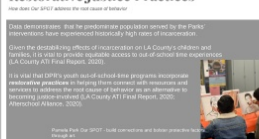


Our SPOT Newsletter



Restorative Justice Practices



LA County Our SPOT

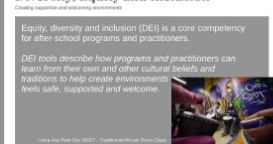


Social Places and Opportunities for Teens

Parks Make Life Better

Mercy Santoro, Deputy Director, Ed.D.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



Our SPOT Accomplishments, Activities & Events



Inter-Agency & Community Collaborations



What We Hope to Accomplish Today



Program Overview

- Theoretical Frameworks:
 - Positive Youth Development
 - Empowerment Theory
 - Trauma-Informed Care
 - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
 - Restorative Justice

School/Community/Partner Engagement
Student Resources and Referrals
Evaluation & Program Outcomes

Purpose, Activities & Highlights

- Purpose & Curriculum
- Activities and Areas of Focus
- Partnerships and Collaborations
- Accomplishments, Events and Activities



Our SPOT Locations

Empowering Teens Throughout LA County

East Agency Sites	South Agency Sites	North Agency Sites
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Terrace Park (East LA) Watts Park (East LA) Harbor Gateway Park (West LA) San Gabriel Park (West LA) San Antonio Park (West LA) Palms Park (Palmdale) Cherry Park (Cherry) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artes Community Park (Artes) East South Gate Community Center (East South Gate) Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (Franklin) Lincoln Park (Lincoln) Watts Park (Watts) Cherry Park (Cherry) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Hollywood Park (North Hollywood) Van Nuys Park (Van Nuys) Van Nuys Park (Van Nuys) Van Nuys Park (Van Nuys) Van Nuys Park (Van Nuys) Van Nuys Park (Van Nuys)

What is Our SPOT?

Why Our SPOT?
Our SPOT was named by LA County teens during March 2019 focus group sessions where participants conveyed how much of promise youth need a safe haven to be with friends and family members.

Site Selection
Launched in Spring 2019 DPR used the Teen Program Index and Parks After Dark data to select each location.

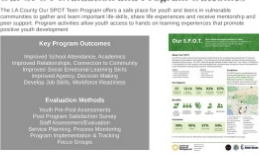
- Youth percentage living near park
- Digital data
- Hours/days before priority
- Crime rates
- Parks History/Association
- Community Interest

Partners
Department of Public Health-Suicide Abuse & Prevention (SAPAC), Office of Violence Prevention, Recreation Department, Department of Parks, Recreation, Commission on Public Health, Arts & Culture Department, Community Based Organizations, etc.

Theoretical Frameworks

- Empowerment Theory
- Positive Youth Development
- Trauma-Informed Care
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Restorative Justice

Our SPOT Evaluation and Program Outcomes



District, School & Youth Engagement Opportunities



Questions & Answers

Thank you!

Empowerment Theory

Why we chose empowerment theory to inform Our SPOT program design

- The theory is intended to strengthen opportunities for youth
- Several evidenced-based models are often implemented in parks, especially in urban communities with high rates of violence
- Research emphasizes the importance of developing leadership skills early on in a person's life
- Youth voice is in the decision-making process is vital to ensuring that needs are met
- Parks and Recreation staff can relate to this theoretical framework and so can youth



Trauma-Informed Principles

Why we chose to apply a trauma-informed lens

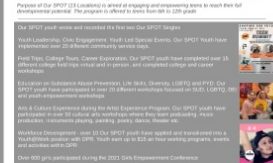
- Healing-Centered Practices such as Mindful Monday's
- Staff serve as gatekeepers for others to access information and resources
- Goal of programs to be support optimal human development
- Collaborative service networks among multiple providers
- Safety is nurtured in relationships and supported in park space through staff and community violence interventions
- Leverage relationships to buffer stressed attachment in the home
- Emerging restorative justice practices

Positive Youth Development

Why incorporating support systems and opportunities necessary for young people

- Positive Youth Development: Holistic care + non-over subjects, skills to meet + relate knowledge, reasoning
- Personal Health: Nutrition, Wellness, Fitness, Sleep, Mental Wellness, Social Health, Care
- Physical Health: Nutrition, Wellness, Fitness, Sleep, Mental Wellness, Social Health, Care
- Emotional Health: Resilience, Self-awareness, meaningful relationships, self-management, self-advocacy, positive decision-making
- Social-Emotional: Self-awareness, meaningful relationships, self-management, self-advocacy, positive decision-making
- Leadership: Practice personal skills, leadership, empowerment, meaningful contributions, cultural and social identity, sense of purpose

Our SPOT Accomplishments, Activities & Events



Our SPOT Curriculum

- Curriculum aligned with theoretical frameworks
- Social & Emotional Development
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Building Resilience
- Supporting LGBTQ Youth
- Building Positive Relationships
- Youth Leadership & Social Action
- Various Forms of Art Expression
- Workforce Development

Our SPOT Activities and Areas of Focus Cont.





LA County Our SPOT



Social Places and Opportunities for Teens

Parks Make Life Better

Mercy Santoro, Deputy Director, Ed.D.

What We Hope to Accomplish Today

Our SPOT Locations

Empowering Teens Throughout LA County



East Agency Sites

City Terrace Park
(East LA)
Belvedere Park
(East LA)
Ruben Salazar Park
(East LA)
San Angelo Park
(La Puente)
Pamela Park
(Duarte)

South Agency Sites

Amelia Mayberry Park
(Whittier)
East Rancho Dominguez
(Compton)
Franklin D. Roosevelt Park
(Forence-Firestone)
Lennox Park
(Lennox)
Mona Park
(Compton)

North Agency Sites

Stephen Sorensen Park
(Lake Los Angeles)
Loma Alta Park
(Altadena)
El Canso Park
(Sylmar)

Collaborations

Commission of talents

youth
 Innovation and industry
 Youth diversion activities




Outcomes

Supports youth in vulnerable communities to receive mentorship and resources that promote



Opportunities

Youth engagement?



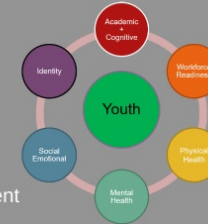
What We Hope to Accomplish Today



Program Overview

Theoretical Frameworks:

- Positive Youth Development
- Empowerment Theory
- Trauma-Informed Lens
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Restorative Justice



School/Community/Partner Engagement
 Student Resources and Referrals
 Evaluation & Program Outcomes

Purpose, Activities & Highlights

- Purpose & Curriculum
- Activities and Areas of Focus
- Partnerships and Collaborations
- Accomplishments, Events and Activities



Our SPOT

Empowering Teens

East Agency Sites

- City Terrace Park (East LA)
- Belvedere Park (East LA)
- Ruben Salazar Park (East LA)
- San Angelo Park (La Puente)
- Pamela Park (Duarte)

What is

Why Our SPOT?

Our SPOT was named for the sessions where participants have to be with friends

Site Selection

Launched in Spring 2018
 Data to select each location

Partners

Department of Public Health
 Prevention, Workforce
 Probation Department, Art

Theoretical Frame

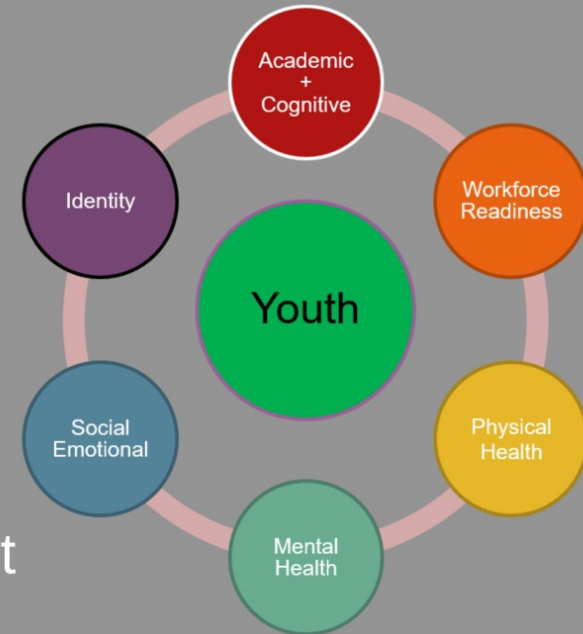


Program Overview

Theoretical Frameworks:

- Positive Youth Development
- Empowerment Theory
- Trauma-Informed Lens
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Restorative Justice

School/Community/Partner Engagement
Student Resources and Referrals
Evaluation & Program Outcomes



What is Our SPOT?



Why Our SPOT?

Our SPOT was named by LA County teens during March 2019 focus group sessions where participants conveyed how much at-risk youth need a safe haven to be with friends and caring mentors.

Site Selection

Launched in Spring 2019 DPR used the Teen Program Index and Parks After Dark Data to select each location.

- Youth percentage living near park
- Drop-out rate
- Households below poverty
- Crime Index
- Parks Needs Assessment
- Community Violence

Partners

Department of Public Health-Substance Abuse & Prevention (SAPC), Office of Violence Prevention, Workforce Development Department, Humans Relations Commission, Probation Department, Arts & Culture Department, Community Based Organizations, etc.

Our SPOT Locations

Empowering Teens Throughout LA County



East Agency Sites

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(East LA)
Belvedere Park
(East LA)
Ruben Salazar Park
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San Angelo Park
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Lennox Park
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Mona Park
(Compton)

North Agency Sites

Stephen Sorensen Park
(Lake Los Angeles)
Loma Alta Park
(Altadena)
El Cariso Park
(Sylmar)

Department of Public Health-Substance Abuse & Prevention (SAPC), Office of Violence Prevention, Workforce Development Department, Humans Relations Commission, Probation Department, Arts & Culture Department, Community Based Organizations, etc.

Theoretical Frameworks

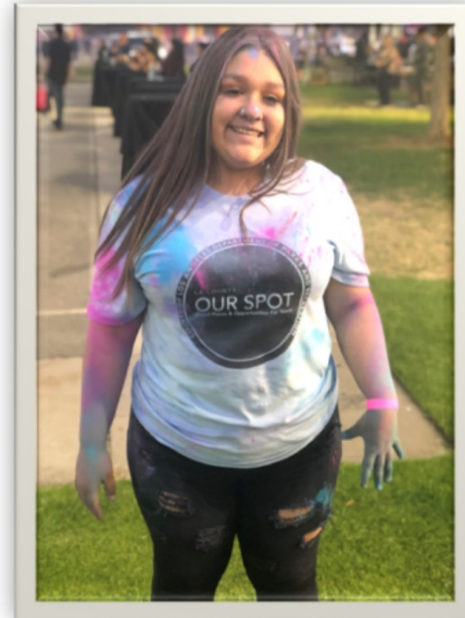


- Empowerment Theory
- Positive Youth Development
- Trauma-Informed Care
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Restorative Justice

Empowerment Theory

Why we chose empowerment theory to inform Our SPOT program design

- The theory is intended to strengthen opportunities for youth
- Several evidenced-based models on youth empowerment emphasize this approach, especially in urban communities amount youth of color
- Research emphasizes the importance of developing leadership skills early on in a person's life
- Youth voice is in the decision-making process is vital to ensuring their needs are met
- Parks and Recreation staff can relate to this theoretical framework and so can youth



Our SPOT is based on Empowerment Theory

Trauma-Informed Principles

Why we chose to apply a trauma-informed lens

- Healing-Centered Practices such as Mindful-Monday's
- Staff serve as gatekeepers for others to access information and resources
- Goal of programs is to support optimal human development
- Collaborative service networks among multiple providers
- Safety is nurtured in relationships and supported in park space through staff and community violence interventionists
- Leverage relationships to buffer stressed attachment in the home
- Emerging restorative justice practices

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Creating supportive and welcoming environments

Equity, diversity and inclusion (DEI) is a core competency for after-school programs and practitioners.

DEI tools describe how programs and practitioners can learn from their own and other cultural beliefs and traditions to help create environments that feel safe, supported and welcome.

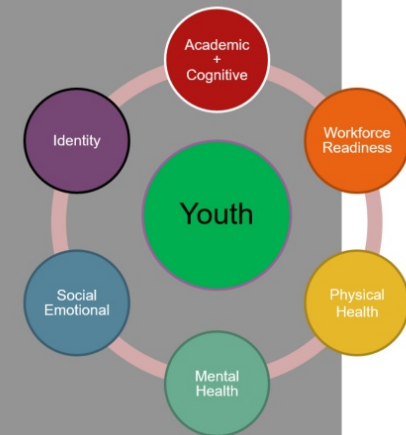
Loma Alta Park Our SPOT - Traditional African Drum Class



Positive Youth Development

Why incorporating support systems and opportunities necessary for young people

- **Academic + Cognitive:** Academic core + non-core subjects, skills to learn + retain knowledge, reasoning
- **Workforce Readiness:** Communication, teamwork, flexibility, professionalism, technical job skills
- **Physical Health: Nutrition,** fitness, sleep, overall wellness, routine health care
- **Mental Health:** Realize potential, manage stress/anxiety, compassion, empathy, cope with trauma, channel resilience
- **Social-Emotional:** Self-awareness, meaningful relationships, self-management, self-efficacy/autonomy, positive decision-making
- **Identity:** Positive personal values, leadership, empowerment, meaningful contributions, cultural and social identity, sense of purpose



Restorative Justice Practices

How does Our SPOT address the root cause of behavior

Data demonstrates that the predominant population served by the Parks' interventions have experienced historically high rates of incarceration.

Given the destabilizing effects of incarceration on LA County's children and families, it is vital to provide equitable access to out-of-school time experiences (LA County ATI Final Report, 2020).

It is vital that DPR's youth out-of-school-time programs incorporate **restorative practices** in helping them connect with resources and services to address the root cause of behavior as an alternative to becoming justice-involved (LA County ATI Final Report, 2020; Afterschool Alliance, 2020).

Pamela Park Our SPOT - build connections and bolster protective factors through art.



Our SPOT Curriculum

Curriculum aligned with theoretical frameworks

- Social & Emotional Development
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Bullying Prevention
- Supporting LGBTQ Youth
- Building Positive Relationships
- Youth Leadership & Social Action
- Various Forms of Art Exploration
- Workforce Development



**Parks
Make
Life
Better!**

DPR Staff

Why staff development is central to reaching program outcomes

- Mental Health First Aide
- Trauma-Informed Care
- Positive Youth Development
- Facilitating Youth Programs
- Leading Evidenced-Based Curriculum
- Supporting SEL



Our SPOT Accomplishments, Activities & Events

Purpose of Our SPOT (13-Locations) is aimed at engaging and empowering teens to reach their full developmental potential. The program is offered to teens from 6th to 12th grade

Our SPOT youth wrote and recorded the first two Our SPOT Singles

Youth Leadership, Civic Engagement, Youth Led Special Events. Our SPOT Youth have implemented over 20 different community service days.

Field Trips, College Tours, Career Exploration. Our SPOT youth have completed over 15 different college field trips virtual and in-person, and completed college and career workshops

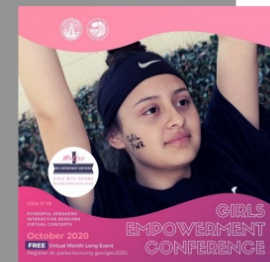
Education on Substance Abuse Prevention, Life Skills, Diversity, LGBTQ and PYD. Our SPOT youth have participated in over 20 different workshops focused on SUD, LGBTQ, DEI and youth empowerment workshops

Arts & Culture Experience during the Artist Experience Program. Our SPOT youth have participated in over 50 cultural arts workshops where they learn podcasting, music production, instruments playing, painting, poetry, dance, theater etc.

Workforce Development - over 10 Our SPOT youth have applied and transitioned into a Youth@Work position with DPR. Youth earn up to \$15 an hour working programs, events and activities within DPR

Over 600 girls participated during the 2021 Girls Empowerment Conference

Over 200 youth participated during our Virtual Our SPOT Teen Summit



Our SPOT Accomplishments, Activities & Events

In collaboration with UCLA FitNUT Our SPOT youth participate in weekly Health and Fitness workshops and sessions

Our SPOT filmed their first music video!

Our SPOT hosted over 13-special events celebrating and commemorating Black History Month

Our SPOT youth completed their first LA vs Hate mosaic mural

Our SPOT has the ability to implement a hybrid after-school program offering in-person and virtual programs for LA County youth

Our SPOT youth at selected sites created the Youth Advisory Group (YAG) for the UCLA Healthy Tomorrows program



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Our Spot

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Our SPOT Newsletter

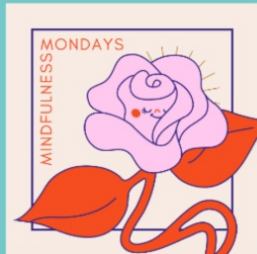
LA COUNTY Our SPOT



Our SPOT is a FREE after-school program for teens ages 12-18, providing a fun, safe and supportive place where teens can check-in daily, Monday through Friday all year long. Programming takes on a strength-based approach engaging youth from our communities to explore their unique and collective lived experiences through various forms of recreation programming, visual arts sessions, social action activities, and educational field trips.

Mindful Mondays

Join your local Our SPOT location during their Mindful Mondays workshops and activities that help you elevate, rejuvenate your mental well-being. Let's focus on what's important and find tips, practices and reminders to help us stay grounded and engaged in our self-care.



Our SPOT Locations

Our SPOT was named by LA County Department of Parks and Recreation teens during several focus groups held in March of 2019. Participants during these sessions conveyed how much they needed a safe, supportive and fun learning environment where they're able to spend time with friends and caring and compassionate youth leaders and people. LA County Parks & Recreation now has 13 Our SPOT Locations! Join this free fun and engaging program.

Operating Days: Monday thru Friday
Time: 3:00-7:00 PM
Frequency: ALL YEAR LONG

Program Locations:

- City Terrace Park
- Belvedere Community Regional Park
- Ruben Salazar Park
- San Angelo Park
- Pamela Park
- Amelia Mayberry Park
- East Rancho Dominguez Park
- Franklin D. Roosevelt Park
- Lennox Park
- Mona Park
- Stephen Sorensen Park
- Loma Alta Park
- El Cariso Park



Artist Experience

Find your element and join Our SPOT's Artist Experience Program. The Artist Experience is a hands-on arts program where youth get to explore all sorts of art mediums. In collaboration with the Department of Arts and Culture and many other community based organizations, Our SPOT participants are taught by amazing teaching artists and get to explore several different art forms directly from our parks. Join Our SPOT and find your element.

Programs include:

- Music Production
- Poetry and Creative Writing
- Dance
- Theater
- Podcasting
- Painting and Muralism
- Video Production



Upcoming Special Events Our SPOT

Registered Our SPOT participants are welcome to join us during several upcoming events that include field trips, Teen nights, and other learning festivities in March. Here are just a few events happening in the next few weeks, stay tuned and connect with your local Our SPOT for more information on how to join Our SPOT and participate in any of our upcoming special events.

March Teen Outreach Events:

Join your local Our SPOT location during the month of March and have fun during Our SPOT youth outreach events like Teen Nights. Participants get to silk-screening their own shirt, eat good food, listen to good music, art, E-sports, laser tag, sports etc.

Beaches & Harbors Field Trips: Saturday, March 19th @ Mother Beach

In collaboration with the Department of Beaches and Harbor, a select number of Our SPOT locations will begin the Water & Ocean Safety Program. Youth will spend the day learning about ocean safety, kayaking, paddle boarding and touring the harbor in a sailboat. This is the first trip part of a series of trips for all Our SPOT locations.

Youth in Social Action Project Kickoff:

Join Our SPOT in their effort of keeping our communities clean, safe and healthy! In collaboration with LADWP and the local SBCC's, Our SPOT Youth have started the first steps of hosting a countywide community service day on Sat. April 23rd, where youth and the community will join forces to clean their local community.



Days of Service and Celebration for Women's History Month

Throughout the month of March, all participating Our SPOT sites will join in unison and together celebrate the achievements made by powerful women, current and past. Youth will spend time commemorating the vital role of women in American history with special events, activities and workshops.

Our SPOT will celebrate Women's History Month the entire month of March. Please join your local Our SPOT for fun activities that help commemorate all the powerful women and historical events that have helped bring us to where we are today as a society, community, nation and as a world. Workshops vary by locations, connect with your local Our SPOT location for details.

Connect with Our SPOT on IG



Connect with your local Our SPOT and follow us on IG!

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| @OURSPOTELCARISO | @OURSPOTSANANGELO |
| @OURSPOTSORENSEN | @OURSPOTBELVEDERE |
| @OURSPOTLOMAALTA | @OURSPOTMAYBERRY |
| @OURSPOTSALAZAR | @OURSPOTMONA |
| @OURSPOTCITYTERRACE | @OURSPOTERD |
| @OURSPOTLENNOXPARK | @OURSPOTFDR |
| @PAMELAFTERSCHOOL | |

Our SPOT Activities and Areas of Focus Cont.

The standards for curriculum delivery includes activities within the Our SPOT rooms and spaces, youth activism projects, small and individual project-based activities, and field trips (tech centers, colleges, museums, and art/recording studios, etc.), are all park programs that have been weaved into the curriculum and annual calendar.



Our SPOT Youth with Heal the Bay

UNDERSTANDING YOUTH SOCIAL ACTION

Youth Social Action: Young people taking actions in the service of others and their community. Youth Social Action arises youth to understand issues affecting their parks, community etc. Youth and social action creates pathways for them in taking responsible action towards positively contributing to their communities and helping lead the change needed.

THE PROJECT

The Our SPOT Social Action Projects will engage participants in acting on their behalf, and what's important to them. The projects can take many forms which will serve as an opportunity for them to use their voice to drive their actions forward.

Our SPOT Youth will create opportunities to use their voice through either Service Projects or a Social Action project, or both.

Service projects involve youth in volunteer activities, generally serving community based organizations and groups. For example students may volunteer their time for a community service organization such as a rescue mission, food bank, animal shelter etc.

In social action projects, students typically work collaboratively with other group members on initiatives they help to identify, plan and direct.

A social action project prepares students to identify, plan and carry out solutions to problems within their park, community and beyond. The goal is to create change through thoughtful, cooperative, critically engaging, and responsible action.

UPLIFTING OUR PARKS AND COMMUNITY THROUGH YOUTH VOICE

Areas of Focus		Our SPOT Annual Calendar 2021-2022		Hours of Operation	
Social Emotional Learning (SEL), Trauma Informed Care, Social Justice, Mindfulness Meditation & Self-Care, Sports & Rec., College & Career Pathways, Cultural Arts, Youth Leadership-Empowerment				School Year Hours Mon.-Fri: After-school to 7:00p.m. Summer Hours Mon.-Fri: 1:30p.m. to 7:00p.m.	
July - August	September - November	December - January	February - March	April - May	June - August
<p>June 7- August 13th: Our Spot/JCPA Summer Program</p> <p>Saturday, August 14th: Our SPOT Fall Staff Development-Training (Career Pathways, Program Management, Relationship Building, Team building)</p> <p>Aug. 16-20: Our SPOT Welcome Back Week! "Welcome Back Week and Open House Events"</p> <p>August 23, 2021: Our Spot/JCPA Fall Curriculum Begins</p> <p>August 30, 2021: Launch Youth in Action & Social Justice Campaigns (10-weeks)</p> <p>Mindful Mondays: Don't forget to check in with yourselves & begin Monday's with some mindfulness meditation practices</p> <p>Notes: August 9th-13- Planning, Marketing & Outreach Week Soft Open</p>	<p>September 13: Launch "The Artist Experience"; Cultural & Digital Arts Program (session 1)</p> <p>September 1: Launch Pro-Evaluation Survey & Focus Groups</p> <p>November 5th: Launch "Get Hype Fridays" (Fun Friday Staff Committee)</p> <p>October 9, 2021: Girls Empowerment Conference</p> <p>October 18 - December 17: "Live Above the Hype" Curriculum (8-weeks)</p> <p>November 1- January 14 Pathways to College & Career Program (8-weeks)</p> <p>Notes: September 6, 2021 Labor Day (closed)</p> <p>Oct. 11 Indigenous People Day (closed)</p> <p>Nov. 11 Veterans Day (closed)</p> <p>Nov. 23-27: Thanksgiving Break (closed)</p>	<p>Virtual Program: 12/27 - 1/31/2022 Mindful Mondays!</p> <p>December 6 - February 28, 2021: "The Artist Experience"(Session 2)</p> <p>Dec. 1- Feb. 5: College Readiness and Strengths Finder 2.0 Curriculum (8-weeks)</p> <p>January 3, 2022 - Feb. 28: Say Goodbye to Drugs -SUD Curriculum (8-weeks)</p> <p>January 10, 2022: Pre-Evaluation Survey Launch!</p> <p>Notes: Dec. 20-24th & 31st (closed)</p> <p>Martin Luther King Jr. Day 1/17/22 (closed)</p>	<p>February 7 - March 31: Youth Power Curriculum (8-weeks)</p> <p>February 1st: Launch Black History Month Celebrations</p> <p>Friday Feb. 11th End of Year Celebration</p> <p>February 24, 2022: Youth & Social Action Projects (Session Two- 10-weeks)</p> <p>Saturday, February 26th Snowboarding TRIP!</p> <p>Saturday, March 12th Staff Development-Training-Loma Alta</p> <p>Saturday, March 19th Our SPOT March Madness Tournament</p> <p>Notes: Feb.21 Presidents Day (closed)</p> <p>Mar. 28 Cesar Chavez Day (closed)</p> <p>Spring Recess :(closed)</p> <p>FOLLOW SCHOOL/DISTRICT CLOSURE SCHEDULE</p> <p>3/21-3/25 or 4/11-4/15 *most sites will be closed during either period above. Look up your nearest school district calendar to confirm</p>	<p>Mindful Mondays!</p> <p>April-May: Artist Experience (Session 3)</p> <p>April-May: Operation Hope Financial Literacy (8-weeks)</p> <p>May - June: Pathways to College/Career (8-weeks)</p> <p>May, Saturday 21st: Our SPOT Summer Staff Training</p> <p>May-June: Making Proud Choices: Health Education Curriculum (8-weeks)</p> <p>Our SPOT Outdoor Adventures: hiking, kayaking, paddle boarding etc.</p> <p>April 27: Denim Day Celebration</p> <p>Notes: May 30: Memorial Day (closed)</p>	<p>June-August: Summer Session Artist Experience Our SPOT Luau!</p> <p>June - July 30th: Our SPOT Summer Program</p> <p>In-Person Tour of San Diego State University</p> <p>Summer Curriculum: Summer of Fun: Pathways to College & Career Field Trips, Sports and Rec. Leagues, Biking, Hiking and more outdoor adventures, E-Sports tournaments etc.</p> <p>June 12-16: Juneteenth Our SPOT Event & Celebrations</p> <p>June: Our Spot Teen Summit</p> <p>7/4 Independence Day Closed</p> <p>Juneteenth 6/20 Closed</p>

Snapshot of the Our SPOT Annual Calendar & Highlighted Programs

The standards for curriculum delivery includes activities within the Our SPOT rooms and spaces, youth activism projects, small and individual project-based activities, and field trips (tech centers, colleges, museums, and art/recording studios, etc.), are all park programs that have been weaved into the curriculum and annual calendar.



Our SPOT Youth with Heal the Bay

UNDERSTANDING YOUTH SOCIAL ACTION

Youth Social Action: Young people taking actions in the service of others and their community. Youth Social Action allows youth to understand issues affecting their parks, community etc. Youth and social action creates pathways for them in taking responsible actions towards positively contributing to their communities and helping lead the change needed.

THE PROJECT

The Our SPOT Social Action Project/s will engage participants in acting on their beliefs, and what's important to them. The project/s can take many forms which will serve as an opportunity for them to use their voice to drive their actions forward.

Our SPOT Youth will create opportunities to use their voice through either Service Projects or a Social Action project, or both.

Service projects involve youth in volunteer activities, generally servicing community based organizations and groups. For example students may volunteer their time for a community service organization such as a rescue mission, food bank, animal shelter etc.

In social action projects, students typically work collaboratively with other group members on initiatives they help to identify, plan and direct.

A social action project prepares students to identify, plan and carry out solutions to problems within their park, community and beyond. The goal is active citizenship through thoughtful, cooperative, critically engaging, and responsible action.

UPLIFTING OUR PARKS AND COMMUNITY THROUGH YOUTH VOICE

Areas of	
Social Emotional Learning (Care, Social Justice, Mindfulness, Sports & Rec., Cultural Arts, Youth Leadership)	
July - August	
June 7- August 13th: Our Spot/JJCPA Summer Program	S "E C (
Saturday, August 14th: Our SPOT Fall Staff Development-Training (Career Pathways, Program Management, Relationship Building, Team building)	S F & N "F C
Aug. 16-20: Our SPOT Welcome Back Week! "Welcome Back Week and Open House Events"	C E C C I V
August 23, 2021 Our Spot/JJCPA Fall Curriculum Begins	N F C V
August 30, 2021: Launch Youth in Action & Social Justice Campaigns (10-weeks)	N S E
Mindful Mondays: Don't forget to check in with yourselves & begin Monday's with some mindfulness meditation practices	C E N V N E (
Notes: August 9th-13- Planning, Marketing & Outreach Week Soft Open	

Snapshot

activities within projects, field trips, writing studios, and into the

IG



THE PROJECT


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In social action projects, students typically work collaboratively with other group members on initiatives they help to identify, plan and direct.

A social action project prepares students to identify, plan and carry out solutions to problems within their park, community and beyond. The goal is active citizenship through thoughtful, cooperative, critically engaging, and responsible action.

Areas of Focus Social Emotional Learning (SEL), Trauma Informed Care, Social Justice, Mindfulness Meditation & Self-Care, Sports & Rec., College & Career Pathways, Cultural Arts, Youth Leadership-Empowerment		 Our SPOT Annual Calendar 2021-2022		Hours of Operation School Year Hours Mon.-Fri: After-school to 7:00p.m. Summer Hours Mon. - Fri.: 3:00p.m. to 7:00p.m.	
July - August	September - November	December - January	February - March	April - May	June - August
<p>June 7- August 13th: Our Spot/JJCPA Summer Program</p> <p>Saturday, August 14th: Our SPOT Fall Staff Development-Training (Career Pathways, Program Management, Relationship Building, Team building)</p> <p>Aug. 16-20: Our SPOT Welcome Back Week! "Welcome Back Week and Open House Events"</p> <p>August 23, 2021 Our Spot/JJCPA Fall Curriculum Begins</p> <p>August 30, 2021: Launch Youth in Action & Social Justice Campaigns (10-weeks)</p> <p>Mindful Mondays: Don't forget to check in with yourselves & begin Monday's with some mindfulness meditation practices</p> <p>Notes: August 9th-13- Planning, Marketing & Outreach Week Soft Open</p>	<p>September 13: Launch "The Artist Experience": Cultural & Digital Arts Program (session 1)</p> <p>September 1: Launch Pro-Evaluation Survey & Focus Groups</p> <p>November 5th: Launch "Get Hype Fridays" (Fun Friday Staff Committee)</p> <p>October 9, 2021: Girls Empowerment Conference</p> <p>October. 18 - December. 17: "Live Above the Hype" Curriculum (8-weeks)</p> <p>November 1- January. 14 Pathways to College & Career Program (8-weeks)</p> <p>Notes: September 6, 2021 Labor Day (closed) Oct. 11 Indigenous People Day (closed) Nov. 11 Veterans Day (closed) Nov. 23-27: Thanksgiving Break (closed)</p>	<p>Virtual Program: 12/27 - 1/31/2022 Mindful Mondays!</p> <p>December 6 -February 28, 2021: "The Artist Experience"(Session 2)</p> <p>Dec. 1- Feb. 5: College Readiness and Strengths Finder 2.0 Curriculum (8-weeks)</p> <p>January 3, 2022 - Feb. 28: Say Goodbye to Drugs -SUD Curriculum (8-weeks)</p> <p>January 10, 2022: Pre-Evaluation Survey Launch!</p> <p>Notes: Dec. 20-24th & 31st (closed) Martin Luther King Jr. Day 1/17/22 (closed)</p>	<p>February 7 - March 31: Youth Power Curriculum (8-weeks)</p> <p>February 1st: Launch Black History Month Celebrations</p> <p>Friday Feb. 11th End of Year Celebration</p> <p>February 24, 2022: Youth & Social Action Projects (Session Two- 10-weeks)</p> <p>Saturday, February 26th Snowboarding TRIP!</p> <p>Saturday, March 12th Staff Development-Training-Loma Alta</p> <p>Saturday, March 19th Our SPOT March Madness Tournament</p> <p>Notes: Feb.21 Presidents Day (closed) Mar. 28 Cesar Chavez Day (closed) Spring Recess :(closed) FOLLOW SCHOOL/DISTRICT CLOSURE SCHEDULE 3/21-3/25 or 4/11-4/15 *most sites will be closed during either period above. Look up your nearest school district calendar to confirm</p>	<p>Mindful Mondays!</p> <p>April-May: Artist Experience (Session 3)</p> <p>April-May: Operation Hope Financial Literacy (8-weeks)</p> <p>May - June: Pathways to College/Career (8-weeks)</p> <p>May, Saturday 21st: Our SPOT Summer Staff Training</p> <p>May -June: Making Proud Choices: Health Education Curriculum (8-weeks)</p> <p>Our SPOT Outdoor Adventures: hiking, kayaking, paddle boarding etc.</p> <p>April 27: Denim Day Celebration</p> <p>Notes: May 30: Memorial Day (closed)</p>	<p>June-August: Summer Session Artist Experience Our SPOT Luau!</p> <p>June - July 30th: Our SPOT Summer Program</p> <p>In-Person Tour of San Diego State University</p> <p>Summer Curriculum: Summer of Fun: Pathways to College & Career Field Trips, Sports and Rec. Leagues, Biking, Hiking and more outdoor adventures, E-Sports tourneys etc.</p> <p>June 12-16: Juneteenth Our SPOT Event & Celebrations</p> <p>June: Our Spot Teen Summit</p> <p>7/4 Independence Day Closed Juneteenth 6/20 Closed</p>

Snapshot of the Our SPOT Annual Calendar & Highlighted Programs

Inter-Agency & Community Collaborations

Partnerships foster cultural competency, diversity, equity and inclusion and expression of talents

Partnership with Human Relations Commission: train staff and programming for youth

LA County Department of Arts and Culture: visual arts programming, career exploration and industry exposure

LA County Probation Department: support Parks and Recreation in offering youth diversion activities

LA County Public Health Department: Substance abuse prevention education

Community Based Organizations: Arts for Healing and Justice Network, Boyle Heights Arts Conservatory, Jail Guitar Doors, Tree People, Homeboy Academy, Justice for My Sister

UCLA Health Department: Healthy Tomorrow's Health and Nutrition development

Whittier Wellness Center: Foster hope, community and wellness



Frequency:

- 1-2 workshops a week
- 1-2 hours each workshop
- 48 weeks out of the year



District, School & Youth Engagement Opportunities

Working together to create safe, supportive, fun and engaging opportunities for youth

How can Our SPOT facilitate school, youth and parent engagement?

Youth Outreach Events @ Our SPOT

- Youth outreach and engagement opportunities at all new participants at 13-locations
 - Coffee nights with parents
 - Open House Nights for current and future participants

Youth Outreach Events @ Schools

- Coffee with the principal and parents
- Lunch outreach events with DJ and giveaways
 - Open House tabling
 - Assembly presentation
- Flyers, postcards and other Our SPOT Swag



Our SPOT Evaluation and Program Outcomes

The LA County Our SPOT Teen Program offers a safe place for youth and teens in vulnerable communities to gather and learn important life-skills, share life experiences and receive mentorship and peer support. Program activities allow youth access to hands on learning experiences that promote positive youth development

Key Program Outcomes

Improved School Attendance, Academics
 Improved Relationships, Connection to Community
 Improved Social Emotional Learning Skills
 Improved Agency, Decision Making
 Develop Job Skills, Workforce Readiness

Evaluation Methods

Youth Pre-Post Assessments
 Post Program Satisfaction Survey
 Staff Assessment/Evaluation
 Service Planning, Process Monitoring
 Program Implementation & Tracking
 Focus Groups



About Our SPOT

Our SPOT is an after-school recreational program implemented by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation at select parks for teens grades 7-12 with the goal of providing equitable recreation services and programs and youth protective factors. Our SPOT is free and operates Monday through Friday from 3-7 pm. Today, 13 of 183 parks (7.1%) operate an Our SPOT program. LA County worked hard to provide a space for teens to connect in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic including quickly pivoting to online programming.

Program:

- Positive Youth Development
- Trauma & Healing Centered
- Holistic Health & Wellness
- Evidence-Based Prevention

Activities:

- Arts & Self-Exploration
- Social Justice
- Youth Empowerment
- Workforce Readiness

Locations

Our SPOT locations are selected based on size of youth population, drop-out rate, proportion of households below the federal poverty level, crime index score and parks' needs assessment. Need for Out-of-School programs remains high.



1. Amelia Mayberry Park
2. City Terrace Park
3. El Cerrito Community Regional Park
4. East Rancho Dominguez Park
5. Franklin D. Roosevelt Park
6. Loma Alta Park
7. Moma Park
8. Salazar Park
9. San Angelo Park
10. Stephen Sorrensen Park
11. Belvedere Park*
12. Lemmo Park*
13. Francis Park*

* These three parks are not part of the program evaluation.

Participants



Benefits



Outcomes



For more information about Our SPOT, please contact Freddy Zavaleta, Manager, at FZavaleta@parks.lacounty.gov.



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Academics
Community
Life Skills
Mental Health
Financial Literacy

Surveys
Monitoring
Tracking

Our S.P.O.T.

Social Places and Opportunities for Teens
Funded by the Los Angeles County Department of Probation and
The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
June 2021 Program Evaluation Report

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For more information about Our SPOT, please contact Freddy Zavaleta, Manager, at FZavaleta@parks.lacounty.gov.



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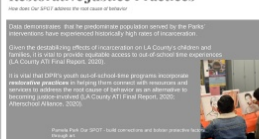
Questions & Answers

Thank you!

Our SPOT Newsletter



Restorative Justice Practices



LA County Our SPOT

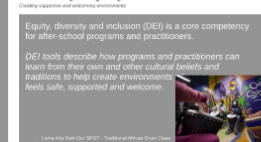


Social Places and Opportunities for Teens

Parks Make Life Better

Mercy Santoro, Deputy Director, Ed.D.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion



Our SPOT Accomplishments, Activities & Events



Inter-Agency & Community Collaborations



What We Hope to Accomplish Today



Program Overview

- Theoretical Frameworks:
 - Positive Youth Development
 - Empowerment Theory
 - Trauma-Informed Care
 - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
 - Restorative Justice

School/Community/Partner Engagement
Student Resources and Referrals
Evaluation & Program Outcomes

Purpose, Activities & Highlights

- Purpose & Curriculum
- Activities and Areas of Focus
- Partnerships and Collaborations
- Accomplishments, Events and Activities



Our SPOT Locations

East Agency Sites	South Agency Sites	North Agency Sites
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City Terrace Park (East LA) Watts Park (East LA) Harbor View Park (West LA) San Gabriel Park (West LA) Palms Park (Palms) Cherry Park (Cherry) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watts Community Park (Watts) East South Gate Community Center (East South Gate) Franklin D. Roosevelt Park (Franklin) Lincoln Park (Lincoln) Watts Park (Watts) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watts Community Park (Watts) Watts Park (Watts) Watts Park (Watts) Watts Park (Watts) Watts Park (Watts)

What is Our SPOT?

Why Our SPOT?
Our SPOT was named by LA County teens during March 2019 focus group sessions where participants conveyed how much of promise youth need a safe haven to be with friends and family members.

Site Selection
Launched in Spring 2019 DPR used the Teen Program Index and Parks After Dark data to select each location.

- Youth percentage living near park
- Digital data
- High schools below priority
- Crime rates
- Parks History Association
- Community Interest

Partners
Department of Public Health-Suicide Abuse & Prevention (SAPAC), Office of Violence Prevention, Recreation Department, Department of Parks, Recreation, Community Protection, Department, Arts & Culture Department, Community Based Organizations, etc.

Theoretical Frameworks

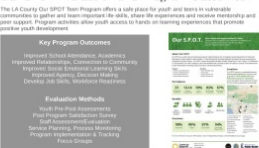
- Empowerment Theory
- Positive Youth Development
- Trauma-Informed Care
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Restorative Justice

Positive Youth Development

Why incorporating support systems and opportunities necessary for young people

- **Academic** - Academic skills + non-cognitive skills, skills to learn + relate knowledge, reasoning
- **Behavioral** - Communication, teamwork, flexibility, perseverance, resilience, self-efficacy
- **Physical Health** - Fitness, stress, sleep, overall wellness, healthy life span
- **Psychological** - Realize potential, manage stressors, compassion, empathy, self-efficacy, resilience
- **Social-Emotional** - Self-awareness, meaningful relationships, self-management, self-efficacy, optimism, positive decision-making
- **Leadership** - Practice personal skills, leadership, empowerment, meaningful contributions, cultural and social identity, sense of purpose

Our SPOT Evaluation and Program Outcomes



District, School & Youth Engagement Opportunities



Questions & Answers

Thank you!

Empowerment Theory

Why we chose empowerment theory to inform Our SPOT program design

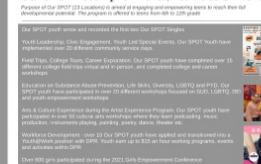
- The theory is intended to strengthen opportunities for youth
- General empowerment-based models are often empowerment-empiricist in approach, especially in understanding the concept of youth-of-color
- Research emphasizes the importance of developing leadership skills early on in a person's life
- Youth voice is in the decision-making process is vital to ensuring that needs are met
- Parks and Recreation staff can relate to this theoretical framework and so can youth

Trauma-Informed Principles

Why we chose to apply a trauma-informed lens

- Healing-Centered Practices such as Mindful-Mondays
- Staff serve as gatekeepers for others to access information and resources
- Goal of programs to be support optimal human development
- Collaborative service networks among multiple providers
- Safety is nurtured in relationships and supported in park space through staff and community violence interventions
- Leverage relationships to buffer stressed attachment in the home
- Emerging restorative justice practices

Our SPOT Accomplishments, Activities & Events



Our SPOT Curriculum

- Social & Emotional Development
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Building Resilience
- Supporting LGBTQ Youth
- Building Positive Relationships
- Youth Leadership & Social Action
- Various Forms of Art Expression
- Workforce Development

Our SPOT Activities and Areas of Focus Cont.

