

# Putting STEAM into Summer

A Guide to Regional Partners and Resources:  
**Los Angeles**

## Where to Start in Los Angeles County

In the greater Los Angeles area, summer learning programs have been operating for several years, including a major initiative that involved the Los Angeles Unified School District and LA's Best. Importantly, many smaller districts have developed their own approaches to these programs as well, with support from the Los Angeles County Office of Education (COE). The COE provides technical support and training for expanded learning programs and can act as an important connection point for districts looking for more information about program quality and STEAM in summer.

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### *Regional Networks and Resources*

The Los Angeles COE has taken a leadership role in supporting summer learning programs. It also houses the technical assistance group appointed by the California Department of Education to support program implementation and build regional capacity for effective expanded learning and summer programs. Contact Mary Jo Ginty, 562-803-8336, Email: [Ginty\\_MaryJo@lacoed.edu](mailto:Ginty_MaryJo@lacoed.edu).

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### *School District Examples*

Several districts developed and continue to offer summer learning programs that reflect their communities and varied approaches to expanded learning. They include:



- » **Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)** offers summer learning programs in partnership with expanded learning program provider LA's Best. This community-based organization staffs and manages the programs, which include STEM topics as part of an overall program day. In addition, the Beyond the Bell office at LAUSD operates additional summer programs, including for high school students.
- » **Whittier City School District** manages and staffs its own summer programs which employ a combination of teachers and expanded learning staff and operate in both elementary and middle schools.
- » **Mountain View Elementary School District** works with program provider THINK Together to operate a summer learning program that also provides professional development opportunities for classroom teachers.

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### *Other Districts within Los Angeles County*

- » **Pasadena Unified School District**, the Pasadena Educational Foundation, and the City of Pasadena all offer summer learning programs.
- » **Azusa Unified School District** began working with nearby Azusa Pacific University in 2015 to develop summer STEM programs for elementary and middle grade students.

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### *Local Support Organization Examples*

**THINK Together** provides both expanded learning and summer program services to school districts in southeast Los Angeles County. More about their regional programs and clients is available at <https://thinktogether.org/locations/los-angeles>.

**LA's Best** has operated its Celebrate Science Program since 1991 based on a specific learning framework for elementary age students. Today, Celebrate Science encompasses all the STEM subject areas and provides "fun, engaging, interactive science experiences under a 'team inquiry' model." LA's Best has created connections with many community partners and curriculum providers in the process of developing its STEM activities and training its staff members.

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### *Examples of Local STEM/STEAM Resources*

**The Los Angeles Regional STEM Hub** was created to bring together the public, private, nonprofit, and academic sectors to develop the region's capacity around STEM education. The effort, organized by the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation, included a work group specifically devoted to STEM in "out-of-school time" that developed a framework and action plan in 2014. The main website for the STEM Hub is [www.unitela.com/lastemhub](http://www.unitela.com/lastemhub).

**The Education Office at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab** (JPL) taps into the knowledge base at NASA to provide educators in both formal and informal settings with STEM-based lessons, projects, activities, resources, and professional development. JPL serves Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, Orange, and San Diego counties. A summary of what they can provide is found at [www.nasa.gov/centers/jpl/education/index.html](http://www.nasa.gov/centers/jpl/education/index.html).

**The California Science Center** operates Community Youth Programs that work with local schools and are focused on middle school and high school students. More information is at [www.californiasciencecenter.org](http://www.californiasciencecenter.org).

**DIY Girls** offers after-school and summer programs that provide hands-on STEAM experiences for girls in 4th-12th grade. More information is at [www.diygirls.org](http://www.diygirls.org).