IMPACT OPPORTUNITIES
GIVE A KID A CAMERA. BUILD A BETTER WORLD.
501 (c)(3) Nonprofit Organization
OUTSIDE THE LENS

We are a 501(c)(3) with global reach, headquartered in San Diego, California. We are passionate about changing lives and making a difference by providing under-served youth and our community with the tools and skills they need to succeed in a digital world.

We are photographers. We are artists. We are filmmakers. We are storytellers. We are changemakers.

Our mission is to empower youth to use photography, filmmaking, and digital media to create change within themselves, their community, and their world.

WHO WE SERVE

- K-12 grade students, with a focus on schools in low-income communities
- Marginalized youth including refugee and migrant families
- Youth affected by domestic violence and human trafficking
- Students connected to the juvenile justice system
- Youth in the foster care system
- Transitional age youth
- Youth affected by homelessness
- Children of active duty military and veterans
- LGBTQ+ youth
- Youth affected by disabilities
WHY IT MATTERS

1. Increasing digital literacy skills is key to opening doors to opportunity.***

2. Digital literacy is directly linked to education and success levels. **

3. Arts programming is decreased in Title I and low income schools.

4. The National Endowment of the Arts states that arts education is the key to a creative economy.

OUR NUMBERS:

- 1,995 STUDENTS
- 22 SCHOOLS
- 22 SCHOOLS ON OUR WAITLIST

LESS THAN 1/2

African American and Hispanic students have less than half of the access to arts education than their Caucasian peers.

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*** US Department of Commerce, Digital Literacy Initiative Fact Sheet
**Source: US Department of Education, National Center for Educational Statistics, May 2018
*Source: Americans for the Arts - Arts Education Navigator, 2013

72% of business leaders say that creativity is the number 1 skill they are seeking when hiring.

Only 7% of schools require a Media Arts course.

94% of superintendents say a Media Arts course builds creativity.
FOUR PROGRAM AREAS

Our innovative programs engage, encourage storytelling, and teach that participation in our community’s future makes a difference.

Through restorative practices and trauma-informed storytelling, we empower youth to become eager learners and active participants in the classroom, the community, and the world.

It is our vision that all youth regardless of income, geography, national origin, or identity have the artistic and technological skills to create and share their stories.

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CAMERAS IN THE CLASSROOMS

We provide professional teaching artists and a rigorous, project-based curriculum aligned with California State Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) standards, National Core Art Standards, Common Core State Standards, and Career Technical Education (CTE) to the youth who need it most.

*Students engaged in the arts are 4 times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement.*

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CAMERAS IN COMMUNITIES

We use the power of digital storytelling to engage underserved communities in the greater San Diego region through film screenings and festivals, skill-building workshops, summer camps, and artist residencies.

*Learning in the arts helps students develop the sense that they can be agents of their own learning and that they can make a positive change in their own lives and in their surroundings.*

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CAMERAS ACROSS CULTURES

Youth continue to build their technical skills through cross-cultural collaborations that foster leadership and exploration through international connections.

Cross-cultural collaborations include: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Thailand, and Toronto.

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CAMERAS AND CAREERS

The High School Youth Council & Flash Forward internship program connect motivated young people with mentors and resources to catalyze their careers in photography, filmmaking, design, and other media professions.

*99% of our Youth Council members attend colleges such as USC, UCLA, and Emerson.*
COMMUNITIES + CLASSROOMS IMPACTED

CITY HEIGHTS:
Cherokee Point Elementary
City Heights Weingart Library
East African Community and Cultural Center
Fay Elementary
Hoover High School
Ibarra Elementary
Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation
Malcolm X Library
ProKids Golf Academy
San Diego Refugee Tutoring
United Women of East Africa

CHULA VISTA:
Chula Vista Unified School District
Edison Middle School
Grossmont Union High School District
John J. Montgomery Elementary
The Learning Choice Academy

EL CAJON:
Chaparral High School
El Cajon Public Library
St. Madeleine Sophie’s Center

NATIONAL CITY:
ARTS: A Reason to Survive
Barrio Logan College Institute
Lincoln High School
Sherman Heights Community Center
Sweetwater High School
Sweetwater Union High School District
Urban Beats

NORTH COUNTY:
Community Resource Center
Encinitas Public Library
Escondido Community School (JCCS)
Glen View Elementary
Innovations Academy of Empowerment
Jefferson Middle School
La Costa Film Festival
O’Farrell Community School
Outdoor Outreach
San Marcos North County Tech (JCCS)
San Marcos Reflections (JCCS)
San Pasqual Academy

SAN DIEGO:
The ALBA School
Becky’s House & Cortez Hill, YWCA
Casa de Amistad
Clairemont High School
Dewey Elementary
Door of Hope
East Village High School
High Tech High Campuses
International Rescue Committee
King-Chavez Community of Schools
La Jolla Elementary
Liberty School
MET High School
Migrant Education Program
Monarch School
Monte Vista High School
Muirlands Middle School
Nativity Prep Academy
New Alternatives
Perkins Elementary
San Diego Diplomacy Council
San Diego Unified School District
San Diego Youth Services
Stella Maris Academy
The Bishop’s School
The Gillispie School
Washington Elementary
TAY Academy
UCSD Extension K-16 Programs
YMCA
92% of our schools are low income and Title 1 schools.

"Photography gives me the chance to be myself. When I take photos I am so happy, and I get to help make others happy too."

Fatuma, Grade 4
San Diego Refugee Tutoring
Cameras in Communities

36% of our programs work with migrant and refugee populations.

"Our journey with the camera brought us together as a new family with a new perspective through which to see the world. I feel even more connected to my friends, my photos, and myself."

Juan, Grade 10
Cameras Across Cultures, Mexico

10% of our programs support those involved with juvenile court systems.
“THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY WE ARE ABLE TO SHARE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES. ART IS A CONVERSATION, CAPABLE OF CHANGING THE WORLD.”

Mady, Grade 12
Cameras in the Classrooms

“OTL IS MY SAFE SPACE. THE PLACE WHERE I CAN EXPLORE MY CREATIVITY AND STEP OUT OF MY COMFORT ZONE. MY CAMERA IS MY VOICE AND MY PICTURES ARE MY FEELINGS.”

Sienna, Grade 12
Youth Council
Cameras and Careers

52% OF OUR SCHOOLS HAVE A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL) STUDENTS.
WHO WE ARE

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OUTSIDE THE LENS

Thank you for your consideration and support.
To learn more about how your business can partner with Outside the Lens to help youth and enrich our community, please contact:

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