



One Lawndale Arts & Activism Incubator

Dear Ones,

I hope you are well. I hope you are warm and safe. I hope we are thriving. I hope to see you soon in community. Best of all, **I am so hopeful that when things seem at their very darkest there is always the greatest potential for growth and light.** Right?

Please join OLAAI in celebrating this moment, as we are on the eve of a big step. Tomorrow we will be kicking off with a Lawndale youth cohort our inaugural project, the Artivism Project of Lawndale!

It is no accident this first programming day is the rest day on the first week of a new Administration with its wicked beginning. It is no accident that OLAAI partners with Kaleb Germinaro, Assistant Professor of Curriculum & Instruction and his students on a powerful new youth participatory action research collaboration that brings people of all ages together to uplift youth voice and and centers their artistic resistance together, in shared new beginnings. We have put much intention into making a collaborative team (read more below) to create the container for APL and who will tend to the growth as we make the One Lawndale Youth Archive come to life with our young researchers!

We give big gratitude for all the alignment and power and love that building this project has brought and want to share our actions and invite you to reflect and act, too!

What are the ways your path is aligning to connection and love right now? Are you stepping forward towards your dreams, or is this hibernation season calling you to plot and rest? We know that hearing from the youth tomorrow will be an inspiring call to recommit to making the world a better place: following their lead, unlearning what does not serve the future, and building liberation together.

iVamonos mi gente!

Meet the Artivism Project of Lawndale Adult Crew



Nate Olison

Founder of Optimist Comix and APL Facilitator. Nate has jumped in and done an amazing job with recruiting cohort members, communicating with them and bringing social emotional brilliance into the container we are planning.

Danielle Thompson Davis

Founder of Sweetest InSight and APL Curriculum Container Consultant. Danielle has leaped into learning about Lawndale, auditing Kaleb's YPAR class, and turning great questions and ideas into plans for activism and change.



Amajay Smith

OLAAL Winter Intern and Bennett Day School Junior Student Extraordinaire. Jay recently designed a giant One Lawndale map for APL students and will use his artwork to feature a series of posts highlighting our awesome APL student cohort next.

Kaleb Germinaro

Youth Participatory Action Research Super Hero and Youth Advocate. Kaleb gives freely of his expertise and experience from supporting hella rad YPAR projects in Seattle. We are blessed to also connect with his UIC students in his YPAR class this semester!





Cecily Langford

APL Chief Rocker & synergy builder. Cecily really enjoyed visiting and recruiting from Farragut & Ombudsman high schools and talking with interested candidates. Returning to UIC for Kaleb's YPAR class is fun.

OLAAl is thrilled to partner with Theatre Y to host the APL cohort right in the middle of LAWNDALe.
Thank you, Theatre Y!



Donor Corner

Aly Stout

Principal,

Impact Academy

Middle School

Hayward, CA



OLAAl recently received Aly's generous donation.

Aly has made a multi-year commitment and her funding enables a whole WORLD of support for the operations and programming costs of OLAAl!

Muchas gracias, Aly.



Yo! OLAAl gives big thanks to Healing Illinois for awarding us funds to launch our **One Lawndale Youth Unity Project** that builds from APL into the summer.

We are looking for interested partners for our One Lawndale Unity Dinner coming up in April, as one part of this initiative.

Please contact Cecily to explore partnerships at cecily@onelawndalearts.org



OLAAl Connects

Cecily had a great experience co-facilitating a professional development learning session with **Lilly Cruz**, Director of Partnerships & Learning at Ingenuity. It was called, Understanding School Community: Creating Intentional Arts Ed Partnerships. She told the origin story of OLAAl, looking at Lawndale history and her own adolescence as ways to understand community wealth. ¡Mil gracias, Lilly!

We look forward to connecting with you.





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