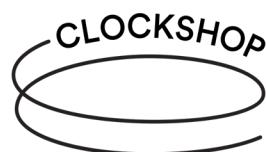


# CLOCKSHOP ANNUAL REPORT



2024



2025



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# A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

These have been dark times for those of us who love Los Angeles and care deeply about its future. 2025 started with our city on fire; ended with the longest government shutdown in history; and in the meantime, our neighbors have been under constant threat—from masked ICE agents, from food and housing insecurity, from climate disaster. However, this state of precarity, though extreme right now, is not new. Communities throughout the LA River Watershed, and especially surrounding Clockshop's home in Northeast LA, have been facing a cycle of disinvestment and displacement that severs their connection to land, water, and place, clearing the way for extractive development and cultural erasure. This disconnection began with colonialism but feels extremely accelerated over the past decade. Accessible (and safe) public green spaces are inequitably distributed throughout the city. At the same time, artists—whose practices could help reimagine more just and connected futures—are constrained by commodification, dwindling public support, and their own financial precarity.

Despite all of this, I have seen Angelenos show up for each other, again and again, in ways both large and small, creative and nimble in addressing the goliath challenges we face. We have shown up through mutual aid, through organized information networks; and through the work of pro bono lawyers, researchers, artists, organizers, social service providers, and cooperative housing developers. Each figuring out how to leverage the system, game the system, change the system. This resilience speaks to a city dedicated to openness, creativity, diversity, and care for our neighbors—and has been a source of light in the darkness. For Clockshop, our many layers of interconnected communities and partners have kept us going through a very uncertain time. From artistic and co-creative communities, to neighborhood communities (both those who have been there for generations and newcomers who desire to be allies in the fight against gentrification), to communities of land and water protectors who speak for the rights of our natural systems and other-than-human kin, we have witnessed time and again what mycelia begins to spread when these multi-valent groups begin to interconnect, support one another, and strengthen their bonds.

Because we have seeded this work over the last 20+ years and seen firsthand its impacts, Clockshop's new strategic vision interweaves these three key pillars and the communities that undergird them—artists, lands, and neighborhoods—to co-create resilience and vitality throughout the LA River Watershed. Although our home and center will always be in Northeast LA, orienting ourselves throughout the Los Angeles River Watershed as a whole offers a natural geographic frame that resists colonial boundaries. Flowing from headwaters to ocean, it connects mountains, tributaries, neighborhoods, and histories into one living system. Looking to the watershed as orientation, rather than county or city lines, draws us into older and more enduring ways of seeing place—ways that recognize interconnection, interdependence, and shared responsibility.

In the words of naturalist and writer Robert MacFarlane, **“Our fate flows with that of rivers, and always has.”**

I am so proud of where we have been and where we will go, shepherded by a team whose creativity, rigor, and care make possible our deep work across lands, artists, and neighborhoods. We are backed and buoyed by our many-layered communities that all share one thing in common: we love this oft-beleaguered city, its lands and waters and people and creativity; and we want to collectively thrive, experience belonging and care, and bounce back stronger than ever from anything that tries to hold us back. We remain, as ever, committed to this work, in solidarity and reciprocity with the ecosystems we are part of.

We are grateful to you for being part of our community.

With gratitude -



Sue Bell Yank,  
Executive Director



**“Clockshop’s new strategic vision interweaves these three key pillars and the communities that undergird them—artists, lands, and neighborhoods—to co-create resilience and vitality throughout the LA River Watershed.”**

# OUR WORK

**Clockshop works with artists to deepen the connection between communities and public land to build a shared vision of a future based in belonging and care.**

As a Los Angeles-based arts and culture nonprofit, Clockshop produces free public programming and commissions contemporary artist projects on public land to better connect Angelenos to the land we live on.

We address the climate crisis as a cultural problem that requires equitable cultural solutions. Through long-term collaborations with artists, like-minded partners, and local stakeholders, Clockshop promotes ecological stewardship and climate resilience among the communities we serve. Our projects center working-class communities of color in LA and aim to support the well-being and vitality of multiple communities. Whether Indigenous, African American, Latinx, Asian American, Pacific Islander, or immigrants living in LA, we shape the city's future together.

We bring this mission to public spaces through the Los Angeles River Watershed, Los Angeles State Historic Park in Chinatown, and Rio de Los Angeles State Park ("The Bowtie") in Glassell Park, in collaboration with California State Parks.

Our work is at the nexus of art and environmental justice, and falls into four broad initiatives: **artist commissions, community programs, youth stewardship, and environmental justice advocacy.**

## ARTIST COMMISSIONS

We partner with artists to produce place-based contemporary art installations on public land in Los Angeles. We believe art can be a portal through which we glimpse a different, brighter future, and a catalyst for an emotional connection to place.

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

We host many free, accessible public programs each year to bring multiple generations together to work towards a future of belonging and care for our local neighborhoods and city as a whole.

## YOUTH STEWARDSHIP

We provide land-based, creative educational programs for Angelenos of all-ages with a focus on empowering youth voices around land stewardship and climate justice.

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY

As a nonprofit cooperating association with CA State Parks, we foster long-term relationships with elected officials to advocate for just environmental policies and adequate funding, networking and collaborating with other grassroots nonprofit organizations working to protect and expand spatial justice in Northeast LA.

# OUR CORE VALUES

## TRUST ART

We believe that art provokes new ways of thinking and nurtures possibility.

## ROOT IN PLACE

We believe that cultural programs connect people to the places where they live and engender welcome, belonging, and care.

## REIMAGINE EXPERTISE

We believe that we learn best through non-hierarchical dialogue that honors the expertise of lived experience.

## TAKE TIME

We believe that meaningful change takes time, and is actualized through long-term commitments and partnerships.

## PROTECT PUBLIC LAND

We believe that bringing people together on public land inspires stewardship, democracy, and interconnection.

## ENVISION LIBERATION

We believe that dismantling injustice, inequality, and racism demands a radical commitment to structural change.

## SUPPORT CLIMATE RESILIENCE

We believe that connecting people in natural environments on public land through artistic and cultural events can provide a pathway for communities to directly address the growing impacts of climate change.



Clockshop Team, Photograph by Mathew Scott

# OUR TEAM

## STAFF

**Sue Bell Yank**<sup>1</sup>  
*Executive Director*

**Julia Meltzer**<sup>2</sup>  
*Founder and Senior Advisor of Community and Government Partnerships*

**Cat Yang**<sup>3</sup>  
*Director of Artist Projects*

**Caroline Kanner**<sup>4</sup>  
*Youth and Family Programs Manager*

**Darío Herrera**<sup>5</sup>  
*Community Programs Manager*

**Katie Janss**<sup>6</sup>  
*Development Manager (until 2025)*

**Rhombie Sandoval**<sup>7</sup>  
*Communications and Social Media Manager*

**Isabel Yi Jimenez**<sup>8</sup>  
*Artist Projects Manager*

**Mariam M.F. Tabatabae**  
*Special Events and Development Coordinator*

## COLLABORATORS

**Naree Kae**, Graphic Designer | **Isa Eugenio**, Graphic Designer (until 2025) **Chris Tyler**, Grant Writer (until 2025) | **Annette Johnson**, Grant Writer | **Susan Lamb**, M&E Consultant | **Annie Lascoe Palmer**, Development Director | **Ivanna Baranova**, Grant Writer and Editor (until 2025) | **Chris Votek**, Sound Engineer | **Adrian Garcia**, Sound Engineer | **Jasmine Brandon**, Summer Youth Fellowship Co-Facilitator | **Hugo Garcia**, Community Engagement | **Gina Clyne**, Photographer | **Mathew Scott**, Photographer | **Em Yue**, Content Creator | **Virginia Espino**, Take Me to Your River Interviewer | **Eugene Yi**, Take Me to Your River Interviewer | **Emilio Elias-Marchevsky**, Getty Marrow Curatorial Intern

We are grateful to nuestra maestra de español, **Azucena Durán**, who has been instructing many of us non-native Spanish speakers. We are thankful to **Alexia Veytia-Rubio** and **Josephine Chen** for their translation work. Thank you to elysian's **David Thorne**, who provides vital support at our office. Finally, our deepest gratitude to the many paid volunteers and event staff who have supported our larger programs over the last year—we can't do this without you!



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Andy Wong  
*President*

Mia Locks  
*Vice-President*

Ignacio Perez Meruane  
*Secretary*

Kevin Kane  
*Treasurer*

Katherine Bray-Simons

York Chang

Ayasha Guerin

Kristina Kite

Meldia Yesayan

Julia Meltzer

Sue Bell Yank



“Being on the board of Clockshop means I get to witness how a truly equitable organization functions. They integrate an ethics of care into every aspect of their organization and program, including the annual kite festival, which is my favorite event of the year. What could be better than a free event with food and music where thousands of folks from various communities across Los Angeles come together to fly kites?”

Mia Locks  
*Vice-President*



Ayasha Guerin reads at *Reading by Moonrise: Benefit for Altadena Libraries*, Photograph by Gina Clyne

We recognize the fruitful years of board service of **Claire Bowin**, **Vali Chandrasekaran**, and **Cynthia Vargas**, who stepped down within the last year. Thank you for your years of commitment to strengthening the connection between communities and public land through art.

“Clockshop advocates for the protection of public lands on so many fronts, but perhaps most importantly through programs that bring artists and communities in dialogue with each other and the land they inhabit. I’m proud to be on the board of an organization that is always considering and reconsidering what role art can play in a more equitable and livable city.”

Ignacio Perez Meruane  
*Secretary*



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

7

COMMISSIONED ARTISTS

18

PUBLIC EVENTS

30,000+

ARTWORK VIEWERS

OVER 10,700

EVENT PARTICIPANTS



*Songs of Emerging Endangerment* workshop attendees explore LA State Historic Park, Photograph by Gina Clyne

# SOLIDARITY AND CARE

In 2025, as Los Angeles faced compounding crises—from wildfires to intensified state violence against immigrant communities—Clockshop responded by leaning into care, collaboration, and solidarity. Through public programs, mutual aid efforts, and partnerships with local organizations, we affirmed our commitment to this city and the people who call it home.

On February 1, the first day of Black History Month, we hosted a special *Reading by Moonrise* centering the work of Octavia E. Butler in support of the Altadena Library Foundation. We're especially grateful to our readers—**Ayasha Guerin**, Altadena co-Poet Laureates **Lester Graves Lennon** and **Sehba Sarwar**, **Maryam Hosseinzadeh**, **Sesshu Foster**, **Empress Of**, **Lynne Thompson**, and **York Chang**—and to everyone who contributed, attended, and stood with us in support of public libraries. Thanks to the generosity of our community, we met our goal.

This year, we also organized and hosted three mutual aid volunteer days in January, April, and June. Across these three days, volunteers showed up in the dozens to cook, assemble, and package 180 meals for community members across the city.

This spirit of solidarity became even more urgent in the months that followed. Over the summer, ICE—backed by the National Guard, the U.S. Marine Corps, Border Patrol, and LAPD—conducted a series of coordinated raids across Los Angeles, targeting immigrant communities and individuals. On August 9, our *Listening by Moonrise* program at Los Angeles State Historic Park focused on raising funds for CLUE's Detained Immigrant Bond Fund and sharing resources from Rapid Art Workers Response.

This year reminded us that showing up matters. Whether through a poetry reading, a meal packed with care, or a hand raised in protest, these moments stitched us closer to our community. We are proud of what we were able to do, and we remain committed to the ongoing work of solidarity in action.



Mutual Aid Volunteers, Photograph by Mathew Scott

# WELCOMING OUR NEIGHBORS



We welcomed longtime Northeast LA partner organization, LA Más, back into our space in September. We previously shared space with them from 2018 to 2020. Over the past year, LA Más has initiated the Somos NELA project, a bimonthly night market that provides economic development for vendors in Northeast LA. Somos NELA gives us the opportunity to open our space to our neighbors, connect with local vendors, and share our *Take Me to Your River* project with the families who attend. We are excited to see how our work together will grow and develop in 2026.



Photographs by Gina Clyne

# SONGS OF EMERGING ENDANGERMENT

TJ Shin  
October 25, 2025 –  
February 22, 2026  
Los Angeles State Historic Park

*Songs of Emerging Endangerment*, by artist **TJ Shin**, commissioned by Clockshop, was a sound installation that used mimicry to map systems of global migration. Installed at Los Angeles State Historic Park in a city shaped by Cold War-era urban planning and waves of migration from the Asia-Pacific, the project featured a 30-foot-tall sculptural air raid siren that projected a composition of imitated bird calls hourly from dawn to dusk.

In an open call process, over 50 participants connected to regions along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway were asked to imitate the calls of endangered bird species that travel the world's largest bird migratory path. Participants in the first round imitated the field recordings of 15 species, selected based on their image, geographic range, and habitat. In the following rounds, participants mimicked the voices from the previous ones, creating a structure of repetition and response.

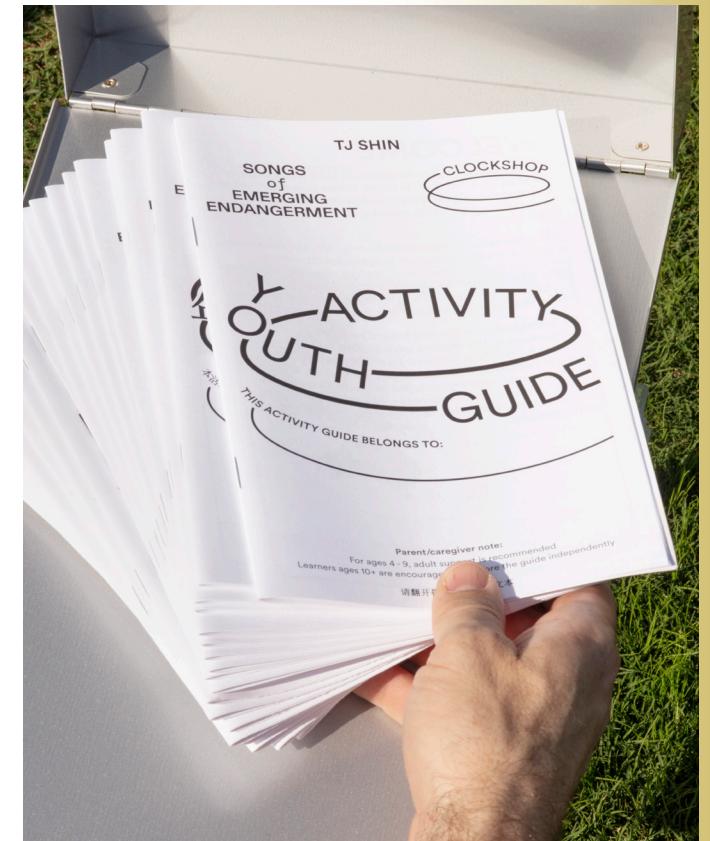
Birdhouse air raid sirens, nicknamed after their appearance and once used as instruments of civic defense until 1985, can still be found throughout the Los Angeles landscape. Projected to hear the calls distinctly in proximity and faintly in distance, the work examines how mimicry—and the differences it produces in process and perception—both extend and transform instruments of the Cold War and their fields of power. The installation invites reflection on the ways our urban spaces are shaped and how our relationships to them might be reimagined.



Fabrication of *Songs of Emerging Endangerment*, Photograph by Mathew Scott



Workshop hosted in collaboration with GYPO



Workshop facilitator Kya-Marina L and a young bird watcher



Photographs by Gina Clyne



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
City of Los Angeles



Clockshop's projects at Los Angeles State Historic Park are supported through our long-standing partnership with California State Parks. The production of this work was generously supported by Accelerated Resilience Los Angeles (ARLA), the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, the Los Angeles Department of Arts and Culture, and Deborah and Colin Dayton. Special thanks to Eric Blumberg, Adrian Garcia, A Fab Shop, Foothill Steel Works, and 58 participants who contributed their calls.



TJ Shin at the opening reception, Photograph by Gina Clyne

# READING & LISTENING BY MOONRISE

Clockshop's seasonal *Listening by Moonrise* program features performances and immersive sound experiences with leading multidisciplinary sound artists on or close to the full moon. The program offers attendees an opportunity to collectively reflect, connect, and enjoy music and sound in a community-centered green space.



Lynne Thompson, Photograph by Gina Clyne

## READING BY MOONRISE: BENEFIT FOR ALTADENA LIBRARIES

February 1, 2025  
Clockshop

In Clockshop's courtyard, this program featured writers and artists with a direct connection to Altadena public libraries, including Altadena Co-Poet Laureates **Lester Graves Lennon** and **Sehba Sarwar, Empress Of, Sesshu Foster, Maryam Hosseinzadeh**, and **Lynne Thompson**. Clockshop's board members and artists, **York Chang** and **Ayasha Guerin**, opened and closed with passages from Octavia E. Butler. All proceeds went to support the Altadena Library Foundation and the LA County Library Foundation's LA Wildfires Connected Wellness Campaign.

## SUPPORT

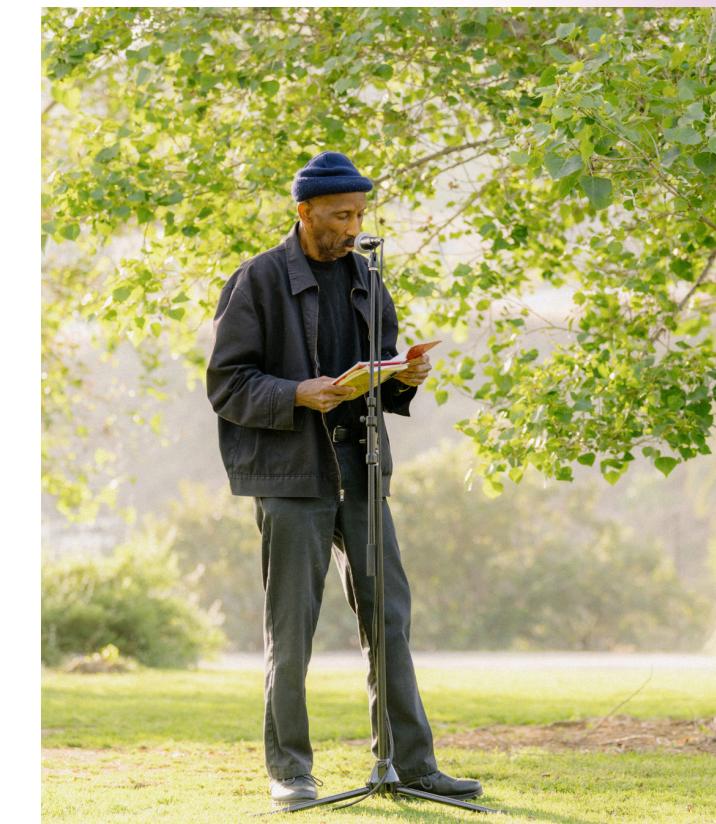
This program is supported through our long-standing partnership with California State Parks. Additional support by Accelerated Resilience Los Angeles (ARLA).

**ARLA**

## READING BY MOONRISE

April 12, 2025  
Los Angeles State Historic Park

April, National Poetry Month, heralded the spring return of *Reading by Moonrise* with a program curated by **Ivanna Baranova**, presenting performances by **Will Alexander, Kayla Ephros, jimmy vega, and Sarah Yanni**. This installment foregrounded the work of Los Angeles-based poets and luminaries beneath the grove of trees in the northern wetlands of Los Angeles State Historic Park.



Will Alexander, Photograph by Mathew Scott

## LISTENING BY MOONRISE

August 9, 2025  
Los Angeles State Historic Park

This summer music program gathered attendees under the sycamore trees of Los Angeles State Historic Park for two oud performances by **Wadood** and **The Dude with the Oud**. All proceeds went to CLUE's Detained Immigrant Bond Fund, which reunites Angelino families and communities with their loved ones in detention.



Photograph by Gina Clyne

## LISTENING BY MOONRISE X TAKE ME TO YOUR RIVER

November 5, 2025  
Los Candiles

This event broadened *Listening by Moonrise* to embrace long-standing neighborhood landmarks, such as the iconic nightclub Los Candiles. The evening featured a cumbia dance lesson led by **King Dance**, a performance by **Marco Ortiz**, one of Los Angeles's premier Juan Gabriel impersonators, and a set by **Azucar LA**, who returned to the very stage where they performed their first show 17 years ago.

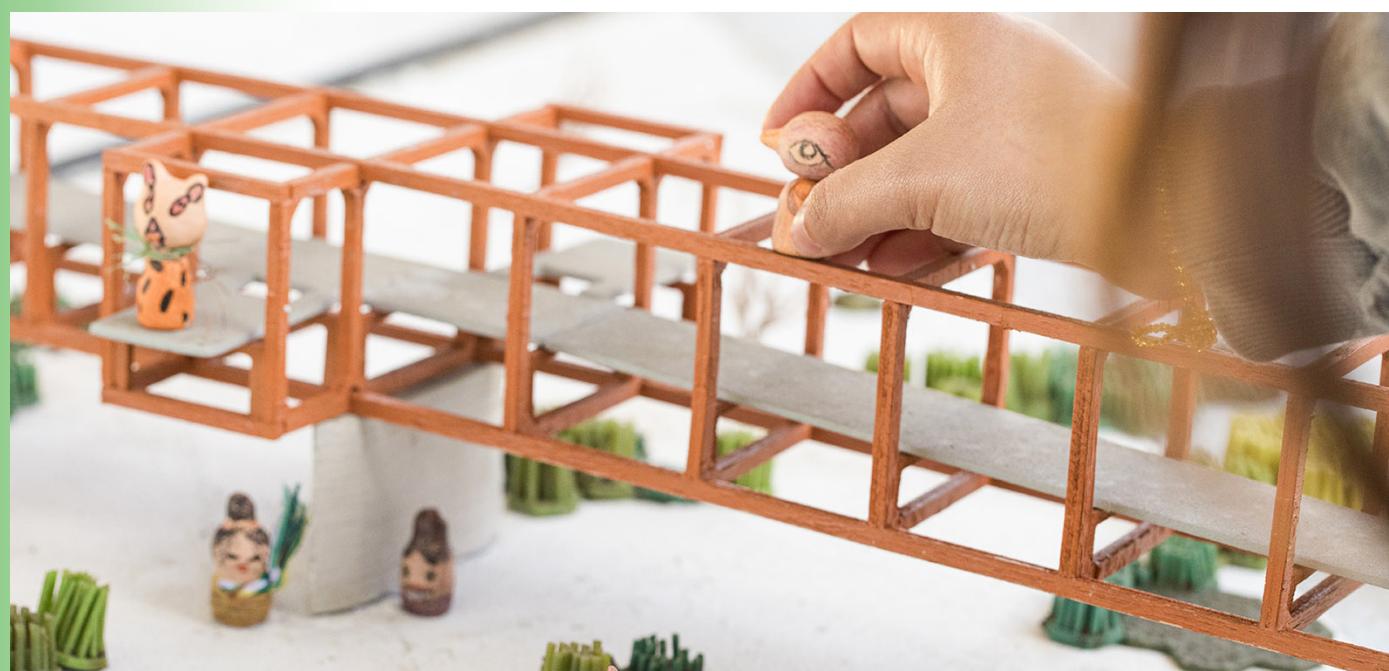


Photograph by Gina Clyne

# TAKE ME TO YOUR RIVER

*Take Me to Your River: A Cultural Atlas of the LA River* is a three-year collective history and cultural mapping project that celebrates the diverse experiences of those who call Northeast LA home, specifically the neighborhoods that surround the Glendale Narrows section of the Los Angeles River. The project is a dynamic reflection on how this area is rapidly and drastically changing. As gentrification displaces local residents, it also erases the complex histories of these neighborhoods.

We continue to update the project website and accompanying Substack with new interviews and stories of local area residents, businesses, creatives, and others. In addition to our digital footprint, this year we collaborated with community partners and artists to provide opportunities for diverse audiences to interact with and learn about the cultural atlas. We hosted workshops inviting children and adults to imagine the LA River as their playground. Partnering with the LA Public Library, we held a film screening and oral history workshops with the Inclusive Infrastructure Design Lab series at three Northeast LA branches. We ended the year with a special *Listening by Moonrise* event at Los Candiles Night Club, honoring this important center of community and joy.



## PLAY IS A WILD THING

March 8, 2025 and  
April 5 & 12, 2025  
Inclusive Infrastructure  
Design Lab

This two-part workshop, led by **Ako Castuera** in collaboration with the Inclusive Infrastructure Design Lab, invited participants to explore the Los Angeles River using tech decks, hand puppets, and a 60-foot model of the river. Through play, attendees were encouraged to see public space in a new way and connect with their everyday surroundings beyond the physical constraints of the landscape, instead encouraging them to tap into their imagination.



## GNARLY CHARLY FILM SCREENING

May 18, 2025  
Central Library

Alongside animator **Elizabeth Ito** and Chromosphere Studio, we worked to bring Cultural Atlas participant **Charly Hinojosa**'s story to life. Charly's passion for cycling, "bike punk," and his community were conveyed through this animated short film. We held public screenings at Vidiots Theater in Eagle Rock and at the Downtown Central Library as part of the LA Made programming series. Following the screenings, attendees were invited to stay for a panel discussion and to reflect on the impacts of gentrification on historically working-class communities in Northeast LA.

## GNARLY CHARLY



## ORAL HISTORY IN MOTION WORKSHOPS

September 20, October 18, and November 1, 2025

Cypress Park Branch Library

In tandem with the LA Public Library's new archiving initiative, CommUnity, we demonstrated the professional oral history equipment available for checkout at LA Public Libraries through a series of three workshops at local Northeast LA libraries, encouraging library-goers to conduct their own oral history projects. Following the workshops, we screened all four short films that Clockshop has created, which highlight the experiences of residents in these Los Angeles neighborhoods.



Marco Ortiz performing at Los Candiles, Photograph by Mathew Scott

## ***LISTENING BY MOONRISE X TAKE ME TO YOUR RIVER***

November 5, 2025

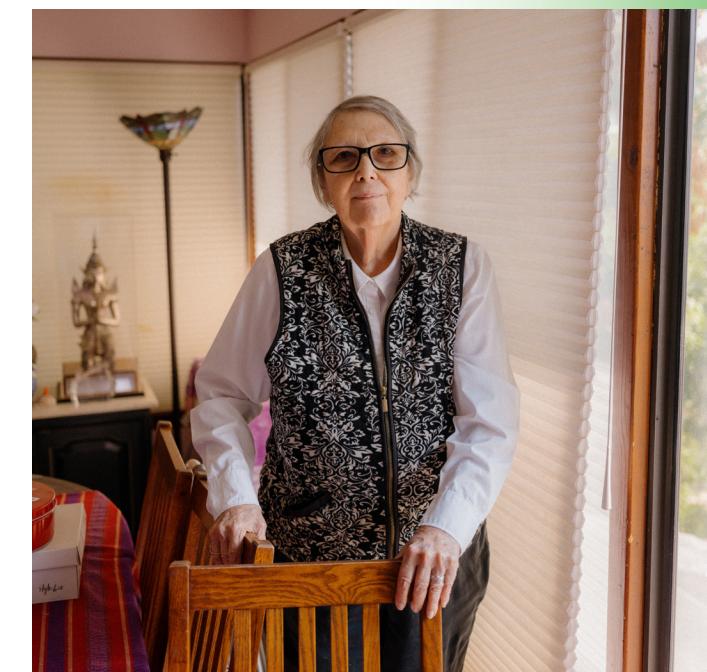
Los Candiles

The final *Listening by Moonrise* event of the year was a truly special edition, hosted at Los Candiles Night Club in Glassell Park. As part of our Cultural Atlas, we had the privilege of interviewing both the second-generation owner and several of the performers who help keep this beloved cultural landmark alive. Taking place on the night of the full moon, the evening celebrated music, culture, and community—honoring nearly fifty years of legacy at one of the last remaining Latino nightclubs in the area. A wild and fun time was had by all. This program is an example of how we will be highlighting legacy businesses in Northeast LA, further bringing our Cultural Atlas to life.

## SUPPORT



Joyce Cooper, Photographed by Mathew Scott



Photographs by Mathew Scott

# 5TH ANNUAL KITE FESTIVAL

May 17, 2025  
Los Angeles State Historic Park

Clockshop's Kite Festival brings together diverse communities in Los Angeles through the art of kites and a day of joyful connection on public land. During this landmark fifth anniversary year, the festival was organized around the theme "Entangled in Community," celebrating the relationships that emerge on public land and the communities that created and sustain Los Angeles State Historic Park.



Photographs by Mary Costa



Photograph by Mathew Scott



## KITE COMPETITION

The Handcrafted Kitemakers' Competition welcomes kitemakers of all ages and skill levels, from beginner to experienced, to showcase their creations. Clockshop invited Kite Masters from around Southern California to award the top three designs based on creativity, structure, and craftsmanship. The winners then took to the stage to celebrate with the audience.

## KITE COMMISSION

Each year, Clockshop commissions a contemporary artist to use the form of the kite to create imagery related to the natural environment of the park and speak to its history. This year's artist, **Maria Maea**, presented two unique kite forms rooted in the connective threads between Latin American and Oceanic cultural traditions. Their flight celebrates connection beyond borders, where open airspace and ocean channels become conduits and bridges between these geographies.



Photograph by Mary Costa



Photographs by Gina Clyne, Mary Costa, and Mathew Scott





Photograph by Gina Clyne



Photograph by Gina Clyne

## ECO-FRIENDLY KITE-MAKING STATION

In an effort to limit plastic waste, Clockshop provided donation-based, ready-to-assemble paper and bamboo kites. Festival-goers customized their kites at the decoration station before volunteers helped them complete the kite assembly. In total, Clockshop assembled and distributed 850 eco-friendly kites before and during the festival.

## ART-MAKING WORKSHOPS

Clockshop hosted two all-ages art-making workshops at the Kite Festival. **Hiromi Paper** led a workshop introducing attendees to the colorful Japanese craft of orizome, a traditional paper folding and dyeing technique. **Eugene Ahn** invited attendees to learn about ropework in his Knot Exploration workshop, where attendees practiced knot-tying skills by adding to a large-scale



Photograph by Gina Clyne



Photograph by Mathew Scott

## PLEIN AIR WATERCOLOR PERFORMANCE

Los Angeles-based watercolor artist **Sterling Wells** demonstrated the process of painting en plein air, or “in open air,” in a real-time performance. Wells painted the skyscape of kites in flight, the cultural hub of Chinatown’s stretch of Broadway, and the greenery of Elysian Park’s Radio Hill.

# SUMMER ART AND ADVOCACY YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Clockshop's Summer Art & Advocacy Youth Fellowship is an annual, 6-week-long, cohort-based summer program for high school students in Northeast LA. Through workshops with subject matter experts, field trips, and collaborative projects, fellows explore their own neighborhoods through the lenses of art, ecology, and politics. The fellowship is tuition-free, and fellows directly receive a \$2,500 award to be used toward future educational endeavors.



Photographs by Mathew Scott

This year, the fellowship's curriculum expanded to include a three-day camping trip at Malibu Creek State Park. Fellows hiked, swam, and explored the many different ecosystems that comprise the park. They worked together to set up tents, plan and clean up meals, and followed the ethos of "leave no trace" to show their care for the land they were learning, eating, and sleeping on.

Every year in the final weeks of the fellowship, the cohort has the opportunity to envision, plan, and execute a large-scale collaborative project. This process supports them in developing important advocacy and career skills, including budgeting, group decision-making, and public speaking. This year, our fellows hosted a *Northeast LA United*, which featured open-mic oral history storytelling, music, art activities, neighborhood food vendors, and resources to support community resilience and flourishing.

## SUPPORT

**ARLA**



## OVER THE COURSE OF THE SUMMER, FELLOWS:

Learn about the ecology of the Los Angeles River and our local public lands and parks

Collaborate with professional artists

Explore strategies for advocating for political change in Los Angeles

Grow leadership skills by imagining and actualizing a collaborative final project

Build community with other high schoolers from across Northeast LA



“We all shared ideas in a way. We all took leadership positions, and we all took a step into things.”

**Zyanya**



Test Plot Workshop, Photograph by Mathew Scott

“I feel more connected with the community. It made me feel like I belong here more instead of just someone who’s just living here.”

**Leah**



Fellows at Northeast LA United, Photograph by Gina Clyne



Fellows at Malibu Creek State Park, Photograph by Mathew Scott



Elk Pen Workshop, Photograph by Mathew Scott



Fellows at Northeast LA United, Photograph by Gina Clyne

“This summer has made me feel like I can take something on, not only with the support through the program, but I feel like I’m prepared to do it without the support.”

**Kate**



Test Plot Workshop, Photograph by Mathew Scott

“Compared to school, it’s just way more involvement, personal involvement, and you get to go on a deeper level where you can share your experiences and be vulnerable.”

**Joshua**



Fellows hold signs created during Elk Pen Workshop, Photograph by Mathew Scott

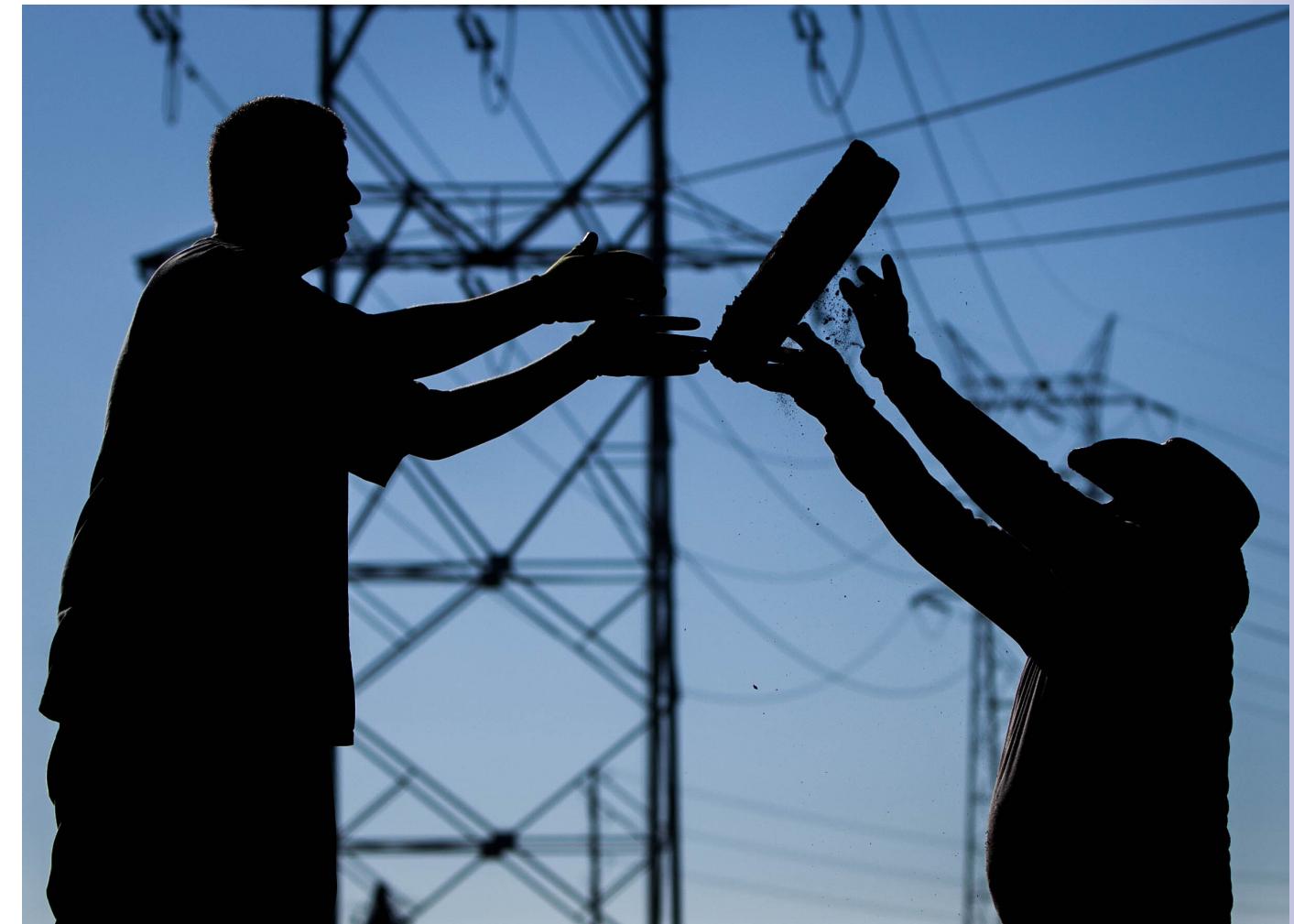
# BOWTIE PARK PROJECT

The Bowtie Park Project, which Clockshop has been activating since 2014, made significant leaps toward becoming a reality in 2025. The work to build an 18-acre public park from a former industrial site is often long and complex, especially when remediation of the land is a part of the process. We have learned to embrace and celebrate the milestones—the small markers of progress—when they arrive. Watching the construction process on the Bowtie Wetland Project, the first 3.5 acres of the park that will open our neighborhood communities (and beyond) in 2027, has been deeply emotional. Our north star has been seeing the curves of what will become a thriving riparian habitat and sometimes flowing creek (which will also clean 3,000 acres of stormwater before it enters the LA River) take shape. We have been deeply engaged in advocating and fundraising for a Welcome Center and Community Classroom, as well as a permanent art piece by artist **Rosten Woo** on the site. We solidify it as a site for art, cultural celebration, and climate resilience for future generations.

Commissioned artists (and honorees at our 2025 Gala), rafa esparza and Beatriz Cortez at the Bowtie, Photographs by Gina Clyne



The Nature Conservancy's Bowtie Wetland Project is fully under construction, and we held multiple tours for elected officials, including Senator **Maria Elena Durazo** and staff, Assemblymember **Jessica Caloza**, Congressmember **Laura Friedman**'s staff, and LA City Council District 1 staff. During these tours, we connected with elected officials to show the progress made with the funds they helped secure, and introduced them to the work we have done to collect oral histories of the neighborhoods surrounding The Bowtie through our *Take Me to Your River* project. We also made progress in securing EPA funds, which are still available as of this writing, and submitted several large government grants to close the gap on \$5 million that still needs to be raised. We can confirm that plans for The Bowtie will be finalized by 2026, and construction on Phase Two, the next 7 acres, will begin in 2027. Our work continues.



rafa esparza, *building: a simulacrum of power*, 2014, Photograph by Gina Clyne



In August 2025 Clockshop and Nature Conservancy staff toured the Bowtie site with **Senator Maria Elena Durazo** (4th from right) and **Assemblymember Jessica Caloza** (5th from right) and **State Parks Director Armando Quintero** (between Durazo and Caloza). Our fundraising for the Bowtie involves engaging and educating our electeds on our progress.

# A NOTE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

“Let us speak...LET US SPEAK!”

These chants sparked a protest that shut down the Metro Board meeting on December 4, 2025, convened to consider the proposed gondola to Dodger Stadium. Although the vote did not go the way we hoped as advocates for Los Angeles State Historic Park, a vociferous and well-organized group maintained momentum to Stop the Gondola by asserting our right to speak after the project was placed on the “consent calendar,” which would have eliminated public comment. What might have been a pro forma step toward completing the gondola instead drew public attention to the potential loss of more than 100 trees and other serious impacts, as chants of “LA State Historic Park is not for sale!” continued until the Board retreated to a closed session and ultimately allowed a full hour of public comment.

During that time, collective action went into full swing. Clockshop Youth and Family Program Manager **Caroline Kanner** spoke with a reporter from LAist. When local television news reporters interviewed a supporter of the gondola, Executive Director **Sue Bell Yank** alerted Stop the Gondola founder **Phyllis Ling** to counter with her own interview. Founder and Senior Advisor of Community and Government Partnerships **Julia Meltzer** struck up a conversation with and seemingly changed the mind of a young supporter of the gondola. Director of Community Engagement **Hugo Garcia** was among those who showed up early to squeeze into the boardroom before it reached capacity. Dedicated Clockshop supporter and UCLA professor **Jon Christensen** spoke eloquently and forcefully against the gondola. Others were people I know as neighbors who are also leaders of organizations advocating for Elysian Park and other public spaces.

In the end, 42 out of the 52 public commenters spoke against the gondola. We were there that day to protect public lands, but we had to first defend the bureaucratic public space to speak our opposition into the record. Although artist commission projects are at the heart of Clockshop’s programs, organizing efforts to protect public lands show the depth of opportunity and activity that Clockshop facilitates alongside a robust network of environmental justice organizations, neighborhood groups, and others, all striving to build and defend our city’s physical public gathering spaces. The final outcome of the gondola project and its impact on LA State Historic Park and our neighbors are still to be determined, but I’m optimistic for the day we’ll point back to when we showed up together to defend public gathering places.

After completing our strategic planning this year, we became even more clear-eyed in Clockshop’s priorities and how to accomplish them. I continue to welcome you to join us in ways that most suits you: enjoying natural public spaces, experiencing an artist project, allowing *Take Me to Your River* to provide greater depth and meaning to Northeast Los Angeles, or showing up to bring authentic force to chants of “Let us speak!” for public lands.

To the wild,



Andy Wong  
Board President



**“After completing our strategic planning this year, we became even more clear-eyed in Clockshop’s priorities and how to accomplish them. I continue to welcome you to join us in ways that most suits you.”**

# ARTS WORKERS

In 2022, Clockshop embarked on our Culture of Care initiative to ensure that staff receive the benefits, compensation, professional development, and agency necessary to feel fully supported and empowered in their creative work. In 2023, the National Council of Nonprofits released a report that confirmed what our initiative means to address: that nonprofits are particularly susceptible to burnout, with as many as 50.2 percent of respondents citing stress and burnout as key barriers to attracting and retaining talented staff. Our Culture of Care is a continuously evolving and ongoing commitment, one that asks that we check in with ourselves and each other to assess our growth toward our short and long-term goals.

Here's some of what we've achieved so far:

Comprehensive health insurance, including dental and vision benefits

Professional development opportunities

Quarterly office recesses

Monthly staff bonding activities, ranging from pool parties to visiting exhibitions to volunteering together

Spanish language classes for staff

A language justice initiative: producing program and marketing materials in English, Spanish, and Chinese, and providing interpreters for major events

Alongside this process, we have been engaging in a period of self-reflection to measure how well we have adhered to the values we espouse across 20+ years of programming. Using payment records gathered from Clockshop's operational history and comparing aggregated data with current market rates on artist and performance fees in the nonprofit sector, we have produced reports synthesizing the findings. First, we critically examined trends across commissioned artist projects, and now we are turning our attention to our music and reading-based programs. Not only has this demonstrated our consistent dedication to supporting our communities of artists and makers but it's also provided a roadmap on how we can improve the ways we extend care through fair compensation.



timo fahler works on *Por El Río*, 2024 Clockshop commission, Photographs by Mathew Scott



Clockshop's Youth Summit convenes organizations that work with local youth, Photographs by Gina Clyne

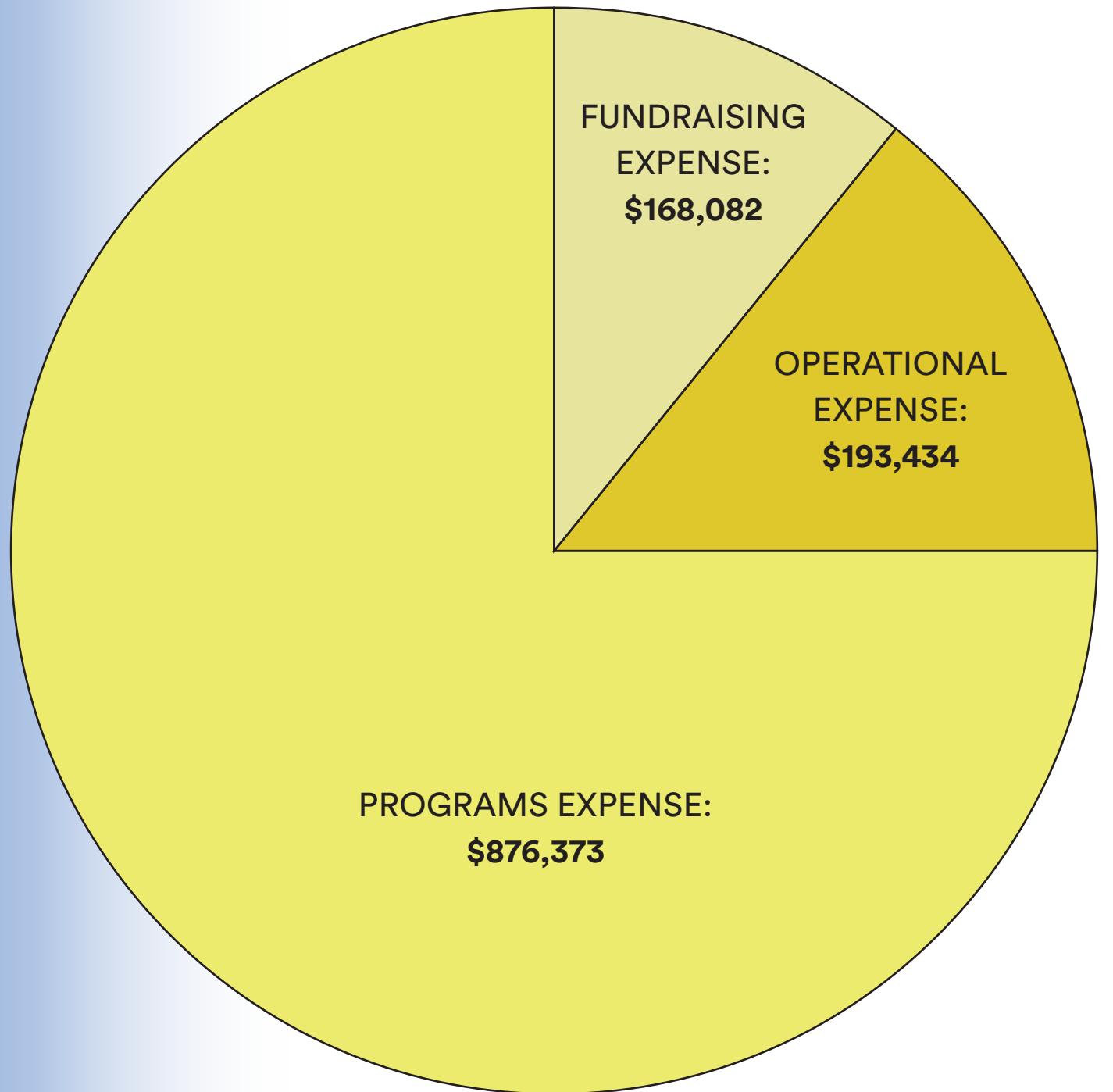


# FINANCIALS

Clockshop strengthened and deepened our programs in 2025, showing up for our neighbors again and again during a very challenging year. Through it all, we continued to invest in our unique co-creative practice, working with artists, lands, and neighborhoods to advance new conversations about public space and our shared resilience as a city. With the collapse of public funding for the arts at every level of government, we have maintained our operating budget through the unwavering and generous support of our partner organizations and community of individual givers.

## FY25 EXPENSES:

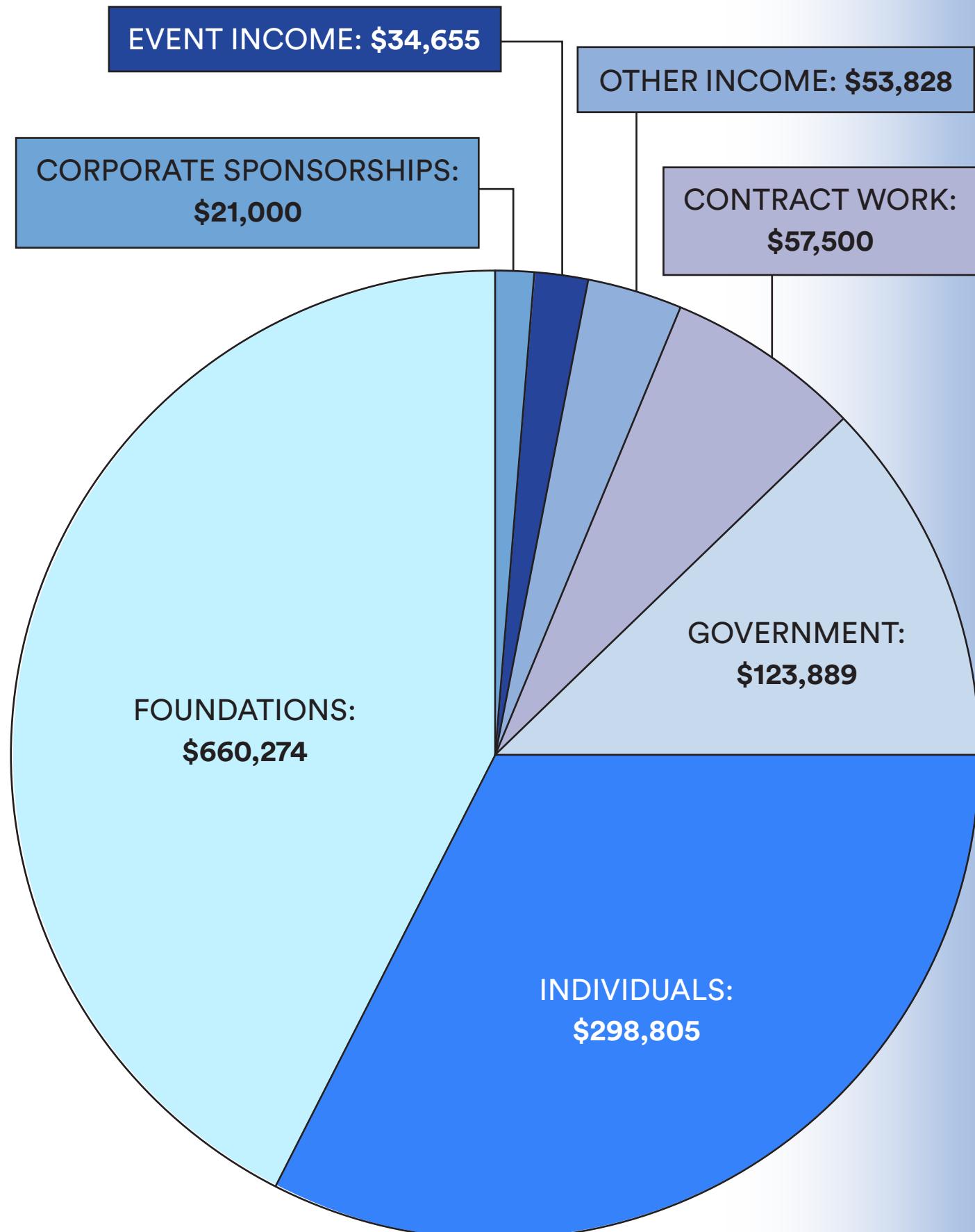
Clockshop prioritizes paying the artists, educators, and culture-bearers who provide their expertise to our programs. This year, we paid artists, designers, photographers and musicians \$130,000 in artist fees.



**TOTAL EXPENSES:** **\$1,237,889**

## FY25 REVENUE:

We continued to grow our individual giving program and foundation partnerships, working to diversify our revenue across different sources to sustain our work, especially in light of drastic government funding cuts.



**TOTAL REVENUE:** **\$1,249,951**

# OUR SUPPORTERS

Clockshop is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and relies on the generosity of our individual donors, partner organizations, and government, corporate, and foundation support. Clockshop's programs in 2024-2025 were supported by:



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Clockshop is a member of and supported by the Los Angeles Visual Arts (LAVA) Coalition.

## CLOCKSHOP CIRCLE

The Clockshop Circle consists of those contributors who join us hand in hand, year after year, as we reimagine public land, ecological stewardship, and care and belonging through a cultural lens. You are not just supporters - you are trusted partners in furthering our mission. We honor your commitment to generously funding our programs and general operations each year.

### STEWARD (\$25,000 OR MORE)

David and Beth Meltzer  
Meltzer-Thorne Family Fund  
Metabolic Studio

### WEAVER (\$10,000-\$24,999)

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...and more who have purchased shop items, donated at programs, and given other donations along the way! Thank you for your generosity.

CLOCKSHOP

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