



PLAYWORKS

**Southern California
Annual Report
2022-23**

OUR MISSION

is to improve the health and well-being of children by increasing opportunities for physical activity and safe, meaningful play.

OUR VISION

is that one day every child in America will have access to safe, fun, healthy play every day.



Message from our Executive Director:

I am writing to you today with a heart full of gratitude and excitement. My journey with Playworks has been nothing short of amazing, and I am honored to be part of a team that truly values the power of play for both adults and youth, especially during tough times. In just over four years, I have witnessed firsthand the remarkable impact that play can have in transforming individuals and communities.

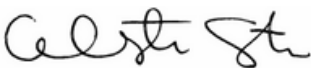
As an organization, we have had the privilege of connecting and engaging with philanthropic partners who share our belief in centering the needs of our school communities in everything we do. We have had meaningful conversations and established true partnerships that have allowed us to make a lasting difference in the lives of so many young learners. Together, we have upheld our goal to create safe and inclusive spaces for play and learning where everyone feels valued.

In my new role as Executive Director, I am reminded of how my own play journey began in my childhood. Growing up in a small town, recess was a space where I could be myself and explore my interests. It was where I built my confidence, formed lifelong friendships, and developed leadership and athletic skills. As an athlete and a child who deeply valued her playtime, I understand the importance of protecting play environments.

Moving forward, I am eager to continue learning about the needs of our school communities as they heal and adapt to the changing landscapes in funding. I am blessed to work alongside Playworkers who bring their light to this work every day, alongside our team, school communities, and partners.

As we move forward together, I am energized by the possibilities that await us. I am filled with gratitude for all of the partnerships we have built, and I am eager to continue walking hand in hand with our partners because that is what the power of play deserves. It deserves all of us.

Playfully,



Celeste Soto
Executive Director, Southern California





30,640

Students Served

54

Schools/Partners

77%

of students qualify for
free/reduced lunch

OUR IMPACT

Every year, Playworks surveys our partner schools to learn about the impact of our programs and find ways to improve. Here are a few highlights from educators surveyed this year:

93% report that Playworks helps students develop the skills they need to succeed in their learning community

92% report an increase in the number of students that are physically active

93% of educators report that Playworks helps create opportunities for inclusion of diverse groups of students

93% of educators agree that Playworks helps create a supportive learning environment





Partner Highlight: The Journey to Safe & Healthy Play

As school campuses opted to have students fully return in 2022-2023, schools focused on fully engaging students. Safe and healthy recess environments are crucial for the overall well-being of students. Recess encourages children to develop a sense of community, responsibility, and movement promoting healthy habits. Playworks staff focused on teaching, and reteaching, basic life skills to students and recess teams.

Jackson Middle School, grades 6-8, in Paramount Unified School District is a third-year TeamUp School. Playworks TeamUp partners with schools by providing an on-site coordinator to teach, model, and empower a sustainable recess program. The site coordinator spends a week each month at each school leading, supporting, and empowering the recess team—including a lead recess coach—to create a safe, inclusive playground for all students.

Jackson wants their students to be more engaged and active at recess, learn good sportsmanship, create systems that worked well for their team and children during recess, and develop Junior Coach leadership skills for students in grades 6-8.

Playworks staff worked collaboratively with Jackson's recess team by introducing foundation skills by focusing on games that promoted community building, connection, and conflict resolution. Jackson Middle School has embraced Playworks, and empower all children to participate in safe and healthy play throughout the school year.

By the end of the year, we were thrilled to see recess at Jackson Middle School filled with games, teamwork, leadership and most importantly, joy.

Play It Forward, 2024-2028

In 2023, Playworks defined our mid-term goals for 2028. More kids are experiencing safe and healthy play every day! We have clear and proactive school/partner prioritization strategies for all services (i.e. all “we do” and “we teach”) that are grounded in our equity goals.

We have agreement for all “we do” and “we teach” services about what is standard vs flexible, including what are the minimum requirements for each service, that are grounded in our equity goals. Every region has district relationships that are or can lead to systems change.

We know how to promote sustainable changes through improved adult practices and system policy and practice modifications. We are taking time in the 2023-24 school year to define our path of growth in California and how to effectively reach more children with the benefits of safe, healthy play.

We will define what criteria to use for prioritizing which schools we serve, while also collecting information from schools to better understand their needs. From there we will determine the best Playworks service to meet those needs.

A primary goal for Playworks is deepening our partnerships and moving toward long-term sustainability.



Follow us on our social media to stay connected!



Thank You to Our Partners in Play!

Playworks Southern California extends immense gratitude to the generous support of all our individual donors and volunteers. Our impact is the result of our collective investment and commitment to Playworks' mission to bring safe and healthy play to every kid.

Our Direct Service Partners

Baldwin Elementary - Alhambra USD
 Brightwood Elementary - Alhambra USD
 Emery Park Elementary - Alhambra USD
 Fremont Elementary - Alhambra USD
 Garfield Elementary - Alhambra USD
 Granada Elementary - Alhambra USD
 Marguerita Elementary - Alhambra USD
 Monterey Highlands - Alhambra USD
 Northrup Elementary - Alhambra USD
 Park Elementary - Alhambra USD
 Ramona Elementary - Alhambra USD
 Repetto Elementary - Alhambra USD
 Ynez Elementary - Alhambra USD
 15th Street Elementary - Los Angeles USD
 20th Street - Los Angeles USD
 49th Street - Los Angeles USD
 93rd Street Elementary - Los Angeles USD
 95th Street Elementary - Los Angeles USD
 96th Street Elementary - Los Angeles USD
 99th Street Elementary - Los Angeles USD
 Carlos Santana Arts Academy - Los Angeles USD
 Charles Barrett Elementary - Los Angeles USD
 Cheremoya Avenue - Los Angeles USD
 Del Amo Elementary - Los Angeles USD
 Figueroa Street Elementary - Los Angeles USD
 Grant Elementary - Los Angeles USD
 Hazeltine Avenue Elementary - Los Angeles USD
 Kentwood Elementary - Los Angeles USD
 Kingsley Elementary - Los Angeles USD

Manhattan Place Elementary - Los Angeles USD
 Michelle Obama Elementary - Los Angeles USD
 Noble Avenue Elementary - Los Angeles USD
 Plummer Elementary - Los Angeles USD
 Plummer Elementary - Los Angeles USD
 Saturn Street Elementary - Los Angeles USD
 Buford Elementary - Lennox SD
 Dolores Huerta Elementary - Lennox SD
 Felton Elementary - Lennox SD
 Jefferson Elementary - Lennox SD
 Moffett Elementary - Lennox SD
 Collins Elementary - Paramount USD
 Harry Wirtz Elementary - Paramount USD
 Howard Tanner Elementary - Paramount USD
 Jefferson Elementary - Paramount USD
 Leona Jackson Elementary - Paramount USD
 Los Cerritos Elementary - Paramount USD
 Major Lynn Mokler Elementary - Paramount USD
 Mark Keppel Elementary - Paramount USD
 Roosevelt Elementary - Paramount USD
 Wesley Gaines Elementary - Paramount USD
 Fairmont Elementary - Placentia Yorba Linda USD
 Harbor City Elementary - Placentia Yorba Linda USD
 Barton Hill Elementary - Westminster USD
 Finley Computer Science Magnet - Westminster USD
 Schmitt Elementary - Westminster USD
 Sequoia Academy - Westminster USD
 Willmore Elementary - Westminster USD

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 Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation
 Los Angeles Lakers Foundation
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