

ANNUAL REPORT 7.1.24 - 6.30.25



## WHERE THE ARTS THRIVE FOR ALL



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### LETTER FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Where the Arts Thrive for All is so much more than a tagline—it is a statement of purpose and the guiding principle by which TOArts functions. Your extraordinary support has been the driving force behind a record-breaking 2024-25 year, allowing us to expand our reach and deepen our impact throughout the community.

Thanks to your investment, our Kids and the Arts program welcomed a record-breaking 6,800 students and teachers to live performances—a 24% increase that demonstrates the growing hunger for arts experiences in our schools. Your support powered our Youth Arts Leadership Academy, where 20 young leaders created YALA Limitless Arts Workshops and produced the Revive Aid Benefit Concert, raising over \$6,200 for schools affected by the Los Angeles wildfires. This exceptional leadership will be recognized when the YALA executive team receives the Youth in Philanthropy Award from Association of Fundraising Professionals Santa Barbara Ventura County on National Philanthropy Day, November 4, 2025.

Your investment in Creators Conservatory helped propel young arts leaders toward their goals in the arts, as they embrace their studies at Moorpark College, UC Davis, and Yale. Your generosity enabled us to present 70 performances across a diverse range of genre and artists to 46,500 community members as the largest presenter at the Bank of America Performing Arts Center.

Your support also enabled compassionate individual impact—providing a violin and lessons for a teen in foster care, donating a drum set for juvenile rehabilitation programs, and partnering with the Mindful Veterans Project to offer healing arts experiences. Through groundbreaking partnerships, we brought comprehensive programming to Madroña Elementary, launched the Music Production Career Technical Education Pathway at Conejo Valley High School, and inspired nearly 1,100 students with National Geographic speakers through Trailblazers Education.

As we celebrate these achievements, we're excited to share that effective July 1, 2025, Niki Chopra Richardson assumed the role of Executive Director, bringing fresh vision to lead TOArts into its next chapter of growth and impact.

The City of Thousand Oaks continues to be an unwavering partner, and we remain grateful for their steadfast support.

Your commitment to the arts is both inspiring and transformational. It is because of your generosity that we can continue to break records, touch lives, and foster lifelong love for the arts in future generations.

With deep gratitude for your support, championship, and passion for the arts,

Al Lowe,

Board Chair

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Jonathan Serret.

Executive Director (2020 - 25)

### **SPOTLIGHT STORIES**

### WHERE THE ARTS THRIVE FOR ALL.

TOArts inspires and elevates arts, culture, and entertainment through presentation, education, and collaboration to provide community support in and around the Bank of America Performing Arts Center.

The performing arts have the profound ability to inspire performers and audiences alike to reach for the stars, discover new perspectives, and strengthen bonds between individuals through shared transformative experiences. TOArts has an ambitious goal to broaden access and exposure to the arts for this and future generations.

### **EQUITY STATEMENT**

Ventura County is home to one of the nation's most diverse populations. TOArts is committed to ensuring that our audiences and performers alike in our community experience a sense of belonging, connection, and happiness through the arts, inclusive of diverse factors such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, ability, or other individual identities.

We recognize that people of color and other communities have been historically marginalized and excluded. We are dedicated to ensuring the equity and the diversity of voices represented in all TOArts programs and initiatives.

To realize our mission, TOArts is committed to integrating equity into the fabric of arts education, programming, and the presentation of performing and visual arts in pursuit of a place Where the Arts Thrive for All.

"Thank you so much for everything that you guys have done for us this year! It has been an incredible experience and I have grown so much as a person, artist, and leader. The growth we all experienced as artists and leaders wouldn't be possible without your constant support. Thank you!"

YOUTH ARTS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (YALA) STUDENT



2nd grade Madroña Elementary students interact with artist Andy Lepe at Studio Channel Islands (top) and a student works on beat samples at Conejo Valley High School (below).

### ARTS ODYSSEY (SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNERSHIPS)

Your support made possible TOArts' comprehensive Arts Odyssey programming, expanding cross-disciplinary artistic opportunities directly within local schools. Thanks to your investment, we provided 60 second-grade students at Madroña Elementary with nine significant arts activities spanning theatre, visual arts, dance, and music. Students explored creativity through a field trip to Studio Channel Islands in Camarillo, where they created original artwork, participated in gallery scavenger hunts, and observed professional artists at work. Back in the classroom, your support funded three months of guest teaching artist residencies, where students developed creativity and collaboration skills through improvisational comedy workshops.

Your generosity also enabled a groundbreaking partnership with Conejo Valley High School, where we launched their new Music Production/Sound Engineering Career Technical Education (CTE) Pathway. Thirty students participated in this pilot program made possible by your investment, working with TOArts-provided curriculum and professional guest teaching artists from the music production industry. Students gained hands-on experience at industry-standard DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) workstations, creating original podcasts, beat samples, and complete songs that serve as portfolio pieces for their future careers.

These partnerships demonstrate how your support creates lasting educational impact, bringing professional-level arts instruction directly into classrooms while preparing the next generation of creative professionals.

### YOUTH ARTS LEADERSHIP **ACADEMY (YALA)**

TOArts' flagship workforce development program for high school students, YALA provides young arts leaders the opportunity to explore diverse career paths within the arts ecosystem while collaborating with industry professionals to conceptualize, design, and execute a capstone community event entirely of their own creation.

The 2024-25 cohort of 20 students focused their capstone project on arts education, creating YALA Limitless Arts Workshops—a comprehensive day of cross-disciplinary arts programming serving students from elementary through high school age. This ambitious undertaking culminated in a showcase performance and featured both a student art gallery and student vendor marketplace. The experience provided invaluable hands-on training as students worked directly with venue staff to produce a multi-space event utilizing the Kavli lobby, Founders Room, and outdoor courtyard areas.

Beyond their capstone project, the 2024-25 cohort demonstrated remarkable initiative and community leadership by producing the Revive Aid Benefit Concert in the Scherr Forum. This student-led fundraising event raised over \$6,200 for the performing arts departments of two SoCal schools significantly impacted by the Los Angeles wildfires. The exceptional leadership demonstrated through this initiative and other community service efforts will be recognized when the YALA executive team receives the Youth in Philanthropy Award from the AFP Santa Barbara Ventura County chapter on National Philanthropy Day, November 4, 2025.

### **CREATIVE ENVOYS**

YALA and Conservatory students who show exceptional dedication to the programs are invited to participate in Creative Envoy as ambassadors of TOArts in the community. In the first half of 2025, Creative Envoy leaders represented TOArts as performers in February's Donor Gratitude Reception, in accepting an arts proclamation by the Mayor at the Thousand Oaks City Council meeting in April, in a focus group with Arts and Culture Manager David Yoshitomi for the County's Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy Strategic plan, as student panelists at the Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce Leadership Conejo cohort commencement, and in an artist meeting for the downtown plan with City of Thousand Oaks Deputy City Manager Akbar Alikhan.

Guest teaching artists

Number of hours of employment for artists

Total artist fees paid

\$26,450

### **CREATORS CONSERVATORY**

TOArts Creators Conservatory focuses on the development of multi-hyphenate pre-professional artists of all creative disciplines throughout the course of the two-and-a-half week summer intensive. Highly creative and intensely collaborative, the conservatory requires students to create, produce, and perform original theatre works in mini creative teams, under the guidance of an incredible team of award-winning Broadway and industry professionals. During the 2024 conservatory, a student duo created "The Tale of Two Kevins," a short comedic original musical, which subsequently featured prominently in the student's successful artistic college application to study musical theatre composition at Yale beginning Fall 2025.





### YOUR INVESTMENT AT WORK ARTS EDUCATION

### KIDS AND THE ARTS

Thanks to your generous support, Kids and the Arts provided transformative field trip experiences for local schools from PreK through 8th grade, bringing students to see live performances in the Scherr Forum and Kavli Theatres. Your investment made it possible for us to welcome a record-breaking 6,800 students and teachers to four distinct productions across more than nine performances, featuring diverse artists including the high-energy jazz ensemble Sammy Miller and the Congregation, the Indigenous folk duo Twin Flames, the dynamic theatrical troupe Kingsman Shakespeare, and the bilingual children's musical duo, 123 Andrés.

This milestone—a 24% increase over the previous year—demonstrates how your continued support amplifies our impact, ensuring that students from all backgrounds have access to live performance experiences that inspire creativity, cultural understanding, and lifelong appreciation for the arts.

**6,800** Students

24% Increase from 2023/24









"Increased student confidence and participation were the most notable successes of the expanded dance program. Many students who were previously shy or hesitant became actively involved, demonstrated enthusiasm during rehearsals and performances, and took pride in showcasing their skills." WESTLAKE ELEMENTARY DANCE

### **ACCESSARTS**

Your generosity brought unique arts experiences ranging from weekly dance lessons to a fourth-grade play about the gold rush to five local elementary schools, supplementing their learning and providing them with exposure to new artforms.

**700** Students

**5** Schools

**\$16.5K**Funded

### **TRAILBLAZERS ED**

Nearly 1,100 students across the four Conejo Valley high schools were inspired by an extraordinary lineup of National Geographic speakers, each sharing their groundbreaking work and passion for exploration and discovery. Students heard from sports photographer Jean Fruth, cave explorer Robbie Shone, ecologist Heather Joan Lynch, and wildlife biologist Doug Smith, gaining insight into diverse career paths that combine scientific inquiry, creative storytelling, and environmental stewardship.



Jean Fruth



**Heather Joan Lynch** 



**Robbie Shone** 



**Doug Smith** 

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### YOUR INVESTMENT AT WORK ARTS EDUCATION

### STUDENT TICKET DONATIONS



20 Tickets
Disney Jr. for the
Make-A-Wish Foundation



**50 Tickets**Dragons and Mythical Beasts for Safe Passage Foundation



120 Tickets
TOArts Trailblazers series
for students

### **52** Student Discount Tickets Offered

### **RESIDENCIES**

Your support enabled us to bring world-class artist residencies directly to students, partnering with local high schools and Cal State University Channel Islands to create meaningful connections between professional artists and the next generation of performers.

Thanks to your investment, we brought two distinctive residency programs to Oxnard High School, Newbury Park High School, and Westlake High School. Sammy Miller and the Congregation delivered high-energy jazz assembly performances for entire student bodies while providing focused workshops for music students. The Alejandro Brittes Trio introduced students to traditional chamamé music through full concerts at each school, sharing the rich cultural and historical significance of this Argentinian genre.

Your generosity also made possible multiple residencies at Cal State University Channel Islands throughout the school year. The renowned Ballet Trockadero de Monte Carlo, the all-male ballet company, led an in-depth masterclass where dance students experienced professional barre work and learned excerpts from classical repertoire. CSUCI dance students then received complimentary tickets to see the company perform in the Kavli Theatre, creating a complete educational experience. Las Guaracheras captivated over 200 students—including high schoolers from the local area—in an interactive assembly, and during their masterclass, students had the extraordinary opportunity to perform alongside these celebrated musicians on stage.







### COALITION FOR FAMILY HARMONY

Your support enabled TOArts to donate a drum set to the Coalition for Family Harmony's music room, directly contributing to their innovative programs that help reduce recidivism among juvenile offenders. This gift demonstrates how your investment in the arts extends beyond our stages and classrooms, supporting evidence-based interventions that use music as a powerful tool for healing and positive life transformation.

### **INDIVIDUAL IMPACT**

transformative power

of music education.

Your support enabled TOArts to respond immediately when the Mark and Jacob Iskander Foundation requested a violin for a teen in foster care. Since December 2024, your investment has provided this young musician with a new instrument and ongoing weekly lessons, demonstrating how your investment in TOArts creates life-changing opportunities for individual young people, providing not just an instrument, but ongoing mentorship and the

### OLSON PERFORMANCE GRANTS

This grant program magnifies your investment manyfold. Thirteen nonprofit performing arts groups received over \$118,000 in subsidized rent, making it more affordable to perform on the world-class BAPAC stages.

Nonprofits

\$118K Subsidized Rent

### **ARTSTHRIVE**

Your support enabled TOArts to partner with the Mindful Veterans Project, providing complimentary tickets to numerous TOArts Presents performances supporting veterans through the healing power of the arts. Your support ensures that those who served our country have access to the therapeutic and community-building power of live performance.



### YOUR INVESTMENT AT WORK COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### REFRAME VENTURA COUNTY

Your support enabled TOArts to partner with the County of Ventura on the second annual ReFrame VC arts summit, bringing together over 100 artists, arts workers, and culture bearers from across East and West Ventura County. This growing collaboration was made possible through the generous sponsorship of Studio Channel Islands, Oxnard Performing Arts Center Foundation and FiveO7 Coffee.

Thanks to this collective investment, we facilitated a transformative daylong event featuring inspirational speakers, practical breakout sessions focused on finding success as an artist, and meaningful opportunities for participants to contribute their voices to focus groups shaping the County's ongoing Cultural Plan development. Your continued support is helping build momentum for this vital annual gathering that strengthens the arts ecosystem throughout Ventura County.

### POP UP ARTS AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

TOArts again partnered with the City of Thousand Oaks for the Pop Up Arts and Music Festival in June, bringing live performance and artistic experiences directly to the community in an accessible, celebratory format. This collaboration demonstrates how your investment helps TOArts extend beyond our traditional venues, supporting citywide cultural initiatives that make the arts available to all residents and visitors in neighborhood parks.



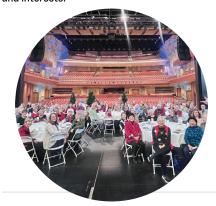


### YOUR INVESTMENT AT WORK PERFORMANCES



### **TOARTS PRESENTS**

Your generosity ensures that Thousand Oaks has access to the caliber of programming typically found only in major metropolitan areas, enriching our community's cultural landscape and providing entertainment options for audiences of all ages and interests.



Total attendance

46.5K

Number of shows

**70** 

Volunteers

1,411

Volunteer hours

5,466

Impact

\$196,365 independent sector.org/ value-of-volunteer-time

### TOARTS PRESENTS AFTER DARK AT STAGECOACH INN MUSEUM

This fun festival-style outdoor concert series features an eclectic lineup of entertainment, curated to present fresh and compelling artists to our community. Total attendance

**732** 

Number of shows

4

### **FAMILYPAC**

Helping families make lifelong memories at the Bank of America Performing Arts Center, this program provides low-cost or complimentary tickets to families who otherwise would not be able to attend a live performance. American Theatre Guild (Broadway in Thousand Oaks) partnered with TOArts to make more than 40 tickets available for their performances as well.

Total attendance

332

Number of shows

11









### **SPARKING JOY!** CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The 2024 – 25 year marked a pivotal milestone in TOArts' history as we celebrated both our achievements and our future with the launch of our most ambitious fundraising effort to date. On October 25th, we commemorated the 30th anniversary of the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza with CURTAIN UP!, a masquerade ball that showcased the breadth of talent TOArts nurtures—from our youngest performer at just 4 years old in a spectacular cirque performance, to accomplished alumni from our YALA and Creators Conservatory programs.

This celebration provided the perfect backdrop to unveil our \$5 million Sparking Joy! major gifts campaign, launched in February 2023 to secure TOArts' future and expand our community impact. Thanks to the visionary leadership of TOLD Foundation and the extraordinary generosity of our community, we have achieved over 60% of our campaign goal.

TOLD Foundation presented us with an unprecedented challenge: raise \$350,000 and receive a dollar-for-dollar match. The community's response was remarkable—in less than 30 minutes that evening, supporters contributed \$290,000, which TOLD Foundation immediately matched, creating a transformational \$580,000 investment in TOArts' future. By December 31st, continued community support enabled us to reach the full \$350,000 goal, securing the complete matching funds and generating \$700,000 for the campaign.

With \$2 million remaining to reach our goal, we invite you to join this historic campaign and help secure the future of arts in our community for generations to come. Visit **TOArts.org/donate** to make a gift and join a community committed to ensuring the *Arts Thrive for All*.

### KIDS AND THE ARTS

Schools who attended a performance at the Bank of America Performing Arts Center at no cost to the students or schools:

Acacia Magnet School **Ansgar Larsen Elementary** Arrovo West Elementary **Art Haycox Elementary** Aspen Elementary Balboa Middle School Banvan Elementary Berylwood Elementary Blue Ridge Academy Brekke School **Bridges Charter School** Camellia Ave Elementary Casa Pacifica Cesar Chavez Elementary City Christian School Conejo Academy

**CVUSD Preschool** 

Elm Elementary

Flory Academy

Cypress Elementary

Garden Grove Elementary **Glenwood Elementary Grace S Thille Elementary** Harrington School Hollow Hills Elementary iLead Exploration Ladera STARS Academy Laguna Vista School Lang Ranch Elementary Las Posas Elementary Lemon Grove Elementary Madrona Elementary Mar Vista Elementary McKevett Elementary Montalvo Elementary **Park View Elementary** Parkview Elementary Peak Prep Phoenix Ranch School & Camp **PUC Community Charter** 

Schools

School districts

**59** 

Red Oak Elementary
Rio Plaza Elementary
Rio Real Elementary
Santa Susana Elementary
SHINE Homeschool
Somis School
St. Paschal Baylon School
Sumac Elementary
Sunkist Elementary

Sycamore Elementary

Walnut Elementary
Weathersfield Elementary
White Oak Elementary
Will Rogers Elementary
Wood Ranch Elementary

Woodlake Elementary Charter

**University Preparation School** 

Yerba Buena Elementary



### **OLSON GRANT RECIPIENTS**

Nonprofit arts organizations who received a grant to reduce the cost of performing on BAPAC stages.

5-Star Theatricals
A Foundation for the Artist
Camerata Pacifica
Conejo Chinese
Cultural Association
Conejo Schools Foundation

Conejo Valley Youth Orchestra

India Friends Association

Katie's Save and Sarah Shulze Los Angeles Symphonic Winds Music Teacher's Association of California, Conejo Branch

New West Symphony
Pacific Festival Ballet

Pacific Pearl Music Association

### **COMMUNITY PARTNERS SUPPORTED**

Your support enables us to strengthen community organizations through sponsorships, collaborative programming, leadership service, and donated tickets that boost their fundraising efforts.

Agoura High School

ArtTrek

Association of Fundraising Professionals – Santa Barbara/ Ventura Counties Chapter

**Beverly Hills** 

Firefighters Association

Boys & Girls Club of Greater

Conejo Valley

**Cancer Support Community** 

**CAPE Charter School** 

Carousel Ranch

Casa Pacifica

Community Conscience

Conejo Schools Foundation

Conejo Valley Little League

Crespi Carmelite High School

Eliot Arts Magnet Academy

Greater Conejo Valley Chamber

of Commerce

**Humane Society of Ventura County** 

Lang Ranch Elementary School

LC Middle School

Le Petit Couer Foundation

Make a Wish Foundation

MATES Charter School

Naslund & Naslund Foundation

New West Symphony

Oak Park Baseball

Palisades Charter High School

Parents of Welby Way Inc

Peach Hill Academy PTA

Rancho Campana High School

.....g.. ca...pa.ia ...g.. co.i.c

Red Oak Elementary School

Royal High School Athletics

Safe Passage Youth Foundation

Senior Concerns

Simi Valley Unified School District

Westlake High School

Westlake Hills Elementary PTA

Westlake Women's Club

Wildwood Elementary PTA

Wood Ranch Golf Club Kidz Golf

**COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS** 



















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### FY2024 - 2025 DONORS

Thank you to the following donors who made donations during fiscal year July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025. Many of these are members of Producers Club and Audience Circle and we rely heavily on the monthly or annual recurring gifts that these memberships generate. If we have inadvertently left your name off the list, please accept our sincerest apology and email niki@toarts.org so we may rectify the mistake. We are incredibly grateful that 100% of our board members make annual financial contributions above and beyond their tireless dedication TOArts.

Green Recurring monthly or annual donor

- \* Board member
- + Director Emeritus

### **MARQUIS \$100,000+**

Best Western Plus Thousand Oaks Inn Premier America Credit Union TOLD Foundation

### PRODUCER \$25,000+

Janet\* and Ray Scherr Matthew Burke\*, Singer Burke and Company TOLD Corporation Ventura County Community Foundation

### **CHAMPION \$10,000+**

Capsida Biotherapeutics Eileen Kaplan David\* and Lisa Mead Leanne\* and George Neilson Sharon Nystrom

Jason and Sam Scherr David and Lauren Stempel Rita and Michael Warren

Keith\* and Jody Wintermute

### **ADVOCATE \$5,000+**

Marcy Heim, the Artful Asker Athens Services

Mrs. Becky and Mr. Kelly Barton Ken and Susan Bauer California Lutheran University

Taras Carpiac
Chuck Cohen, in honor of

Eloise Cohen
Christopher Collier

Joan Colton

Karen\* and Edward Davis
Edison International

Rod Gilbert

Susan and Daniel Kane Al\* and Petra Lowe

Petra Montante

Allison and John Nelson Rick Principe Bill and Rayanne Robe

### **PATRON \$2,500+**

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LeDuc-Gummeson Family Maggie and Burt Gutierrez Patricia+ and George Jones

Bill and Elise Kearney Renée and Jeff Munson

Mark and Andrea Richard Keri and Jake Setnicka Rachel Sutherland

### **ENTHUSIAST \$1,000+**

Americana Arts Foundation

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John\* and Karen Bradley

Kara Buss

Amy and Nelson Buss Tamara Campbell Hugh and Keets Cassar

Rossanna Guerra

Michael and Beth Hacia

Ingrid Hardy

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Rotary Club of Thousand Oaks

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Alfred and Jean LoGuerico Townes

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TOArts is deeply grateful for the visionary investment of these businesses to support the arts in our community.

































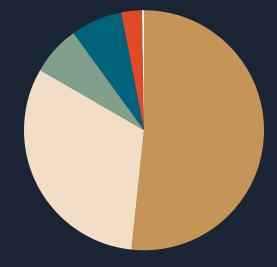
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### **FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

### **REVENUE 2024-25**

Contributions	\$2,450,881
Investment Return	1,498,044
Performances	327,793
In-Kind	324,608
Concessions	135,000
Grants	1,000

\$4,737,326

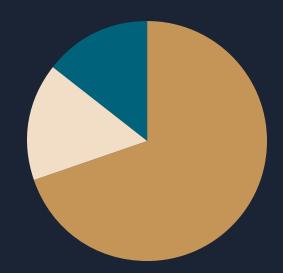


### **EXPENSES**

**Total Income** 

Programs	\$1,196,200
<ul><li>Fundraising</li></ul>	272,572
<ul><li>Administration</li></ul>	246,503

**Total Expenses** \$1,715,275





### **LEGACY GIVING**

Planned giving offers a unique opportunity to create a lasting impact while enjoying significant financial benefits. By including TOArts in your estate plans, you can reduce estate taxes, provide for loved ones, and fulfill your philanthropic goals-all while leaving a legacy that ensures vibrant arts programs will thrive for future generations.

This thoughtful approach to philanthropy allows you to make a transformative contribution without affecting your current financial situation, while providing the deep satisfaction of knowing you are helping sustain and enrich our community's cultural landscape for decades to come. Your legacy gift becomes an investment in the countless young artists, students, and community members who will benefit from TOArts programming long into the future.

We are profoundly honored by the generosity and foresight of those who choose planned giving as a way to support the arts, and we welcome conversations about how your legacy can continue supporting the causes you care about most.

### **STAFF LIST**

### Jonathan Serret.

**Outgoing Executive Director** 

### Niki Chopra Richardson,

Incoming Executive Director

### Colleen Debler,

**Marketing Director** 

### Casey Comstock Mills,

Program & Development Director

### Ethan Craig,

Program & Development Coordinator

### CONTACT

niki@toarts.org 805-449-2709

ethan@toarts.org 805-449-2710

casey@toarts.org 805-449-2733

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**





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### **DONATE**

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# YOUR SUPPORT ENSURES THAT OUR COMMUNITY IS A PLACE WHERE THE ARTS

THRIVE FOR ALL.

Arts

AFTS 2100 E Thousand Oaks Blvd Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

To join us and support our work in education, advocacy, and presentation of the arts,

please contact **niki@toarts.org**.