Create Economy || Create Autonomy
The Creative Economy Youth Justice Project

Presented to Cristina Pacheco, Director of Programs, Arts for LA & ACTIVATE Arts Advocacy Leadership Program

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ART TRANSFORMS LIVES
Create Economy || Create Autonomy (CECA) seeks to foster the artistic passion of formerly incarcerated youth to hone their skills and navigate a sustainable career in the arts or other creative sectors.

CECA seeks to support pathways to train formerly incarcerated youth between the ages of 16-24 years old, in creative economy jobs.
CECA believes that:

- The arts matter in building and planning a community.
- The arts are transformative on an economic and interpersonal level.
- The arts are a foundational strategy to support traumatized young people.
CECA believes that:

• Los Angeles needs a reentry strategy that values creativity at the same level as other career training.

• Creative economy work should be a viable reentry vocation for any formerly incarcerated individual working toward autonomy in our great city.

• CECA and the City of Los Angeles can set the precedent for the nation by cultivating a camp-to-career pipeline.
Los Angeles is the creative capital of the U.S.

2015 Otis Report
JOBS

LOS ANGELES COUNTY 2014

18% of wage and salary employment

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LOS ANGELES IS THE CREATIVE CAPITAL OF THE U.S.

TOP 5 CREATIVE METRO AREAS IN THE U.S.

- Los Angeles Metro Area: 418,200
- San Francisco: 95,700
- New York City: 402,900
- Chicago: 133,800
- Seattle: 91,900

*Graphic courtesy of 2015 Otis Report on the Creative Economy of the Los Angeles Region [www.otis.edu/econreport](http://www.otis.edu/econreport)
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What do we mean by the **creative economy**?*

- Businesses and individuals involved in producing cultural, artistic, and design goods and services.
- Includes organizations that provide a venue for artists to share their work with the public such as museums, art galleries and theaters.
- Apparel, toy and furniture manufacturing - all industries that depend on good design.

* Defined by 2015 Otis Report on the Creative Economy of the Los Angeles Region [www.otis.edu/econreport](http://www.otis.edu/econreport)
CECA believes that the City of Los Angeles’ future “Creative Career Pipeline,” should include a plan for formerly incarcerated youth.
DIVERSIFY THE WORKFORCE
CECA believes that there is great value in training formerly incarcerated youth, who are largely from Black and Latino communities.

By training formerly incarcerated youth in creative economy jobs early on, the City of Los Angeles can:

• Address the growing concerns about the lack of diversity in many creative industries;
• Diversify Hollywood;
• Reduce recidivism.
A focus of this creative economy training would be to recruit formerly incarcerated and/or system involved youth; thus reversing the current school-to-prison pipeline.
CECA envisions a coalition of creative businesses, especially the large studios, that could participate by allocating paid job training to formerly incarcerated youth as interns and apprentices.
A CALL TO ACTION
CECA believes the City of Los Angeles could be instrumental in:

• Inviting creative companies to participate in the Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Commission on Employment Equity;
• Facilitating pathways for formerly incarcerated youth to enter into creative economy jobs;
• Seeking out funds for training and job placement programs for formerly incarcerated youth in creative economy sectors.
One such organization at the forefront of bridging arts programming inside juvenile detention facilities is Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network (AIYN).
AIYN is a network of eight organizations providing arts programming in juvenile detention facilities across LA County. **CECA** believes that incarcerated and formerly incarcerated youth can benefit from creative economic experiences and training; thus reinforcing the camp-to-career pipeline.

*Photos courtesy of AIYNNetwork.org*
CECA & AIYN have partnered to make the case that the arts are a foundational strategy to deal with young traumatized people.
Los Angeles leads the country in the creative economy, let’s make creative economic pathways a leading model to reduce recidivism!

It’s time to build pathways toward sustainable, creative and lucrative job opportunities for our formerly incarcerated youth.
Get involved by writing creativeeconomy4youth@gmail.com or connect with us 🐦 @CECA4Youth.
Ella Turenne is an artist, activist and educator. She is an Assistant Dean for Community Engagement at Occidental College and as an Activist, sits on the Executive Steering Committee of the ‘Inside Out’ Prison Exchange Program. Ella recently wrote and performed her first one women show, "Love, Locs & Liberation," a solo show about beauty identity and empowerment. For more, visit www.ellaturenne.com.

Tiffany Judkins is a documentary filmmaker and educator. She produces brand videos and documentaries through her company, Kinship Filmworks. Currently, she is in production on the documentary series, Urban Food Chain and researching her thesis film The Activists’ Toolkit for her Visual Anthropology, MA at University of Southern California, (2017). Tiffany also develops arts programs for youth that promote media literacy.

Jennifer Cuevas is an arts advocate and a Freelance Communications Consultant with a passion for performance and visual art, public affairs and policy. She is currently leading PR efforts for Academia Avance Charter School, in support of their Kids Bridge Leadership youth vote campaign. Her work in arts marketing, PR and event curation, has helped cultivate LA’s multicultural arts and Latinx music scenes for more than 15 years.