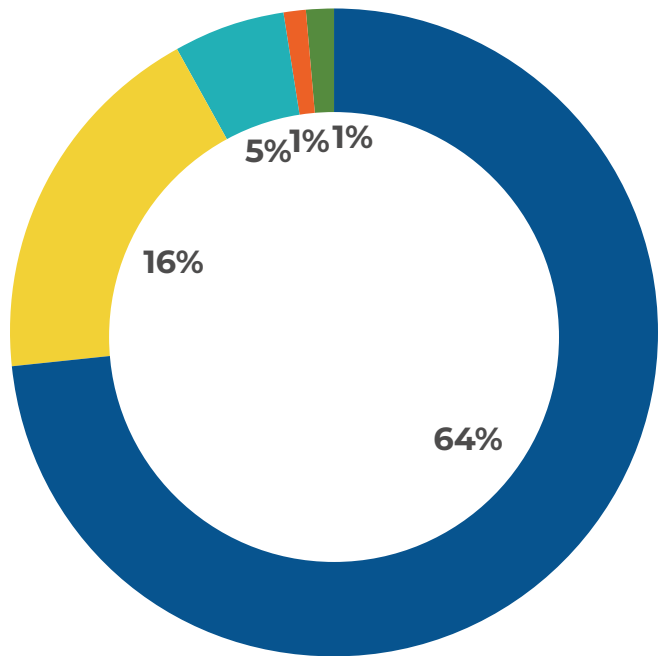
⁴ Five LAUSD programs did not collect any information on gender, while another 10 LAUSD programs did not collect alternative gender categories (non-binary, identifies as a different gender, or unknown/not collected). City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks did not collect information on the categories non-binary or identifies as a different gender. One charter program did not collect any information on gender, while another two charter programs did not collect information on the categories non-binary or identifies as a different gender.

Student Demographics²
Race/Ethnicity⁵



- Hispanic or Latino
- Black or African American
- Race/ethnicity unknown or not collected
- Identifies as race/ethnicity not listed
- Asian
- Pacific Islander
- Native American

Special Populations⁶



- Receives Free / Reduced Price Lunch
- English Language Learner
- Special Education
- Foster Youth
- Houseless/Housing-Insecure

I like this summer program because it is fun, I get to try new things, and this program makes me connect with people – Student, charter summer program

⁵ Two LAUSD programs did not collect any information on students' race or ethnicity.

⁶ 13 LAUSD programs did not collect information on English Language Learner (ELL) or Special Education students, 10 did not collect on Free and Reduced Price Lunch (FRPL), and 12 did not collect on Foster Youth or housing insecure students. The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks does not collect this information and was removed from the total calculations. Six charter programs did not collect information on ELL, Special Education, or Foster Youth students, four did not collect on FRPL, and five did not collect on housing-insecure students. An individual could be represented in more than one category, and so percentages will not add up to 100%.

Summer Programs Overview

57% Avg. daily attendance

71 Avg. # of students enrolled per site

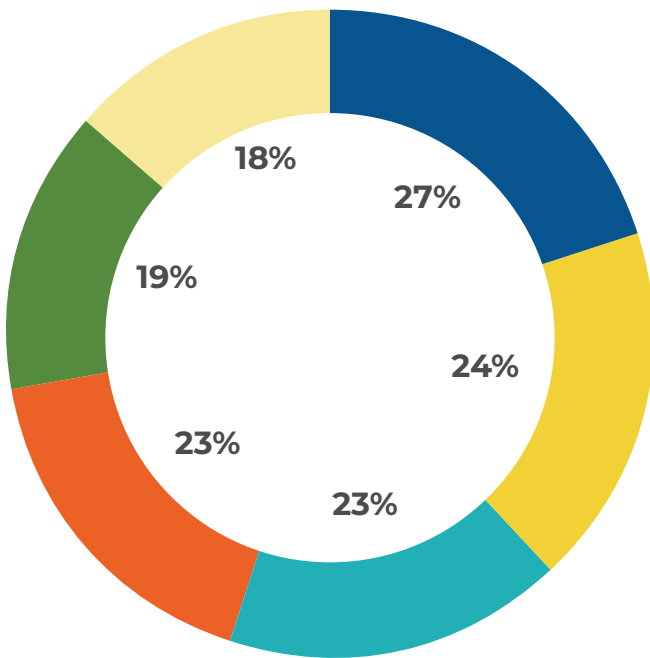
7.7 Avg. program hours per site

Staff Demographics

6,767 Total employees

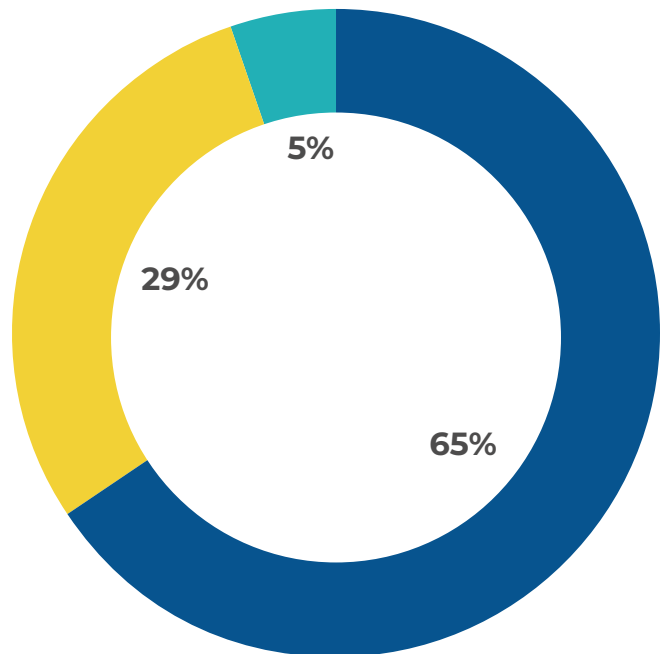
53% employees from the community⁸
(live within 5 miles of programs)

Type of Summer Activities Offered⁷



- Social-emotional learning
- Sports/outdoor
- Academic support
- STEM
- Arts
- Free play

Summer Employee Demographics Gender⁹



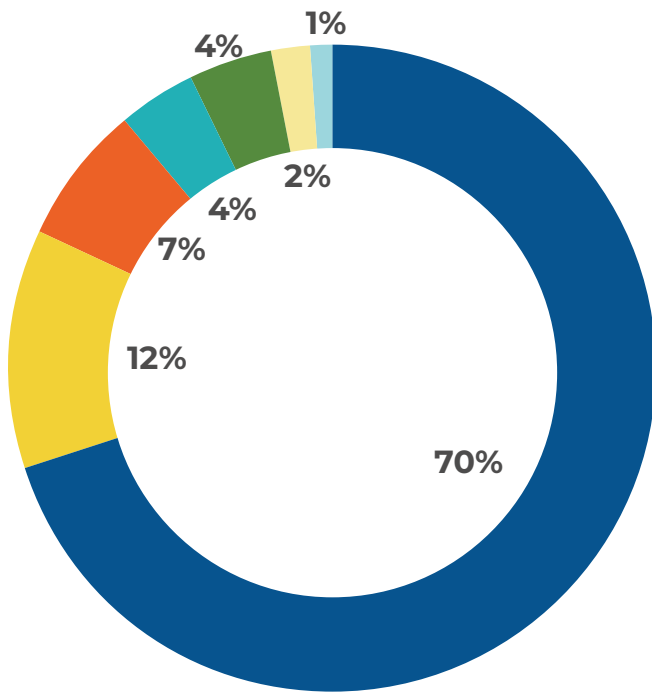
- Female
- Male
- Gender unknown/not collected

⁷ Only programs that indicated they provided a given program type were included in this analysis, and some did not provide a percentage despite saying they offered that program type. A program activity could be in more than one category (e.g., an arts activity could also have a STEM component), so percentages will not add up to 100%.

⁸ LAUSD — Beyond the Bell and one other community-based program did not collect this information.

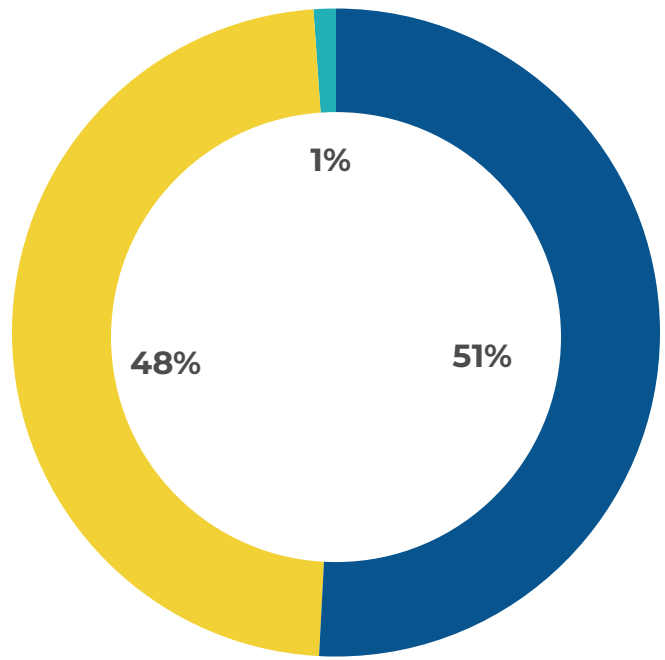
⁹ One charter program did not collect this information. Four programs across provider types did not collect alternative gender categories (non-binary, identifies as a different gender, or unknown/not collected).

Summer Employee Demographics
Race/Ethnicity¹⁰



- Hispanic or Latino
- Black or African American
- Identifies as race/ethnicity not listed
- Race/ethnicity unknown or not collected
- Asian
- Pacific Islander
- Native American

Age



- Aged 18-24
- Aged 25-64
- Younger than 18
- 65 and older

¹⁰ One LAUSD program did not collect this information on the categories Native American, Pacific Islander, or identifies as a different race/ethnicity. One charter program did not collect any race or ethnicity information and two charter programs did not collect this information on the categories Native American, Pacific Islander, or identifies as a different race/ethnicity.

Methodology + Data Analysis

Data Sources

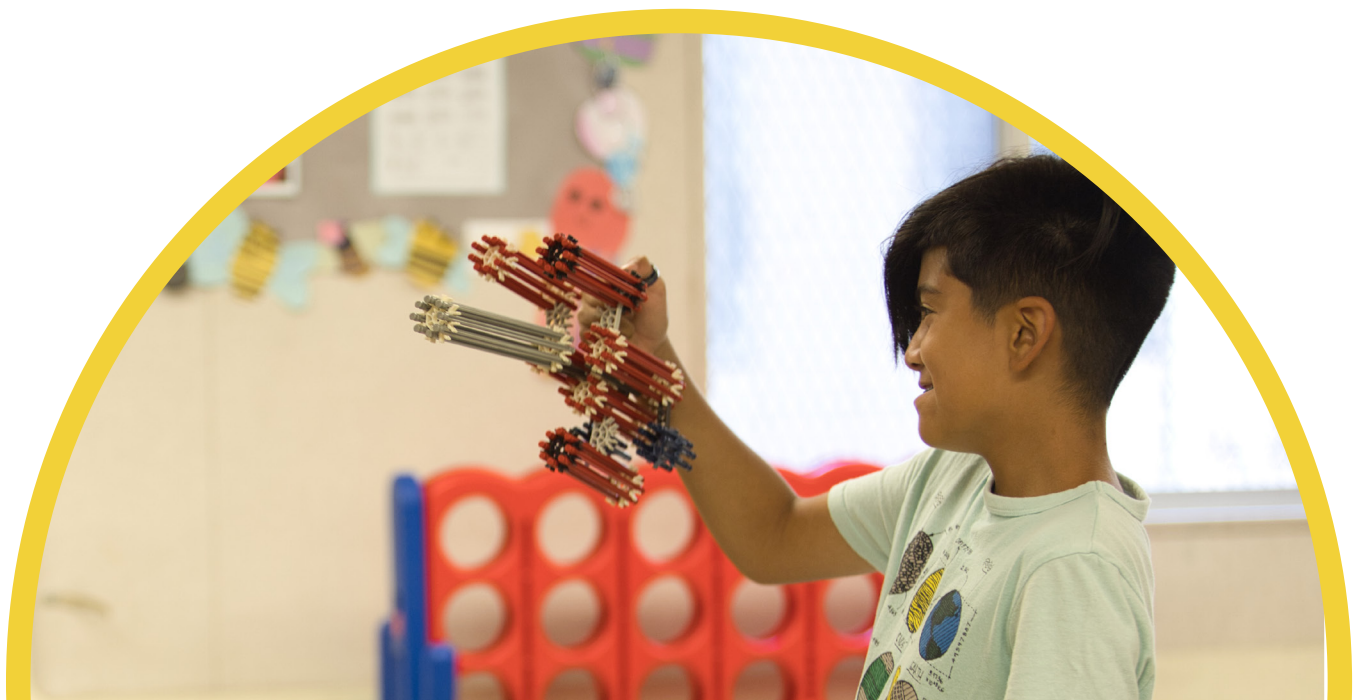
The Summer of Joy Initiative used four primary data sources: (1) descriptive data on summer programs, (2) field trips and enhancement program data, (3) student, family, and staff surveys, and (4) qualitative stakeholder interviews.

Descriptive data on summer programs as well as field trips and enhancement programs data were provided by all summer program providers. 18,934 total valid survey responses were collected (n=11,383 student surveys, n=5,705 family surveys, and n=1,846 staff surveys). Over a dozen qualitative interviews were completed of leaders from a representative cross-section of program providers including Los Angeles Unified, the City of Los Angeles, charter schools, community-based organizations, and program enhancement partners to complement the quantitative data with a diverse set of program leadership and on-the-ground perspectives.

Approach

GPSN, Public Profit, and Partnership for Children and Youth collaborated to develop the overall data collection framework for the Summer of Joy initiative. GPSN was responsible for collecting descriptive data using a common template from summer program providers, as well as disseminating survey materials and instructions. Summer program providers were responsible for distributing and collecting surveys from their students, families, and staff. GPSN then oversaw the data entry effort of processing paper surveys into SurveyMonkey.

Public Profit managed the development of surveys and data shells, as well as the analysis of aggregated descriptive data and survey data. Partnership for Children and Youth provided strategic input and project management guidance on the overall data collection effort. Stakeholder interviews were jointly conducted by GPSN and Partnership for Children and Youth.



Data Limitations

Approximately 12,000 student and family surveys were collected via paper and manually entered into SurveyMonkey by data entry staff. Due to the large volume of manual entries, we anticipate there may have been some margin of error when processing these surveys.

Furthermore, the information extracted from the data shells was based on service provider organizations' self-reported data. Although service provider organizations were given instructions and examples on how to fill out the data shell, some of the provided data contained inconsistencies.

For example, some partners reported various data points as numbers whereas others provided percentages.

Additionally, when calculating total hours of program enhancements, there are some data quality concerns based on differences in how service providers self-reported total hours and program site names in the program enhancement reporting form.

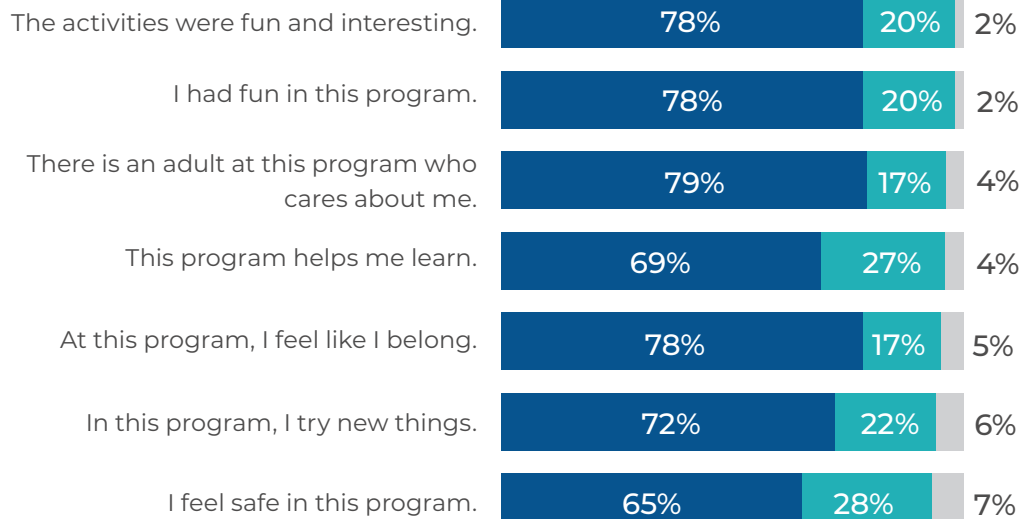
For more detailed explanations on the data methodology, sources, and limitations in this report, please see the Appendix.



Our Findings

Student Feedback¹¹

90%+ answered true / somewhat true



● % True ● % Somewhat true ● % Not true



82% of high school students believe their summer program helped them cope with stress

2 out of 3

- students indicated they would come back to the program again next summer
- students said they would tell their friends to come to the program next year

¹¹ Source: GPSN Student Survey; Summer 2022; LAUSD: N = 6,742; Charters: N = 2,786; City of LA RAP: N = 1,855.

Family Feedback¹²

99% of families indicated that they were very satisfied/satisfied with their child's experience in a summer program (up from 84% in Summer 2021)

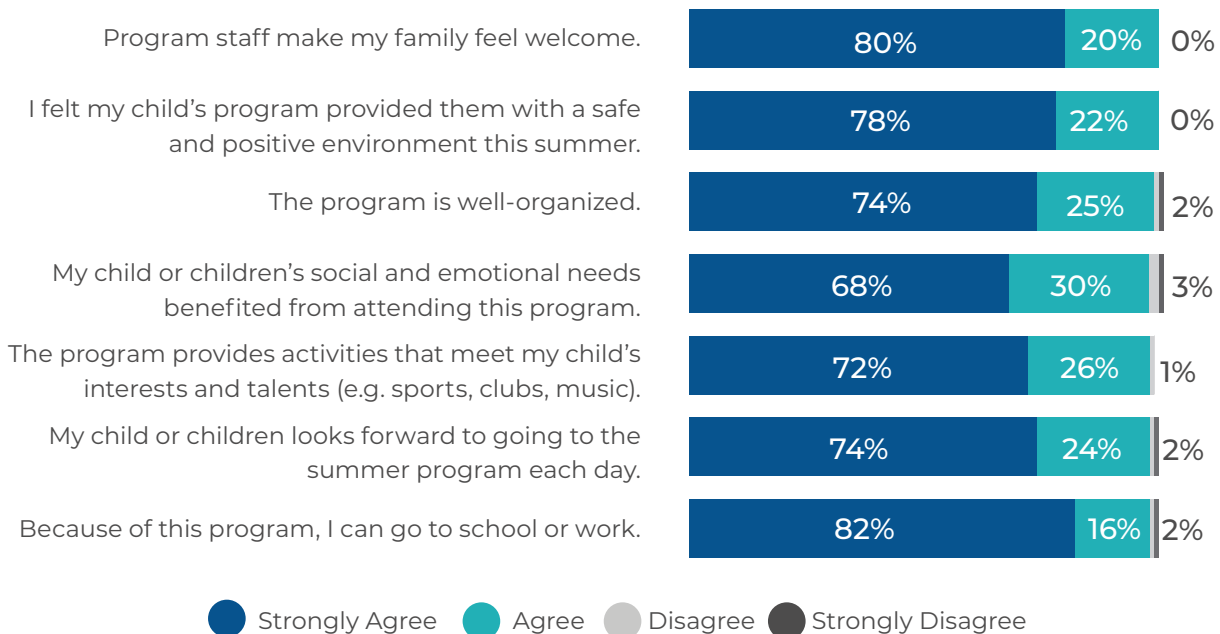
99% of families strongly agree/agree that they would recommend their child's summer program to other families

98% of families strongly agreed / agreed that enrolling their child in a summer program was easy

Families overwhelmingly responded that the top reasons they enrolled their child in the summer program were so their child could have fun, and for extra learning support

Extent to which Families Agree with the Following Statements

Ranked from highest % strongly agree/agree to lowest



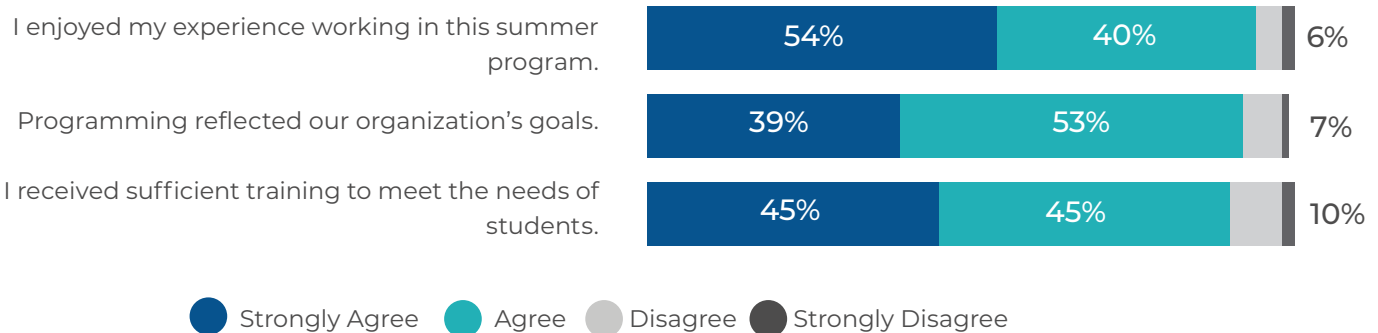
¹² Source: GPSN Family Survey; Summer 2022; LAUSD: N = 4,069; Charters: N = 514; City of LA RAP: N = 1,122.

Staff Feedback



I appreciate that my children come home happy and are always excited to go back. They have tons of activities from the stories I hear from them. They also enjoyed the field trips, water play and arts and crafts. I appreciate that it was free of charge and that they are provided free meals. I was able to go to work. I am hoping that this program will be available next year. – Parent, LAUSD summer program

77%
of staff strongly agreed / agreed that their programs had enough staff to provide programming



Preparing for 2023 and Beyond

We are using what we've learned to inform our vision for 2023 and beyond. Here are the priorities we see to increase access and improve quality for Los Angeles summer enrichment programs:

Pursue Ongoing Public/Private Collaboration

Over the past year, there has been significant progress made in collaboration among key partners in this work. However, there is still plenty of room for additional collaboration to establish the infrastructure, partnerships, and funding environment needed to make every summer a Summer of Joy for students of color and those living in poverty.

Continue to Prioritize Diverse, Enhanced Summer Experiences

Program enhancements allow students to explore a variety of learning areas, and field trips give them a chance to learn about the resources available in their own communities. These are the types of summer experiences that wealthier students have long had access to, but that have not historically been accessible for Los Angeles families who cannot afford to pay for summer enrichment. For many students in low-income communities, Summer of Joy programs are their only opportunity to experience this type of enrichment.

Plan for Summer and Engage Partners Earlier

Planning in advance can help improve the quality and expand the types of summer enrichment programs offered annually. Ideally, summer program details—such as which sites are offering programs and which partners are involved with which sites—would be determined several months prior to the start of summer, preferably in the preceding late fall or winter. This increased planning time allows providers to recruit more students, plan more readily for activities and trips, and go through the process of hiring more qualified staff. Advance planning also provides the opportunity to collect more input from students and families about what they want and need from summer.

Inform Students and Families Sooner and More Often

Conducting early outreach to students and families increases access to and enrollment in summer enrichment programs. Stronger coordination among partners on outreach timeline, messaging, and overall approach is important. This includes starting outreach as early as possible; clearly communicating options, sign-up processes, and availability; and developing a streamlined approach that is consistent across program offerings. We also see a need to deepen outreach specifically in the highest-need neighborhoods in Los Angeles.

Leverage Data To Ensure Equity

As a region and a sector, we are still developing a shared understanding of what constitutes a quality summer enrichment program. Data can help inform this. By collecting a common set of baseline data across all programs, we can ensure that all students have an equitable experience. We can integrate and utilize that data in ongoing program planning and improvement, as well as identify best practices across program offerings. All of this contributes to our overall goal of better understanding which summer enrichment programs and approaches have the greatest impact on student success.

Strengthen Staffing Models

Staffing shortages in education are a widespread issue, and summer programs are not exempt from this challenge. Currently, many summer programs in Los Angeles rely on part-time hourly staff positions. In an increasingly competitive job market, where wages for comparable entry-level and part-time positions are increasing, there is a strong need to develop better incentives and career pathways for summer staff.

Increasing the number of qualified staff in summer programs will reduce student-teacher ratios, which research has shown improves student outcomes. In addition, developing strong career pathways can strengthen the entire sector. Offering potential for advancement and a clear career trajectory through summer programs is a way to create an alternate path for candidates into the field of education.

Secure Sustainable Public Funding for Summer Programs

For now, there is an unprecedented level of government funding available for out-of-school-time programs. However, this funding is not guaranteed past the next few years, and it is still not sufficient to meet the needs of all students of color and those living in poverty. According to the Afterschool Alliance, school-aged children in the US spend 80 percent of their waking hours outside of the standard school day; after-school and summer programs play a critical role during these hours, and public investment should be proportional to the size of this opportunity.

Increased public funding benefits both public schools and their partners, including nonprofits that provide direct services and know the needs of communities well. Sustained public funding can support higher wages and diversify the organizations supporting summer programs by prioritizing smaller and minority-led organizations. Securing these funds will require collective advocacy across all stakeholders, including uplifting the voices of families who benefit from free summer programs. Collective action is necessary to elevate the value and impact sustained public funding can have, ensuring annual summer programming is accessible to students of color and those living in poverty.

Leverage Philanthropy to Demonstrate What is Possible

While public funding plays a crucial role in summer programs, philanthropic support is also a major component.

State funding streams like the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P) are largely intended to increase the number of students served, rather than to improve program quality. The latter requires piloting projects to show where and how students benefit from quality summer programs. Because of the scale

and complexity of deploying government funds, private money can be put to work faster than public funding. Philanthropy allows us to rapidly pilot and scale projects that demonstrate what is possible in summer enrichment and create proof points that make the case for sustained public funding.



Thank You and Acknowledgements

Thank you to our generous donors and partners who supported GPSN's 2022 Summer of Joy initiative and collectively made this summer full of joyful play, learning, and exploration.

Anchor Donors

Ballmer Group
Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation
Joseph Drown Foundation

Our Partners

GPSN collaborated with the following entities to make Summer of Joy 2022 possible. We are grateful for their partnership.

- California Community Foundation
- City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks
- City of Los Angeles Youth Development Department
- The Greater LA Education Foundation
- LA84 Foundation
- LA STEM Collective
- LA Sports Council Foundation
- Los Angeles Unified School District
- Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles
- Partnership for Children and Youth

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Appendix

Data Methodology

The analysis was based on three main data sources collected from partners: Descriptive data shells, surveys, and field trip and enhancement programs data. In addition, GPSN provided information on LAUSD service provider consistency, which was defined as sites with the same service providers running after-school programming during both the 2021-2022 school year and Summer 2022.

Descriptive Data Shells: Partners filled out a data shell containing descriptive information on summer programming, student demographics, staff demographics, funding sources, and attendance and enrollment by site. Partners were asked to return the completed data shells in Microsoft Excel by August 22. Public Profit aggregated all the information by the type of service provider organization: LAUSD service providers, the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (City of LA RAP), and charter school organizations. Within LAUSD, data for sites run internally by Beyond the Bell was disaggregated and highlighted vs. sites run by external service providers. In total, there were 31 service providers for LAUSD¹³, including Beyond the Bell. The City of LA RAP was counted as one service provider. Charters had 17 service providers included in the analysis.

Student, Family, and Staff Surveys:

Partner organizations were asked to distribute three types of surveys. All surveys were designed to assess summer program satisfaction and perception of program quality. The surveys included both closed- and open-ended responses. Survey responses were aggregated by partner type. All three surveys were administered during the final two weeks of summer programming.

Student: To ensure the surveys were developmentally appropriate, Public Profit created one survey for students between 3rd and 8th grade, and Partnership for Children and Youth created another specifically for high school students in LAUSD and Charter partner organizations' programs. City of LA RAP's student survey was designed for students from 3rd to 12th grade (note: the number of students above 8th grade attending City of LA RAP summer programs is minimal). LAUSD and City of LA RAP disseminated the 3rd-8th grade student survey (for LAUSD) and 3rd-12th grade student survey (for City of LA RAP) on paper based on their guidance and preferences.

¹³ Overall, there were 18 unique service providers within LAUSD, including Beyond the Bell. However, various service providers were disaggregated in order to differentiate the distinct programming provided on elementary, middle, and high school sites. Furthermore, Boys & Girls Club organizations are each counted as unique service providers due to each Club running different sites and reporting data for those sites at the Club level (e.g., Boys & Girls Club of Venice vs. Boys & Girls Club of West Valley are under the Boys and Girls Club of Carson umbrella, but each reported data for their own sites).

Charter partners disseminated their surveys online via SurveyMonkey as well as on paper. The high school student survey was only administered online via SurveyMonkey. Students were surveyed on their perception of program quality, including feelings of safety and belonging, and opportunities to try new things. Closed-ended items on both student surveys were measured on 3-point scales: True–Somewhat True–Not True or Yes–Not Sure–No. The open-ended questions were analyzed to provide context as to how students felt about the field trips and specialty programs. In total there were 11,383 valid student responses across all partner organizations, including 7,628 valid 3rd-8th grade responses and 3,296 valid high school responses.^{14, 15}

Family: Family surveys were available online using a scannable QR code and on paper in English and in Spanish.

Items on the family survey were created to determine the dosage of programming students received, identify how families learned about programming, and measure families' perception of program logistics and program quality. The family survey's close-ended items were measured on a 4-point scale ranging from

Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree. Family responses to the open-ended questions were not included in the analysis of this report. In total there were 5,705 valid family responses across all partner organizations.

Staff: Staff surveys were disseminated online via SurveyMonkey. The staff survey collected information on staff's role and tenure with their service provider. Closed-ended items on the staff survey focused on measuring staff satisfaction and perception of programming. Closed-ended items were measured on a 4-point scale ranging from Strongly Agree to Strongly Disagree. Staff responses to the open-ended questions were not included in the analysis of this report. In total there were 1,846 valid staff responses across all partner organizations.

Field Trip & Enhancement

Programs: Partner organizations reported information on the types of field trips and enhancement programs they provided during summer programming. Public Profit aggregated and analyzed the number of field trips and specialty programs, the types of programming, and the dosage across sites within each service provider type.

¹⁴ Valid survey responses refer to those where 50% or more of the closed-ended multiple-choice questions were answered.

¹⁵ 459 valid student responses (4%) did not answer the question about the grade they will enter next school year.

Data Limitations

In this section, we provide further detail on two specific data limitations: (1) inconsistencies in providers' self-reported data shells, and (2) inconsistencies in providers' self-reported program enhancement data.

As mentioned in the report, the information extracted from the data shells was based on service provider organizations' self-reported data, where some data provided contained inconsistencies.

Average Daily Attendance: This was especially true for Average Daily Attendance (ADA), which programs collected at a site level and aggregated up into a program level, making it difficult to verify whether calculations were done correctly. Many programs provided site-level ADA rates without also providing site-level enrollment numbers. For those programs, the ADA rate for the whole program was used for their sites so that we could synthesize information consistently across provider types.

Program Type: For the program type section of the data shells, some programs indicated they offered a program type but did not say what percentage of time was spent in that program type, and some programs filled out the section differently (e.g., noting how many students took their arts classes vs. what percentage of

total programming was arts-based). The calculations for this section of the report made the best of the information provided by partners in the data shells.

Demographics: One final note regarding the data limitations of the data shells is in regards to the youth and employee demographics sections. For these analyses the sum across the demographic categories was used as the denominator instead of the totals indicated in other parts of the data shell, because for many programs these numbers did not match. This may under- or over-proportion a given demographic group, but we made the best use of the information provided by partners in the data shells.

When calculating total hours of program enhancements, there are some data quality concerns for this variable based on how service providers self-reported total hours. Some service providers provided hours for individual dates, some programs listed hours for a range of dates, and some service providers listed hours for a specific engagement. Additionally, there were a few program enhancements reported by partner organizations with no hours listed. Finally, Public Profit needed to manually clean many of the program site names since a given name was not used consistently in the program enhancement reporting form.

Summer of Joy Grantees

- A World Fit for Kids!
- After-School All-Stars, Los Angeles
- Alliance College-Ready Public Schools Foundation
- Aquarium of the Pacific
- arc
- Boys & Girls Club of Carson Collaborative
- Boys & Girls Club of LA Harbor
- Children Youth and Family Collaborative
- City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks
- Columbia Memorial Space Center
- Crete Academy
- Ednovate
- EduCare Foundation
- Friends of the LA River
- Gang Alternatives Program
- Girls IN Focus
- Granada Hills Charter
- ISANA Academies
- Keep Youth Doing Something
- Kids 4 College
- KIPP SoCal Public Schools
- LA Conservation Corps
- LA Sports Council Foundation
- LA's BEST
- Learning by Design Charter School
- Letter K Corps (dba Tinker the Robot)
- Los Angeles Leadership Academy
- Magnolia Public Schools
- Music & Arts Foundation in America (dba Creative Brain Learning Afterschool)
- Natural History Museum of LA County
- New Village Girls Academy
- Oceanographic Teaching Stations, Inc.
- Pacific Battleship Center
- Para Los Niños
- Partnership for Children and Youth
- P.S. Arts
- PS Science
- Public Profit
- PUENTE Charter Elementary School
- Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains
- SoLA Robotics
- STAR Education
- Team Prime Time
- Think Together
- TreePeople
- Waterfront Education
- Wildwoods
- Woodcraft Rangers
- YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles



About GPSN

GPSN is a nonprofit intermediary organization exclusively focused on improving Los Angeles public education. GPSN envisions a public school system in Los Angeles that prepares all students to succeed in school and to live thriving adult lives.

Guided by this vision, our mission is to bring together the Los Angeles community to catalyze the transformation of the public education system so that students of color and students living in poverty gain the knowledge, skills, and experiences to lead thriving adult lives.