



## Rising Youth Theatre Final Report Arizona Women's Partnership

In 2023, Rising Youth Theatre was honored to receive a grant from the Arizona's Women's Partnership. This grant was used to support our arts programs in schools, focusing on social emotional development, culturally responsive literacy learning, and youth advocating for themselves and their peers. Your grants were used to support 315 students in the following schools and community spaces:

Herrera Elementary School's after school drama club, using theatre to connect to reading and literacy skills, developing a performance about their own family stories

Maurice C. Cash Elementary School's after school drama club, using theatre and storytelling to build cultural and community connections within the school, creating a performance about food and family traditions

Genesis Academy, using theatre with high school students to build on school curriculum and tell stories that reflect students' authentic experiences, culminating in an original performance

Aguila Library, using theatre to talk about mental health with young people in a rural community

Across these programs we reached 315 students. Using demographics of the schools, we know that more than 93% of the students we reached qualified for free and reduced price lunch. The overall racial demographics of the students we worked with are: 86% Hispanic / Latinx, 5% Black / African American, 4% White, 3% Native American / Indigenous, and 2% multiracial. We are proud that our teaching artist team reflects similar demographics - our teaching artists throughout the year are 85% Hispanic/Latinx, 12.5% Black/African American, and 12.5% White.

Some of the feedback we received from our partners included:

*"I am so encouraged by what everyone has done with this program. We have taken on and discussed meaningful on-the-ground community-related subjects and also had fun—two of the best things anyone can ever do in a library. I cannot express how much my expectations have been met and wonderfully exceeded." Community Partner*

*"I love coming to drama club because the teachers are so nice and I love them and I also like when we get to tell stories together and how fun the games are." 4th Grade Student*

With the support of Arizona Women's Partnership, among other funders, we were able to provide these experiences directly to students with no direct cost to them or their families. We can't wait to continue these partnerships and our work in the community!