



Community Science Workshop Network

The CSW Network is a California non-profit 501c3 corporation whose mission is to be a powerful advocate and resource for Community Science Workshops, providing opportunities for youth to tinker, make and explore their world through science in under-served communities across the state.

Goals



To inspire under-served youth to develop self-confidence and self-identity as designers, builders, engineers and scientists.



To support thriving CSW Sites in low-income communities across the state, engaging new generations of youth with continuously evolving hands-on science education programs.

Network Model

Member CSW Sites opt-in to the Network to receive essential services such as technical assistance and curriculum documentation, as well as to access the wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise shared throughout all the connected sites. **The Network helps sites to be successful now, while building the critical systems necessary to remain sustainable in the long-term.**

Strategy

CSW Sites integrate inquiry-based, student-directed science into the daily life of underserved communities, complementing formal school-based science education by lowering barriers for whole-family participation. Students at CSWs gain access to a wide variety of tools and specimens not typically available in schools and learn by observation and experience with real-world materials. The result is increased self-identification as scientists and lifelong learners.



Member CSW Sites

Mission & Excelsior
Science Workshops

Watsonville Environmental
Science Workshop

Fresno Community Science

Greenfield Community
Science Workshop

Sanger Community
Science Workshop



Inspire



Engage



Empower

Impact

CSW member sites offer over 57 unique programs and engage over 120,000 visitors annually.

Eighty percent of CSW participants say they enjoy making things and doing experiments and 75% report, "I can do things in the Science Workshop I didn't think I could do before."

CSW sites have contributed over 150 tried-and-tested science activities into a free, online curriculum database hosted by the CSW Network.

Alumni

Sol McKinney first came to the Mission CSW at age 10, then earned a degree in Ecology from UC Davis, and is now Site Director at the Excelsior CSW. Like Sol, thirty percent of all CSW educators are alumni or former parent volunteers. As a neighborhood local, Sol is able to have a closer bond with the students:



"One of the things I always say with my classes is that this is a safe space to guess and be wrong... We're really focused on helping you figure things out."

What The CSW Network Does

Builds a Statewide Infrastructure - supporting grassroots, autonomous, member CSW sites in underserved communities

Provides Technical Assistance to CSW Sites - working closely with CSW Site Directors to strengthen program areas that are often challenging for small community-based organizations, such as fundraising, accounting practices, strategic planning and partnerships

Supports Best Practices - helping CSW staff to maintain consistent high standards for inquiry and science content by bringing professional development opportunities within reach and publishing an online curriculum database with over 150 Workshop-tested lessons and activities

Propagates New Sites - planting the seeds for new CSW sites in underserved rural and inner-city neighborhoods and helping these sites grow into independent, strongly-rooted community institutions

Represents CSW Sites - documenting and promoting CSW programs at events, on the web, in the media, in the growing community of making and tinkering and within the broader field of informal science education

Advocates for CSW Programs - promoting sustainability for CSW member sites by making the case to key stakeholders in local communities and at a statewide level

Cultivates a Community of Practice - providing opportunities for CSW staff to exchange ideas, ask and answer questions, share strategies and collaborate

So That Member Sites Can Be

And Kids Become

Inspired
Engaged
Empowered
Inventive
Purposeful
Creative
Connected

CSWs are where the imagination gets exercise and grows strong

Kids are producers, not consumers, of their own education

Iteration and problem solving are at the heart of every soda bottle rocket launched and every scrap lumber birdhouse built

Kids ask key discovery questions: "Why is the snake doing that?" and "Why does her car go faster than mine?"

CSWs give kids increased access to existing science resources: Maker Faire, Young Women in Science, Underwater ROVs, river canoeing

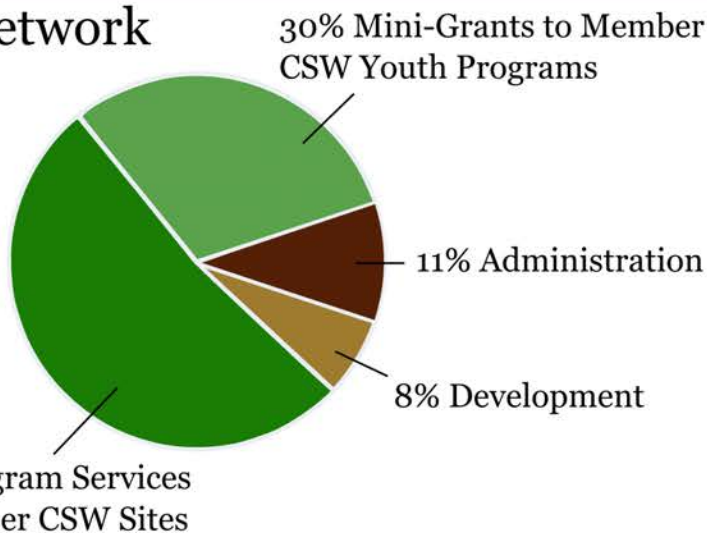
Visible
Coherent
Sustainable
Networked
Replicable
and Scaleable
Collaborative
Well-Documented
High Impact

CSW Network Stats

Member CSW Site Shared Essential Characteristics

- 1) CSWs are in neighborhoods. Each program maintains a permanent public space that is walking distance to low-income homes and schools, and is dense with science exhibits as well as tools and materials. User-generated content and locally hired educators foster familiarity and agency for participants.
- 2) CSW programs are open-ended and student-driven. As much as possible, students choose what they want to do and how they're going to do it, what questions they want to ask, and how they're going to approach answering them.
- 3) CSWs are open-door. Drop-in hours minimize barriers to participating youth and families, and a variety of other programs provide multiple entry points in time and space: after school, during the school day, on field trips to the CSW, and via mobile programs at rural locations.
- 4) CSWs strive to saturate their community with science. CSWs work with schools, community-based organizations, housing projects, libraries, municipalities, and parks to create an ecosystem of science education.

CSW Network Budget



Youth Served by Member CSWs

- Over **70%** qualify for Federal Free and Reduced Lunch
- Are **65%** Latino/Hispanic, and **24%** other ethnic minorities
- More than **40%** are classified as English Language Learners

CSW Network Board

Dan Sudran*	Paloma Garcia-Lopez
Angelica Gonzalez*	Lisa White
Jose Sanchez*	Jean Pennycook
Manuel Hernandez*	Chris McCarthy
Jerry Valadez*	

*Member CSW Site Directors

CSW Network Staff

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