

The San Diego Creative Youth Development Network & The Clare Rose Foundation: *A Case Story*



This publication is part of a series of tools created to enable deeper connections between creative youth development program leaders and funders:

- [Building Funding Pathways: A Strategy Towards Expanding Funding for the Creative Youth Development Field](#)
- [Mapping Skill to Will: Approaches to Funding Creative Youth Development in the United States](#)
- [BAYCAT & The Golden State Warriors: A Case Story](#)
- [Memphis Music Initiative & ELMA Philanthropies: A Case Story](#)
- [The San Diego Creative Youth Development Network & The Clare Rose Foundation: A Case Story](#)
- [YMCA Lighthouse Project & The Heinz Endowments: A Case Story](#)

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The National Creative Youth Development Partnership is a collaborative effort by youth and adult field leaders committed to the CYD values of Racial Equity & Social Justice, Youth Voice and Leadership, and Collective Action in and with the community.

www.CreativeYouthDevelopment.org



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Introduction

In 2019, the Creative Youth Development (CYD) National Partnership engaged in a project to better understand the funding landscape of their field. To illustrate their findings, researchers connected with funders and CYD program leaders in four settings to better understand the dynamics of their partnerships.

The following is a case story showcasing a partnership between a large, national foundation and a local CYD program, demonstrating the high skill-high will traits of the funder. For a glossary of terms, please see the last page of this publication.

Key Partners

As with most creative youth development initiatives, there is a complex web of individuals and organizations who collaborate to make it happen. For this case story, we will examine the relationship between the two key players:

- The Clare Rose Foundation
- A Network of Creative Youth Development Programs in San Diego County, which consists of organizations such as A Reason to Survive (ARTS), A Step Beyond, the David's Harp Foundation, TranscenDANCE, among others.

Big Takeaways

Through an examination of several examples across the country, numerous themes emerged to provide guidance to both funders and CYD leaders to enable strong partnerships. For this case story, the following themes are illuminated:

- Working collectively takes a larger investment of time and resources, but reaps greater benefits
- Every organization is different and requires customizable approaches



When working as a collective, both funders and program leaders need to provide space for members to reflect on the different needs of each member. Each CYD program moves at its own speed. Though we share common practices, each organization is unique and looks very different. When we create solutions – whether time, money, or expectations – we must be willing to acknowledge a one-on-one approach for each organization.



What's the Story?

Across San Diego County. As the network formalized and expanded, the once-unprogrammed group now had an infrastructure to support specific collective needs like self care, thematic shared learning, advocacy to local officials, and engagement across the state and nation. With a new name – the San Diego Creative Youth Development Network – members now feel a legitimacy and a broad, far-reaching impact of their work together. The ecosystem of CYD in San Diego Country feels united, connected, and supported.

After a year of working together in this new fashion, with the backing and financial support of the Clare Rose Foundation, the Network is grappling with the democratization of power, re-focusing on self care, remodeling their professional learning infrastructure to embrace an organizational role-based knowledge-sharing approach, and responding to the ever-changing needs of the field. Together they are sharing power and leadership, welcoming CYD-adjacent organizations to the mix, and reconciling the needs of individual organizations with that of a collective organization.

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Working together as a collective really legitimizes CYD as a field of practice, so we want to be as inclusive as we can. However, we must be aware of the challenges that come with broad-ness. When you invite everyone to the table, you may not be able to move with the efficiency that you might be used to at a smaller, more agile organization. Everyone must be willing to invest the time, to reap the collective benefits: executive directors, program staff, and funders.

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Glossary of Terms

Creative Youth Development — A recent term for a longstanding theory of practice that integrates creative skill-building, inquiry, and expression with positive youth development principles, fueling young people’s imaginations and building critical learning and life skills.

High Skill/High Will (Field Builders) — This category of funders actively funds and supports CYD and CYD-adjacent organizations and programs and identifies as part of the CYD landscape of their community or funding region.

Low Skill/High Will (Potential Stars) — This category of funders actively funds or seeks to fund CYD and CYD-adjacent organizations and programs, but struggles with aligning those investments to existing strategic priorities.

High Skill/Low Will (Reluctant Allies) — This category of funder actively funds and supports CYD and CYD-adjacent organizations and programs, but does not see themselves as part of the CYD ecosystem.

Low Skill/Low Will (Potential Stars) — This category of funders does not currently fund CYD organizations or programs nor is currently knowledgeable about CYD as a field of practice. They do, however, demonstrate potential based on their strategic funding priorities.

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