



SAY Sí [San Antonio Youth, YES!] Fast Facts SAY Sí Promotes & Provides Creative Youth Development:

Mission:

SAY Sí ignites the creative power of young people as forces of positive change. We value artists, empower marginalized communities and advance culture. SAY Sí defines marginalized communities as people of color, women, LGBT+, and the economically disadvantaged.

Vision:

All young people have equitable access to opportunities to develop their worldview and creative potential, empowering them to live rich, full lives and develop the critical learning and life skills they need to become active contributors to their communities.

A History of Excellence:

- Since 2012, 100% of SAY Sí students have graduated high school.
- SAY Sí's tuition-free programs serve over 200 middle and high school students, ranging in age from 10-19, attending schools in all 12 districts of San Antonio.
- SAY Sí is committed to serving San Antonio's inner-city youth, with a majority of current students coming from low-income households.
- SAY Sí's Artists Building Communities [ABC] program reaches over 4,000 San Antonio youth annually through community programming.
- SAY Sí's class of 2020 included 23 high school seniors who were accepted to colleges across the country, including Oberlin College, Tufts University, DePaul University as well as schools in The University of Texas network and Alamo Community College District. The class of 2020 has been awarded more than \$1.3 million in scholarships.
- SAY Sí is a nationally recognized organization, held up as a model out-of-school-time arts program that, according to The Wallace Foundation, contains quality principles that should be replicated nationwide. [*Something to Say* white paper, 2013]
- SAY Sí is one of seven international youth arts organizations chosen to receive an inaugural **Creative Catalyst Award** by **Adobe Project 1324** on Tuesday, February 8, 2016. Creative Catalyst Awards are given to organizations across the globe that support and inspire the next generation of creative youth.
- **Adobe Project 1324** awards SAY Sí with an Innovation Grant to fund a new SAY Sí-led initiative called **Project Papalote**. Through Project Papalote, SAY Sí staff and youth will travel to Boston, Massachusetts; Salt Lake City, Utah; Mexico City, Mexico and Kolkata, India to work with other youth development organizations to collaboratively create media projects that focus on the theme of identifying borders and breaking boundaries.
- In 2021, SAY Sí will move to 1310 South Brazos Street in San Antonio's westside.

COVID-19 Response:

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, SAY Sí reimagined its programs in commitment to its mission and youth. SAY Sí successfully pivoted from a hands-on studio environment to digital learning sessions. The power of art to connect communities and celebrate culture remains strong despite the challenges of 2020. In fact, in adapting to these challenges, we've modeled creative power and positive change through the following:

- SAY Sí continuously surveyed SAY Sí families to identify and share key resources needed to overcome the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- All studio sessions transitioned to regular Zoom sessions for online learning, with opportunities for youth to connect and share each other online.
- Students received free art supplies, computers and wifi hotspots to ensure that they can continue to connect and create.
- SAY Sí's art supply distribution was expanded to the general community, providing close to 1000 free art kits to San Antonio area youth.
- In place of gallery exhibitions, all SAY Sí events and showcases have been reimagined as virtual programs accessible at saysi.org.
- In order to provide additional creative resources to the community, SAY Sí launched ABC Art Studio Anywhere, a new section at saysi.org dedicated to sharing virtual workshops, tutorials and creative projects that families can do from home.

Core Values:

As a leading creative youth development organization, SAY Sí is committed to creating a premier, inclusive, dynamic and nurturing educational environment for San Antonio's youth through:

- Creativity
- Leadership
- Equity
- Community

Funding Sources:

- Private Foundations: 45%
- Public dollars [city, state & federal]: 34%
- Corporations: 6%
- Individuals: 7%
- Earned Income: 8%