



..>>>**CULTURAL CENTER**<<<..
ADVISORY PANEL

Regular Meeting of the Southeast Los Angeles Cultural Center Advisory Panel

Thursday, September 17, 2026

Land Acknowledgement

The County of Los Angeles and the SELA Panel recognizes that we occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples. We honor and pay respect to their elders and descendants – past, present, and emerging – as they continue their stewardship of these lands and waters.

We acknowledge that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multigenerational trauma. This acknowledgment demonstrates our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County

We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these ancestral lands. We are dedicated to growing and sustaining relationships with Native peoples and local tribal governments, including (in no particular order) the

Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council
Gabrielino/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
San Fernando Band of Mission Indians

We know that a land acknowledgement on its own is not enough, and consider this to be just a first step in our shared commitment to learning from and with the First Peoples of Los Angeles County, and ensuring that it is followed up by actions we take as a Panel.

Additional information for the LA County Land Acknowledgement

<https://lacounty.gov/government/about-la-county/land-acknowledgment/>

SELA
CULTURAL CENTER
ADVISORY PANEL

SELA
ARTS FOUNDATION

¡Imagínate!

Hay Que Juntarnos



Welcome!



Thank you to all our collaborators for making this event possible...



Xitlalic
Guijosa-Osuna

Ely Lupe

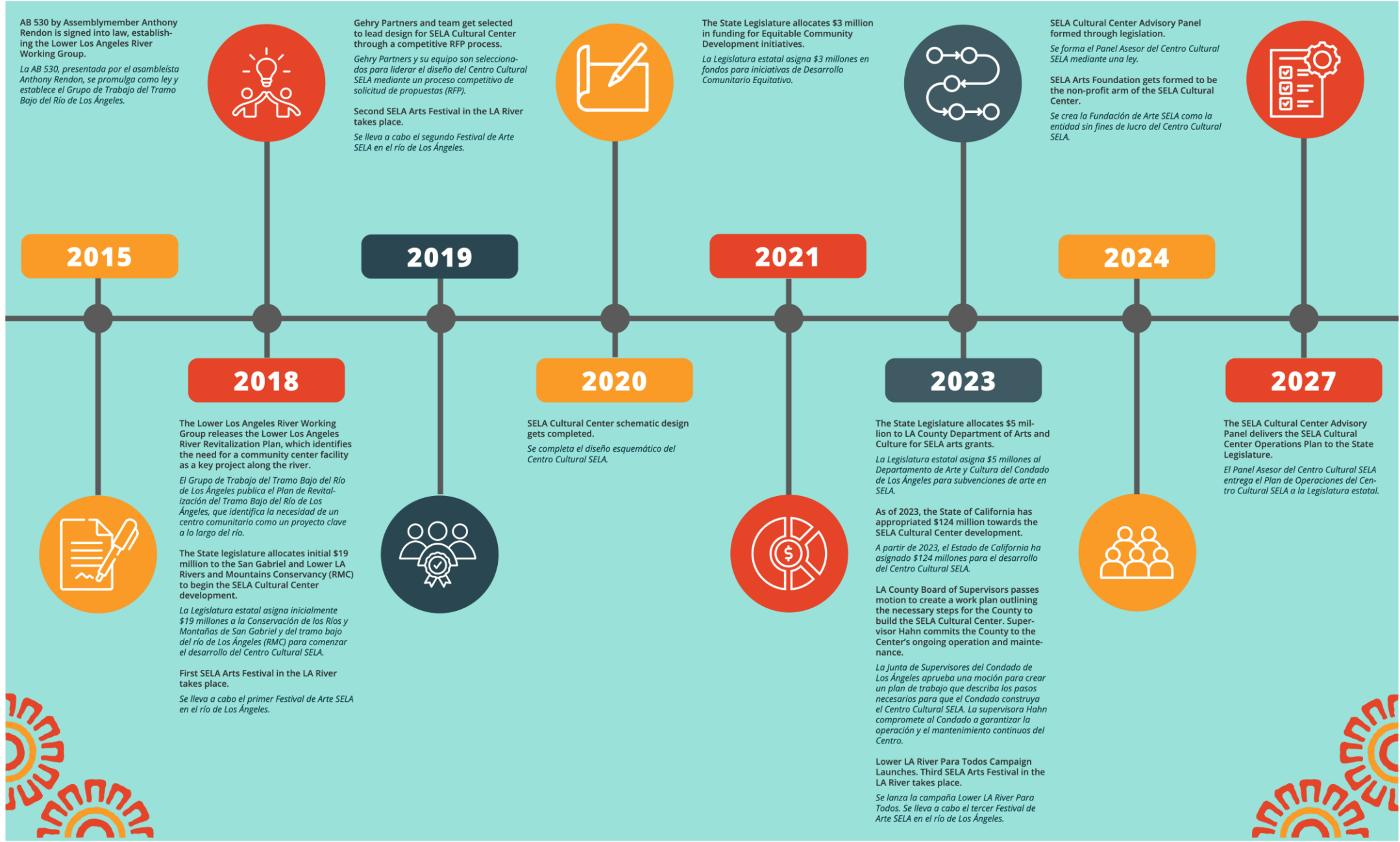
Solany Lara

Elizabeth Uribe

Josie Vasquez

Oscar Rodriguez



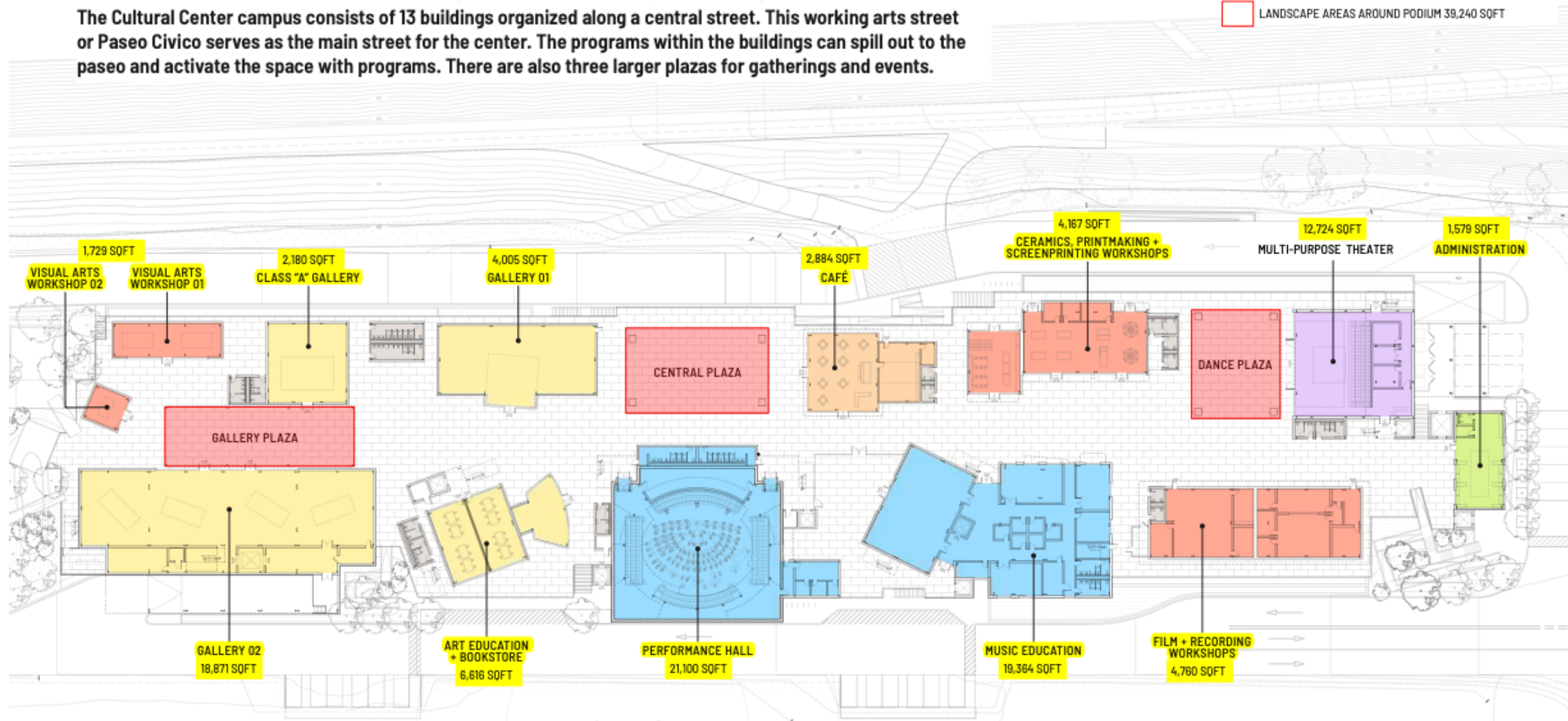


FLOOR PLAN

LEVEL 1

The Cultural Center campus consists of 13 buildings organized along a central street. This working arts street or Paseo Civico serves as the main street for the center. The programs within the buildings can spill out to the paseo and activate the space with programs. There are also three larger plazas for gatherings and events.

- COVERED PLAZAS 10,454 SQFT
- UNCOVERED PLAZAS 46,616 SQFT
- SOUTH GARDENS (NOT ON PLAN) 21,742 SQFT
- LANDSCAPE AREAS AROUND PODIUM 39,240 SQFT



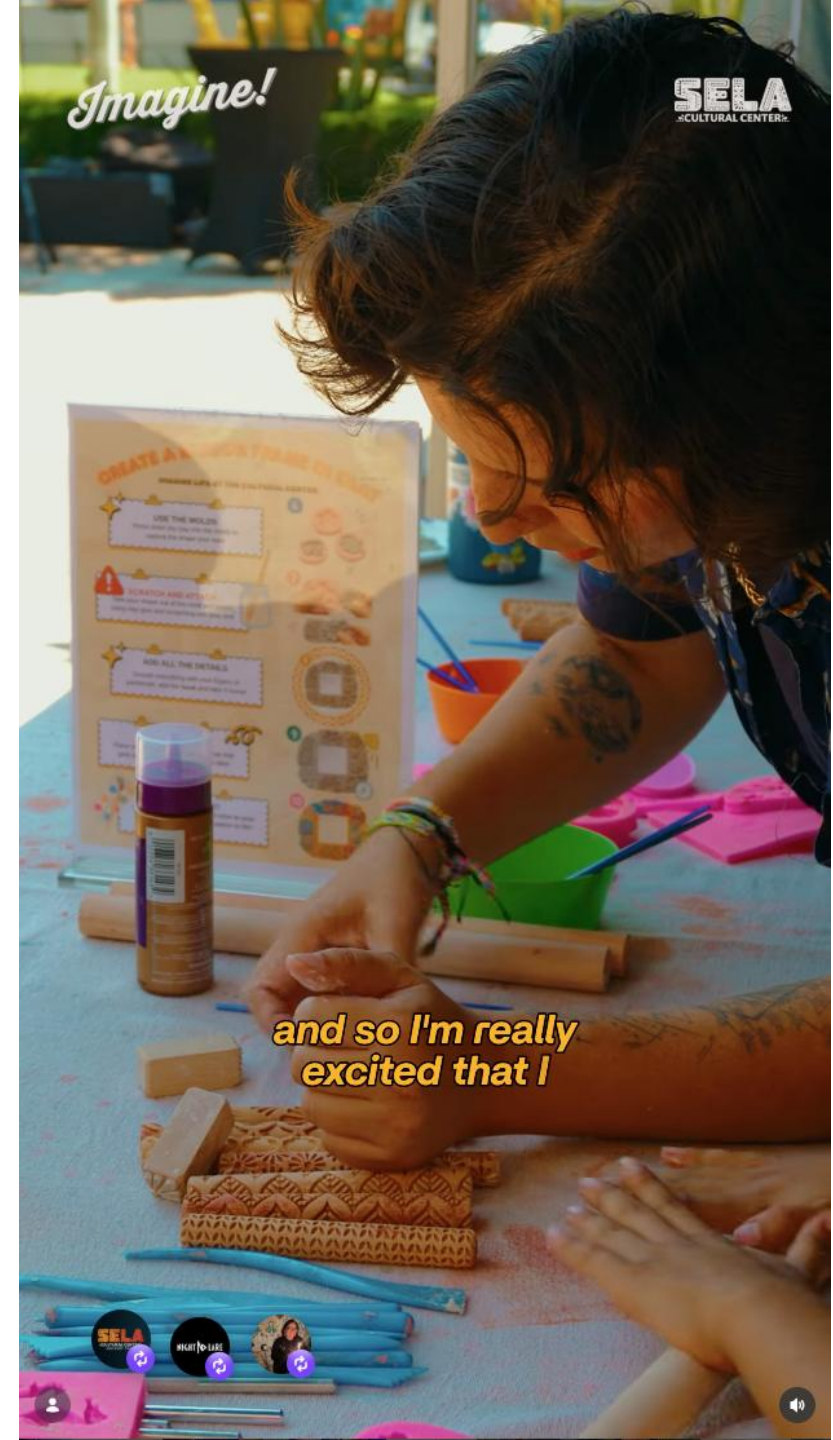
LEGEND

 ADMINISTRATION	 MUSIC	 DANCE	 LANDSCAPE
 SITE AMENITY	 VISUAL ARTS	 WORKSHOP	 PARKING / ACCESS ROAD









Imagine!

SELA
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everyone



Imagine!

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And

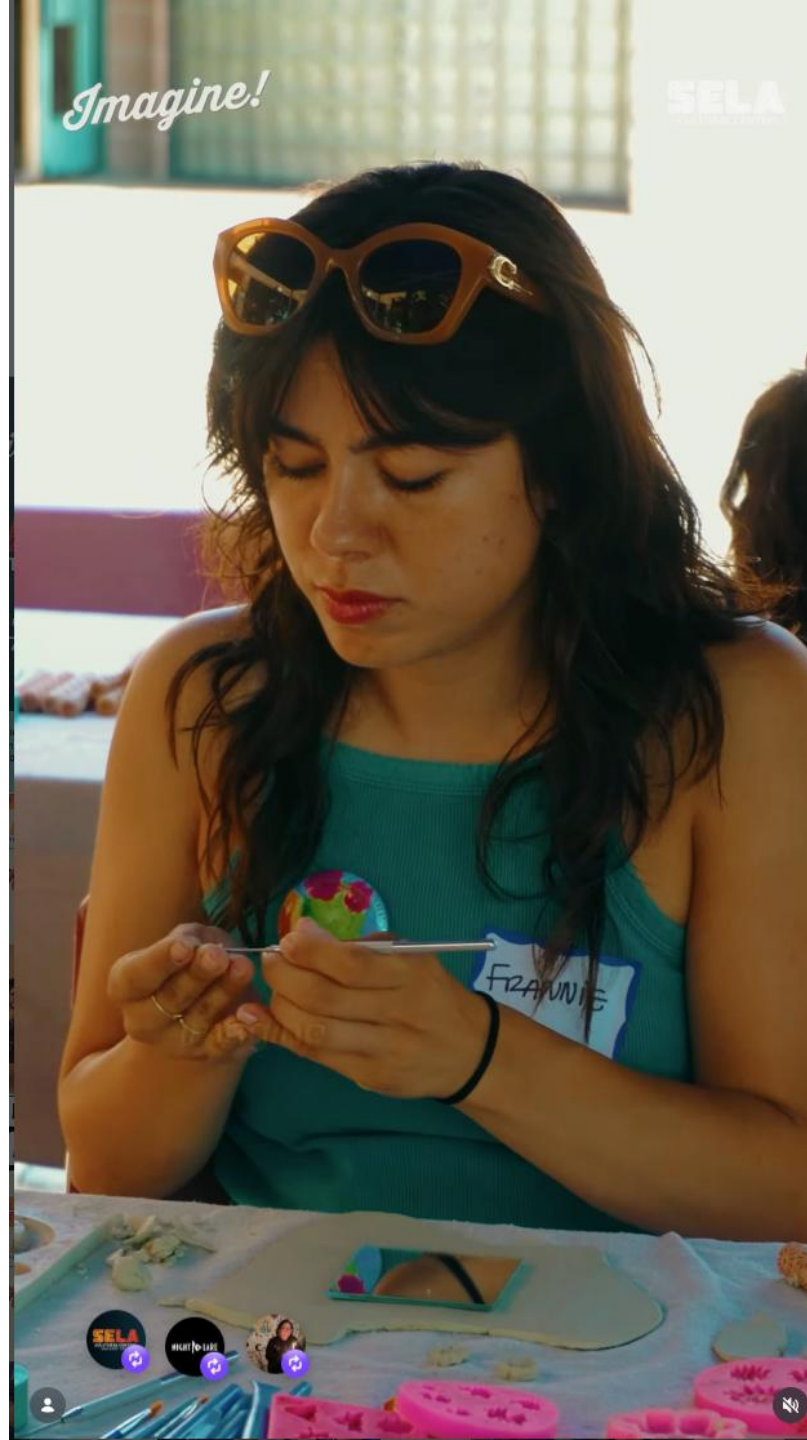


Imagine!

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Today we're doing clay mirror





Reflection



What takeaways from the event should we consider as we shape our recommendations?

How do these align with the Guiding Principles?

Reflection

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- A. Honor and celebrate the region's richness and diversity***
- B. Design and activate memorable and vibrant spaces***
- C. Foster and cultivate inclusion and belonging***
- D. Empower and uplift local artist organizations and cultural leaders***
- E. Center and support the existing community and cultural infrastructure***



Site Visit Research

Site Visit: May 21, 2026

Summary

Background

- Located in Downtown LA, and owned by the City of Los Angeles
 - Previously managed by City of LA Cultural Affairs
- Latino Theater Company (LTC) holds 50-year, \$1 per year lease
- LTC does not receive funding from the City of LA
- Mid-size theater performance space
- 84,000 sq ft
- 80,000 attendance/year
- Participation in national and regional initiatives

Programming

- Theater performances and special events
- Imaginistas - Playwrights commissioned to write social justice plays the LATC produces
- 9 week after school skill training hosted three times per year (set building, etc.)
- Educational programs – summer conservatory
- Provide grants to other organizations and artists
- Social prescription pilot program with 500 participants, in collaboration with Alta Med and LA Care
- Designed to hold multiple performances at the same time, and is also used as an incubator and shared co-working space for other organizations

Operations

- 5 Theater spaces ranging from 99 – 500 seats
- Rehearsal spaces
- Dressing rooms, bathroom, showers
- Wardrobe room
- Scene and prop shop
- Office, administrative, conference spaces
- 250 employees including full- and part-time

Funding

- Philanthropic and individual donors
- Government agency funding
- Events do not generate revenue, as programming and performances are to be free for the community

Summary

Governance

- Non-profit organization
- Board of Directors – 5 Board Members, 6 Board of Directors, 6 Board of Governors
- Board member contributions
- Non-profit by-laws
- 5-year Succession plan includes cohort of 17 new and emerging professionals to lead the organization
 - Many of the professionals already work within LTC and are cross-trained in various departments
- Executive Director
- Staff and leadership have strong fundraising skills

Community Serving Elements

- The site is one of the few spaces of its scale to showcase multicultural plays
- The site is a cultural institution that serves the Los Angeles community
- Performances are all LA centered
- Community college impact program provides 2 tickets per performance to students
- LTC productions at community colleges with students who receive a stipend
- \$10 Thursday performances
- Music performances prior to theater productions initiate community building experience
- Audiences are diverse in age, identity, cultural background, etc. which is representative of the mission statement and diverse storytelling

Panel Takeaways

- Programming
 - Consistently aligned with the organization's mission, to inclusively serve diverse communities
 - Supported through generational leadership who has deep roots in the communities being served
 - Career pathways support an emerging and diverse workforce
 - Balances being deeply rooted in community and growing in regional, national impact
- Operations
 - Succession planning includes internal hiring practices and other community-serving policies
 - Staff are cross-trained across departments as a way to cultivate leadership skills
 - Space allows for multiple programs to happen simultaneously, and provides co-working opportunities for other local artists and smaller organizations who might not have their own dedicated space

Site Visit: June 25, 2026

Summary

Background

- Located in Lincoln Park in Lincoln Heights, created in response to grassroots organizing
- Lease from City of LA, in coordination with LA Recreation and Parks Department
 - Plaza de la Raza (Plaza) does not receive funding from the City of LA
- Spaces include Boat House, Music Building, 200-seat Theater, Courtyard, and Onsite Parking
- 21,000 sq ft
- Accommodates events with up to 5,000 attendees

Programming

- Rentals for special events and gatherings
- Four annual, public festivals with vendors
- Free and/or subsidized classes for local children
- Internships and apprenticeships
- Theater performances, artist exhibits
- Grant-writing and fiscal sponsorship support for local artists and independent groups
- 15 artist residencies, with service trading opportunities (e.g. venue space in exchange for programming)

Operations

- Boat House with gallery and exhibit space
- Music Building with dance and music rehearsal space, including modular walls to adjust room size
- Storage space for costumes and instruments
- Theater with performance space, available for rental
- Outdoor courtyard, adaptable to a variety of events
- Onsite parking lot, with an agreement to use overflow parking at neighboring CA DMV
- Staffing through 5 full time and 60 part time employees, including teaching artists, interns, and volunteer parents

Funding

- Facility rentals (~65%)
- Class registration fees (~25%)
- Contributed revenue, grants, fundraising, corporate and individual donations
- State funding for capital improvements
 - Plaza currently undergoing construction maintenance for facility improvements

Summary

Governance

- Non-profit, community-serving cultural center
- 12-person Board with representatives across fields and sectors, primarily focused on fundraising
- Executive Director with decision-making power
- Many Plaza staff and leadership started as students, interns, etc. (generational impact)

Community Serving Elements

- Cultural institution and treasure with deep roots in East Los Angeles, and allies within the community, corporate, and political spaces
- All programming, events, and services must tie back to the mission of creating safe spaces for the surrounding community
- Facility rentals are offered at a sliding scale and discounted rates for local families and partners
- Arts education programming and classes are free for local children
- Emphasis on the community's health, wellbeing, and safety (programming may shift to respond to emerging needs, e.g. COVID-19)
- Provides work and mentorship opportunities for local youth and staff seeking professions and careers in the arts and arts administration

Panel Takeaways

- Programming
 - Artists have a sense of ownership over the classes and exhibits, and are deeply engaged in programming
 - Artists can exchange teaching hours or other services in exchange for space
 - Rental program separate from arts programming, balancing revenue with community-centered fee structure
- Operations
 - Campus had integrated outdoor and indoor spaces, and was expansive enough to host multiple disciplines
 - Onsite parking availability and partnerships with neighboring buildings
 - Flexible storage options built into the space, such as storage behind dance building mirrors
 - Creative staffing structure with different tiers and levels of employment (full-time, part-time, interns, volunteers)
 - Board is strictly responsible for fundraising while Executive Director oversees programming
 - Sustainable maintenance budget to support building improvements, technology upgrades, etc. over time

Site Visit: July 13, 2026

Summary

Background

- Located in San Pedro, created in response to desire for art studio and gathering space
- Sited in historic army barracks in Angels Gate Park, with a lease from City of LA and in coordination with LA Recreation and Parks Department
 - Angels Gate Cultural Center (AGCC) does not receive funding from the City of LA
- Neighbors include federal, LA Unified School District, City park and pool, and 8 nonprofits
- Spaces include Gallery, 50 artist studios across 11 buildings, Native Sacred Space, yard, and Parking
- 3,000 sq ft gallery, 50 studios from 150-1,000 sq ft
- Can accommodate events with up to 3,000 attendees

Operations

- Gallery includes front desk and conference room
- Two primary workshops for ceramics and printmaking, with ability to rent equipment
- Working on increasing ADA accessibility
- Onsite parking options, working on paving
- Staffing through full time employees, studio and teaching artists, and event volunteers

Programming

- Contemporary arts gallery with rotating exhibits featuring local and regional artists
- 50 studio artists who rent space at below-market costs (\$150-\$1,000 per month) and can also teach classes or workshops
- Arts education, both onsite and in-classroom
- Teen mural program
- School field trips
- Rentals and logistics supports for events, such as Sound Pedro and Many Winters Gathering of Elders
- Rentals for onsite filming

Funding

- Artist and community rentals (~60%)
- Filming rentals (contributes to beautification)
- Foundation and philanthropy generated income

Summary

Governance

- Non-profit, community and artist-serving center
- 7-person Board
- Executive Director overseeing operations

Community Serving Elements

- Cultural institution with deep roots in San Pedro's community and local arts advocacy
- Studio artists are provided mentorship and given opportunities for earned income
- Deep collaboration and partnership with Native communities, providing dedicated timeslots and space for their use
- Arts education programming aims to increase arts and culture equity across LAUSD schools
- Provides work experience and exhibit space for local youth and early artists seeking professions in the arts

Panel Takeaways

- Programming
 - Artists studios can be used for local artists to create art that can then be sold elsewhere (artist income-generation)
 - Teaching artists can determine curriculum and set fee structure, with AGCC organizational-guidance
 - Teen mural program provides dedicated youth programming and communicates art can be for everyone
 - Meaningful relationships, partnerships, and event support for local tribes
- Operations
 - Emphasis on artist studio spaces to serve emerging and established artists, support their professional development, and facilitate artist relationship building and collaboration
 - Diverse revenue stream, including arts classes fees, rentals, onsite filming, and fundraising
 - Leasing agreement with the City can be challenging to navigate, especially related to operations and maintenance

Site Visit: July 13, 2026

Summary

Background

- Located in Downtown LA, created in response to desire for a LA Philharmonic home
- 5 resident companies and 7 facility spaces
 - The Music Center (TMC) receives operations and maintenance funding from the County and programmatic funding from nonprofit residencies' fundraising and revenue
 - Ahmanson Theater (2,103 attendees), Dorothy Chandler Pavilion (3,156 attendees), Mark Taper Forum (738 attendees), and Walt Disney Concert Hall (2,254 attendees)
- 22-acre campus, with 12-acre park
- 35,000 sq ft outdoor Jerry Moss Plaza

Programming

- Programmed by TMC Arts, and operated by TMC Operations, TMC Business Services
- Center Theatre Group, Master Chorale, LA Opera, and LA Philharmonic programs performing arts across facilities
- Flexible, public programming at Jerry Moss Plaza and Gloria Molina Grand Park
- Third party vendors and event rentals

Operations

- TMC Operations oversees staffing, maintenance, security, first aid, custodial services, and ushers
- Performing arts buildings can also be rented
- Public, programmable outdoor plaza, with media arts and public amenities
- Onsite parking garage is overseen by the County
- Hundreds of staff to support administration, operations, fundraising, programming, and more.

Funding

- Operations (~\$40M from the County)
- Programming (~\$400-500M through fundraising, ticket sales, and third party vendors)
- County contract dictates what is funded
- Grand Park contract allows for budget to rollover as long as the funding is used for relevant programming.
- Ticketing fees help support building repairs, maintenance, and replacement.

Summary

Governance

- 4 Non-profit residencies with CEOs executing TMC Contract and overseeing all arts programming
- 45-person Board in charge of fundraising, hiring and firing CEO, as well as setting mission and vision
- 7-person Executive Leadership Team representing operations, finance, advancement, people and culture, arts programming, and marketing

Community Serving Elements

- Plaza is completely open to the public, including amenities such as shade, water, seating, and restrooms
- Annual public events in the Plaza and Park

Panel Takeaways

- Programming
 - Banquet spaces, including in-house catering access, are a key revenue generator
 - Performing arts programming can co-exist with rentals programming due to strong centralized communication and scheduling tools
- Operations
 - Spaces and seating options should be flexible, and include dedicated room for storage and administrative offices
 - Indoor and outdoor space integration can help design more creative programming
 - Outdoor plaza is dedicated to public programming and amenities including restaurant, restrooms, seating, lighting
 - Power and utilities infrastructure was planned at the forefront, which streamlines event set-up
 - Specifically name requests when co-creating the County lease agreement, language must be plain, clear, and all-inclusive of needs.
 - Support staff wellbeing through access to restrooms, lactation rooms, rest areas, and affordable meal access

Operation Typologies

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Which case study elements should we consider as we inform the operation typologies and what is the best scale?

- Theater
- Artist Studios
- Classrooms
- Other

Operation Typologies

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What partnerships do we need to foster to deliver programming and generate revenue?



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