

CELENA TURNEY

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Known for visionary, strategic, and collaborative equity-centered work throughout the non-profit arts and education ecosystem with extensive experience supporting diverse and under-resourced communities. Over 20 years' experience designing academic and creative concepts, events, and activities, linking programs to organizational mission. Leverage exceptional communication, interpersonal, and organizational skills to ensure measurable program-aligned results.

SELECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Grantmaking

- Wrote winning proposals to private foundations and charities, securing new funding for a Dance and Wellness program offered to Middle School youth in Central Los Angeles
- Coached school administrators on grantwriting/fundraising strategies consistent with strategic arts education objectives, boosting awards by 50%
- Served as inaugural Program Officer for a family-based Foundation focused on building Middle School students' Social Emotional skills through the dramatic arts

External Relations and Communications

- Served as thought partner with educational leaders throughout Western States about how to infuse creativity, critical-thinking, and collaboration into teaching techniques
- Authored bulletins for State Education Agencies on Family Engagement topics for Early Childhood Educators and family-facing practitioners, integrating culturally responsive practices

Program Management

- Facilitated community-based strategic planning teams to develop comprehensive Arts Education programs for 21 school districts in California, impacting the daily learning experiences of 2M students
- Gathered, analyzed, and reported on quantitative baseline data for 20 school districts and 600 school sites on the status of their arts education programs
- Served as Project Manager of a 2-year Public Programs grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, presenting 91 workshops, 58 performances, and 32 musical acts in 8 states across the country

Program Design

- Created a Project-based Learning (PBL) course for middle school students in Environmental Science and local History integrating visits to museums and the Baylands Nature Preserve with STEM and art-making activities
- Co-designed National Student Art Exhibition at the White House for the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, collaborating with TurnAround Arts, the National Portrait Gallery, and Loyola Marymount University to showcase the work of 120 students across 10 states

EDUCATION

Master of Public Administration, California State University, San Bernardino

Bachelor of Arts Political Science, Cum Laude, University of California, Riverside

Certificate Instructional Design, University of California, Santa Cruz

Professional Clear Multiple Subject CLAD Teaching Credential, California State University, Los Angeles

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PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Senior Consulting Project Manager – 2005 to present (largest projects 2008-2016)

@Creative Capacity Builders; Northern/Southern CA

- Facilitate and advise Community Task Force Teams in statewide strategic arts education planning initiative
- Lead school district teams to create board-approved Arts Education plans
- Develop and communicate administrative protocols, project metrics, and survey deadlines
- Maintain work logs, submit progress reports with supporting documents as per project requirements
- Hold site-based roundtable meetings with stakeholders, to discuss results and implication of data
- Design and implement leadership retreats for community leads, introducing basic facilitation, action planning, and data collection methods
- Provide instruction on group facilitation methods and project tools
- Coach senior district administrators on fundraising strategies, aligning arts education goals, district vision, and funder initiatives
- Serve as VAPA Coordinator, writing grants, proposals, and LOI to private funders; manage funded projects; coordinate progress reporting across sites

Program Associate II, Quality Schools & Districts; San Francisco, CA (remote) – 2022-2023

@WestEd

Migrant Education

- Collaborated with program evaluation team to conduct large-scale qualitative analysis, measuring the impact of professional learning services in Arizona for English Language Learners
- Performed research on the impact of federally-funded Migrant Education Programs in the United States

Family Engagement

- Supported school districts in rural areas and tribal reservations in effective family engagement practices and school improvement planning across the Western United States
- Provided training and technical assistance to teachers and administrators, focusing on student achievement
- Performed research on funding trends for State Family Engagement Centers
- Wrote bulletins/white papers/toolkits on Family Engagement for statewide distribution to Early Childhood Center Directors

District Elementary Literacy Support Specialist; Half Moon Bay, CA – 2021-2022

@Cabrillo Unified School District

- Developed district-wide Literacy Assessment Plan (K-5)
- Built a digital platform for test administration, scoring, and data analysis
- Provided training and technical assistance, curating digital resources to support teacher knowledge of curricula

Managing Director and Franchise Owner, Learning Experience Consulting Educator; Los Altos, CA -- 2018-2021

@Clue LLC – *Private Educator and Learning Experience Consultant*

- Responsible for program design, tutor management, product research & procurement, assessment & evaluation, curriculum planning, 1:1 instruction
- Communicate with parents on academic/behavioral change strategies; collaborate with schools on expected outcomes

@Tutor Solutions of the Peninsula – *Managing Director and Franchise Owner*

- Launched and managed all aspects of tutoring company, providing in-person and distance learning services
- Responsible for business development including online and social media marketing, data analytics, sourcing materials, vetting vendors, and training tutors
- Directed education programs for learning pods and individual students, resulting in a 90% client satisfaction rate
- Created scope and content maps, curated curriculum materials, and wrote lesson plans, increasing test scores by 35%

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Curriculum Specialist; Menlo Park, CA -- 2017-2018

@Boys and Girls Clubs of the Peninsula

Training Coordinator

- Iterated a training arc informed by multiple measures including data, observations, feedback, and best practices
- Mapped and delivered academic training for 5-day Annual onboarding Conference, Winter and Spring Bootcamps
- Partnered with external SMEs for lecture-based sessions, hands-on workshops, and independent practice opportunities

Program Designer

- Prototyped a mission-aligned pilot program to serve targeted members, created Gantt charts, set program milestones
- Designed a talent development program for 5 specialized staff and their supervisors
- Collaborated with Data and Impact Team on defining operational protocols, expected outcomes, and program metrics

Western Regional Manager; Easton, PA (remote) -- 2015-2016

@Crayola, LLC

Innovative Teaching and Learning Coordinator

- Strategized with educational leaders on ways to implement 21st Century skills into teaching
- Managed company expos at local and national conferences, coordinating schedules, logistics, and product displays
- Served as project manager, co-curating National Student Exhibition at the White House for the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, showcasing the work of 120 students across 10 states

Credentialed Educator, Los Angeles, CA – 2001-2008

@Los Angeles Unified School District

Classroom Teacher, Dance Specialist, Instructional Coach

- Delivered multiple subject and dance instruction (K-6) leveraging visual thinking tools and hands-on exploration, improving academic achievement, and increasing school attendance at 21 inner-city schools
- Presented Professional Development for 100+ teaching artists and District Interns, building instructional capacity of the Arts Education Program
- Compiled and analyzed student assessment data, developing school-wide Action Plans with SMART goals
- Presented workshops for Spanish-speaking parents, boosting parents' understanding of educational expectations, building home-school connection, and increasing parent engagement in school learning activities
- Served on Education Leadership Task Force and National Study Team for Arts Education
- Authored course of study for elementary dance, producing national model

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Turney, C. & Akinola, Y. (np). *Family Engagement: Authentically Integrating Essential Competencies*. California Department of Education. Sacramento, California.

<https://ca-safe-supportive-schools.wested.org/resource/family-engagement-authentically-integrating-essential-competencies>

Turney, C. & Paredes, M. (np). *Family Engagement Tips and Strategies for Early Childhood Educators*. Be Engaged® Toolkit. Louisiana Department of Education. Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Turney, C. (2023). *Weaving Our Roots into a Collective Tapestry: Using the Arts to Mend and Strengthen Connection to Self and Others*. World Summit of Arts Education. Madeira, Portugal.

Turney, C. (2021). *Get Curious About Reading!* Family Literacy Night, Cabrillo Unified School District. Available on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DeC5aSyMCsE>.

Turney, C. (2019). *Identity Development through Art*. Professional Development Workshop (April 2), Arts & Education Programs. Montalvo Arts Center. Saratoga, CA.