



# SUMMER ART CAMPS

Annual Project Report  
2025



Prepared by  
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# SUMMARY



## Summary

- Project Name: Summer Art Camps 2025
- Project Dates: June 9–13 and June 23–27, 2025  
Time: (9am - 2pm)
- Location: 655 International Blvd, Oakland, CA 94606



## Targeted Communities

- Children from refugee and immigrant families and backgrounds.
- Ages: 6-11 years old.



## Partnership & Leadership

- Project Partners: Center for Empowering Refugees & Immigrants (CERI) and Trybe
- Project Leader: Polina Marso
- Art Teachers: Eric Raygoza & Claudia Sanchez Gonzalez



# OVERVIEW



**ARTogether annual Summer Art Camps** continue to offer a vibrant, inclusive space where children from immigrant and refugee backgrounds can express themselves, connect with peers, and explore creativity in a supportive environment. Taking place over two full weeks in June 2025, the camp served youth ages 6–11 with an engaging daily program blending structured art activities, sensory play, games, and social-emotional learning.

Participating in community-based programs like ARTogether’s Summer Art Camps helps children strengthen their connection to their new home, reduce feelings of isolation,

and support their emotional well-being—while also bringing together kids from diverse backgrounds to foster understanding, friendship, and unity.

**The program offered:**

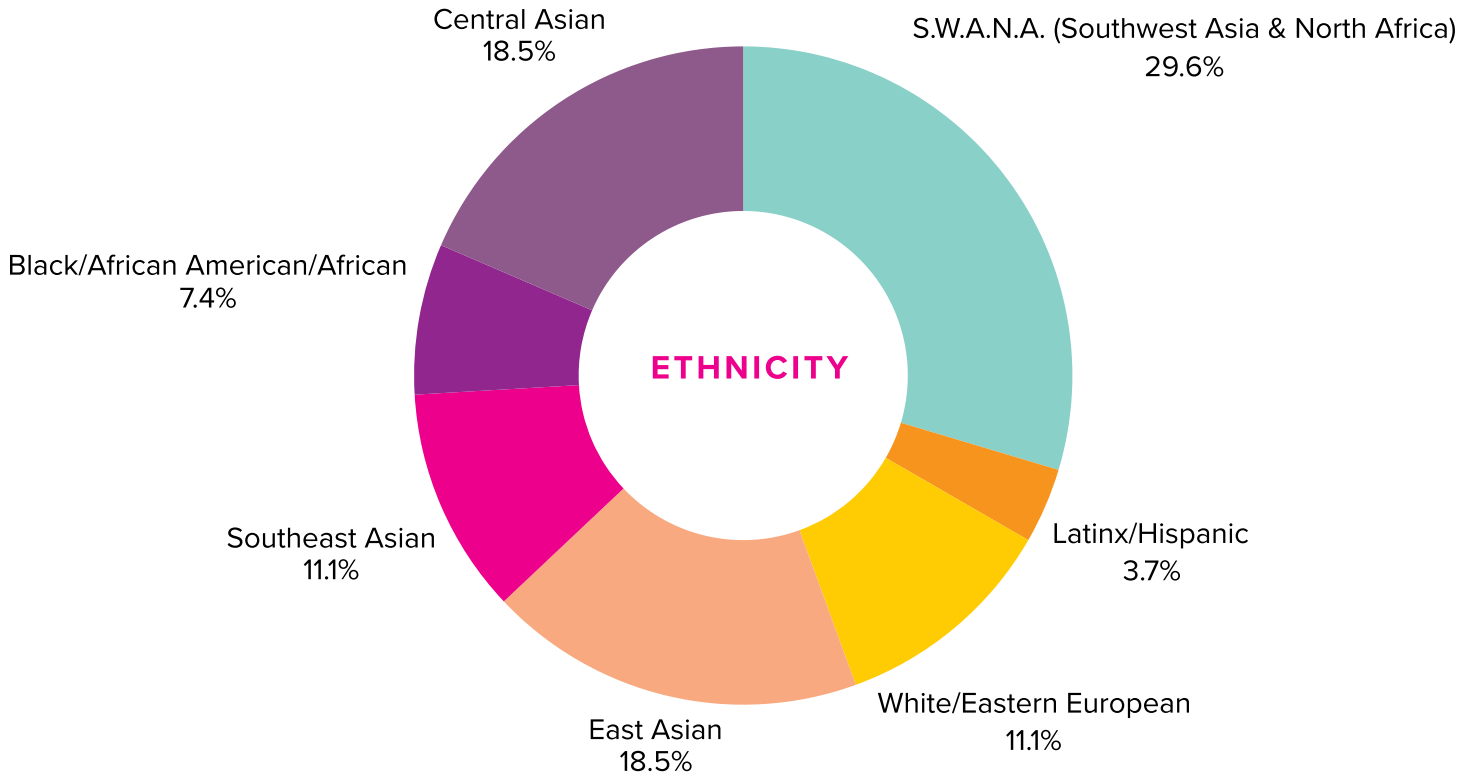
- Hands-on art projects: painting, sculpture, mixed media
- Sensory-based creative activities: tie-dye, kinetic sand, galaxy jars
- Outdoor play and movement
- Culturally relevant prompts to reflect personal and collective experiences
- A consistent daily routine, helping campers feel safe and supported

→ **DEMOGRAPHICS**

## Backgrounds and countries represented

Countries represented in Summer Art Camps 2025:

- Algeria; Ukraine; Nepal; Palestine; Afghanistan; Cambodia, China, Jordan, Mexico



## Daily Schedule



### Daily Schedule Highlights

Each day was designed to balance creative engagement, emotional support, and community building:

- Morning Check-in: Icebreakers, "Feelings Jar," and social-emotional games
- Art Blocks: Creative projects like mural-making, cork boats, and piñata building
- Sensory Exploration: Galaxy jars, slime, kinetic sand, tie-dye totes
- Afternoon Fun: Friendship bracelets, puppets, collaborative games, group art and face painting
- Outdoor Time: Recess, nature walks, dance and courtyard play



# PARTICIPATION NUMBERS

## across both weeks

Date	Number of Participants
<b>Week 1 06/09/2025 - 06/13/2025</b>	
06/09	11
06/10	10
06/11	11
06/12	14
06/13	13
<b>Week 1 Unique Students:</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Week 2 06/23/2025 - 06/27/2025</b>	
06/23	12
06/24	11
06/25	13
06/26	12
06/27	11
<b>Week 2 Unique Students:</b>	<b>13</b>
Total Attendance:	118
<b>Total Unique Participants:</b>	<b>27</b>

## → QUOTES

### Testimonials



“Big thanks to all the organizers and staff of the Summer Art Camps, my children absolutely loved every single day spent in the camp. Very interesting projects and creations! Thank you so much for all the positive emotions you provided for the kids! They were thrilled! Thanks ARTogether!!!” – *Parent*

“Ayesha is so in love with you guys and your Summer Art Camp, there are so many camps in Fremont [where we live], but she really wants to come to Oakland to attend your art camp.” – *Parent*

“We love you guys! Please make this program longer.” – *Parent*

“After every single day of camp, my kids came home bubbling with stories—they just couldn’t stop talking about everything they did. They were so excited each morning, waking up early and getting ready without a fuss, which never happens. That’s how much they loved being there.” – *Parent*

“My son loved everything. Thank you so much for celebrating his birthday at the camp, it meant a lot to him” – *Parent*

“Thank you so much for your kindness, support, and for providing this opportunity. My son loves art, and this camp has meant so much to him. He and his grandpa now exchange drawings with each other—it’s become a beautiful way for them to connect.” – *Parent*

### SURVEY RESULTS

- 100% of the parents marked that they were very satisfied with the Summer Art Camp.
- 100% of the parents said that they would enroll their child/children again.
- 100% of the children ask for the camp to last longer than 1 week.

## More Than Just Camp



Each year, the Summer Art Camps continue to leave a lasting impression on both children and parents—and this year was no exception. We consistently hear how much campers look forward to each day, with many arriving early, eager to begin. Parents often share how their children come home energized and full of stories, already counting down the hours until the next session.

Beyond the fun and creativity, the camp has become a sanctuary of emotional support. We witnessed shy and anxious children gradually open up, finding comfort in the routine and joy in creative expression.

Every year, we hear from both children and parents that a single week is simply not enough. Kids don't want to leave when the camp ends, and many families ask us to extend the program or offer more frequent sessions throughout the year. This continued feedback is a testament to how meaningful and impactful the experience is.

ARTOgether's Summer Art Camps provide a rare and much-needed space where newcomer children feel safe, seen, and celebrated. At its heart, the camp is about building confidence, nurturing joy, and helping children begin to imagine a future where they truly belong.

# IMPACT



- **Enhanced Social Skills:**

Interacting with peers in a collaborative setting helps children develop essential social skills, such as communication, teamwork, and empathy.

- **Community Integration and Social Harmony**

- *Bridging Cultural Gaps:* By bringing together children from diverse backgrounds, the camp fosters understanding and unity, contributing to a more inclusive and cohesive community.
- *Role Models and Mentorship:* Camp staff and volunteers often serve as positive role models, providing guidance and support that can have a lasting impact on the children's development.

- **Improved Emotional Regulation:**

Art activities can help children process and regulate their emotions, contributing to better mental health and resilience.

- **Academic Improvement:**

The cognitive benefits of creative activities can translate into improved performance in school subjects, particularly those that require problem-solving and critical thinking.

- **Sense of Belonging:**

Participating in community-based programs can strengthen a child's connection to their new community, reducing feelings of isolation and increasing their overall well-being.

- **Consistent Support:**

Regular attendance at the camp offers consistency, helping to establish a sense of normalcy and routine for children whose lives have been disrupted by displacement.

- **Long-term Impact:**

The positive experiences and skills gained from the camp can have a lasting impact, helping children to navigate future challenges and pursue their goals with confidence.

## → PLAN FOR UPCOMING YEAR

### Looking Ahead

We are deeply grateful for the continued partnership between ARTogether and CERl in making Summer Art Camps possible and to Trybe for generously providing the space that allowed us to host these camps in a welcoming and community-rooted environment. As we look to the future, we hope to:

- Welcome more children
- Integrate more culturally relevant programming
- Deepen our trauma-informed teaching and support practices

This camp has become more than just a summer activity—it's a space of joy, healing, and belonging for newcomer children and their families. Thank you to our dedicated team, partners, and community for bringing this vision to life year after year.





