

STEAM ECOSYSTEM Evaluation

Preliminary findings from The Art of Building a City (ABC) Project

Philliber Research & Evaluation

ECOSYSTEM THEORY OF CHANGE

The target population for the ABC Project is **underserved gifted middle school students** in six Title I schools in Long Beach, California.



Community Alignment

The hub organization, Dramatic Results, will align collaborating organizations around developing skills and strategies to engage students by supporting their unique academic and psycho-social needs.



Student Engagement

High-quality STEAM learning activities will foster engagement in classrooms, Saturday and summer programs, and extension opportunities in the community.



Ecosystem Success

Students will gain 21st century skills, maintain academic achievement, increase community engagement, and pursue challenging school and career STEAM pathways. Collaborators will gain capacity to meet student needs.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

In Year 1 of 4, the Art of Building a City (ABC) Project built collaborating organizations' capacity to engage students by offering over 35 hours of workshops and individualized consulting. ABC Collaborators conducted a pilot 10-week Saturday school program and one-week intensive Summer STEAM Institute (SSI), reaching 113 students.



Community Alignment

The Collaborative consists of community organizations, STEAM professionals, students, families, teachers, principals, District administrators, higher education administrators, pre-service teachers, as well as several consultants, volunteers, and observers.

170+

Participants



Student Engagement

The program reached 40% of incoming 6th grade GATE students in the Summer STEAM Institute. The average student attended 4.7 of 5 days.

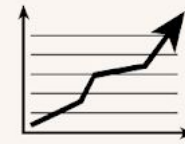
95%

OF PARTICIPATING STUDENTS WANTED MORE



Ecosystem Success

During the 5-day Summer STEAM Institute, students increased in creativity and innovation skills, teamwork, valuing of STEAM fields, and intention to engage further in the STEAM ecosystem.



Most student growth was in confidence in designing and making new things, as well as sharing ideas.

NEXT STEPS

RESEARCH TOOLS

- Student STEAM Survey
- ABC Collaborator Quarterly Survey
- Classroom Observations
- Focus Groups
- Interviews
- District-wide SEL Survey
- Academic Data

Survey results also indicated key areas for focus in upcoming programs are strengthening student **problem solving, perseverance, and ability to make connections** between STEAM activities, core subjects, and careers. Interviews and focus groups with students during the fall Saturday School programs will focus on providing additional context for these findings.

This evaluation will also incorporate a **randomized control trial**. Administrative data from LBUSD will include surveys on social emotional learning and academic achievement data for all GATE (gifted) students in the six program and six control schools.

For more information about this evaluation, including reports and surveys, please contact Dr. Stacie Powers, Senior Associate, Philliber Research & Evaluation, at spowers@philliberresearch.com. **This work is supported by a subcontract from Dramatic Results on US DOE AAEDD Grant U351D180056.**