



BLINDSPOT COLLECTIVE

Help us change the story.

Because stories matter.

Research confirms what practically any child can tell you: **storytelling helps us share our most personal experiences, connect with others, and make sense of the world around us. For hundreds of years, theater has been a powerful tool for understanding other perspectives, activating the imagination, and building community.**

But the world is changing. And theater should, too.

Blindspot Collective is developing a new model for engaging artists and audiences in the creation of original work that represents and celebrates those who have been historically excluded.





about the company

Blindspot Collective is a trailblazing organization that pushes the boundaries of conventional theatre while producing groundbreaking programs that challenge norms, address social issues, and encourage dialogue.

Since our founding in 2017, the company has collaborated with La Jolla Playhouse; The Old Globe; California Center for the Arts, Escondido; Diversionary Theatre; Doctors Without Borders; University of California, San Diego; and other community partners to develop projects that meaningfully engage audiences and artists in the blindspot of society.

Our award-winning productions span various genres, including site-specific events, new musicals, forum theatre, and verbatim plays, all featuring authentic representations of historically excluded communities. Awards and honors include being the first theatre company awarded an arts residency at the San Diego International Airport, serving as company-in-residence at La Jolla Playhouse, receiving the 'Audience Favorite' and 'Dunn-Rankin Award for New Work' from the San Diego International Fringe Festival, winning 'Outstanding Solo Performance' from the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle, and being selected "Theater of the Year" by the San Diego Union-Tribune.

In 2023, Blindspot Collective established its first permanent venue and rehearsal space in downtown San Diego in partnership with Disco Riot and the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego.



mission

To produce radically inclusive programming at the intersection of advocacy, education, and entertainment that cultivates and celebrates new work, emerging artists, diverse audiences, and fresh ideas.

vision

Transformative theatre that amplifies marginalized voices, illuminates untold stories, bridges disparate experiences, and energizes vulnerable communities.

core values

Upon its founding, board members and artists identified and defined the following core values:

- Transformative Excellence
- Authentic Collaboration
- Agile Sustainability
- Empathetic Curiosity
- Inclusive Engagement

production history

- *Untold* (2017): Winner of the Dunn-Rankin Award for New Work at the San Diego Fringe Festival and presented at the International Forum on Ethnodrama, this verbatim play weaves music, movement, and excerpts from over one hundred interviews to explore the mental health crisis in America.
- *Safa's Story* (2018): Based on the real experiences of a San Diego native, this original work of Forum Theater was designed to allow young people to consider the complexities of racism, difference, and prejudice.
- *The Magic in this Soul* (2018): This celebration of resiliency in the face of discrimination introduced audiences to a multiracial teenager, a black woman with disabilities, a gay Muslim immigrant from Egypt, and other complex characters inspired by local San Diegans in a verbatim play that won Audience Favorite at the San Diego Fringe.
- *Qulili* (2018): Simultaneously funny, provocative, and deeply moving, this documentary play was inspired by conversations with immigrants and refugees in San Diego County, and developed with support from the University of California.
- *Connecting Flights* (2019): Produced during Blindspot Collective's residency at the San Diego International Airport, this series of pop-up performances featured original work by collaborators like Gill Sotu, Erika Malone, and Herbert Siguenza.





- *Hall Pass* (2019): Commissioned by New York University and presented by La Jolla Playhouse, this immersive musical set and performed throughout a high school featured short works by 35 playwrights and composers and a cast of 65+ local actors.
- *Danny's Story* (2019): Developed in partnership with Diversionary and support from San Diego Pride, this original work of Forum Theater promotes dialogue about transphobia and homophobia in local high schools.
- *Walks of Life* (2020): This work of auditory theater was commissioned by La Jolla Playhouse and featured new works by writers across the nation at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- *Refractions* (2020): Developed in response to the pandemic, this song cycle is based on interviews conducted in partnership between local artists and family members of those who died during the global shutdown.
- *Good Trouble* (2020): Fusing verbatim dialogue with original music, poetry, and audience interaction, participants 'performed a protest' while listening to this audioplay in public spaces during the pandemic in the weeks before the 2020 election.
- *when the bubble bursts* (2021): Simultaneously a celebration of resilience and a reflection on adversity, this 'happening' commissioned by La Jolla Playhouse blended music, movement, and text to reignite the magic of live theater after a long hiatus caused by the pandemic.

- *Lit* (2021): Commissioned by the California Center for the Arts, this musical for all ages was inspired by multicultural folklore, mixing sea shanties and shadow puppets to tell an original story about a girl whose world has been plunged into eternal darkness.
- *Black Séance* (2022): Presented at the Without Walls Festival produced by La Jolla Playhouse, this immersive experience mingles magic and mixed drinks for an intoxicating celebration of Black icons that won 'Outstanding Solo Performance' Award from the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle.
- *Salty Water* (2023): Created for the WOW Festival at the Rady Shell, this meditation on sweat, tears, and the sea mixed fantastical puppets and sea shanties with reflections and poetry by local community members.
- *Underground* (2023): An immersive, world premiere musical inspired by the discography of Ben Folds was co-produced by Coronado Playhouse and invited audiences to consider the inner lives of the strangers around us.
- *Kagitingan* (2023): This fusion of dance and documentary theatre was based on interviews with Filipino veterans of World War II. Their stories of friendship, loss, and resilience played to sold out audiences at Blindspot Collective's new performance venue.
- *washed ashore* (2023): Developed in partnership with Little Amal, crowds in Mission Beach were treated to a visit from a 12-foot-tall puppet of a 10-year-old Syrian refugee girl who is an international symbol of human rights.





current programs

BLINDSPOT CO-OP

This new residency program provides dedicated rehearsal space and resources to historically excluded artists creating original work. Three artists have been selected to participate in 2024 that will lead to the development of a new musical, a new play, and an affinity space for AAPI and BIPOC writers.

EMERGING ARTIST COLLECTIVE

With support from the California Arts Council, a group of next-generation artists ages 18-25 are receiving hands-on training and mentorship in the devising techniques Blindspot uses to create original work. The project they are currently developing will serve high school audiences and tour in Spring 2024.

COUNTY CO-LAB

In partnership with UCSD, high school-aged youth from across the county will collaborate to present a staged concert reading of a compelling new musical at the Epstein Amphitheater in Summer 2024

BLINDSPOT COMMONS

Because of the unique challenges facing small performing arts organizations in San Diego, Blindspot Collective is collaborating with MCASD to provide accessible rehearsal and performance space to other companies including Disco Riot and Loud Fridge Theatre.

IN-SCHOOL RESIDENCIES

Our in-depth programs for elementary, middle, and high school classrooms are facilitated by professional artists and introduce the tools of theater while enhancing social and emotional learning.

upcoming projects

BLACK SEANCE

This award-winning immersive play with music returns with a new slate of Black icons for an extended run in February 2024

DANCING AT THE END OF THE WORLD

Developed in partnership with our Emerging Artist Collective, this exploration of artificial intelligence, friendship, and hope in times of tragedy will tour high schools in San Diego County in March 2024.

IYKYK

Blindspot Collective returns to La Jolla Playhouse's WOW Festival in April 2024 with this immersive experience inspired by youth organizing and protest presented at the infamous Che Cafe.

NEW COMMISSION FOR THE VERY YOUNG

Continuing our commitment to underserved audiences, we are currently developing a new show for children under 6 and their caregivers that encourages curiosity and play.

UNDERGROUND

Following last year's acclaimed run, this original musical based on the music of Ben Folds will return for an extended run at a new venue on the UCSD campus in July 2024.

SMALL BITES

To encourage a community of innovation and experimentation, Blindspot will present this festival of site-specific and responsive short works.

NEW WORK FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

In collaboration with members of the creative team of *Lit*, this original show for elementary students will tour in October 2024.

REINDEER GAMES

This world premiere for all ages features familiar (and unexpected) holiday characters in a delightful immersive journey filled with puzzles.





impact

Since its inception, Blindspot Collective has engaged communities throughout San Diego County, including over 20,000 students in local schools. Assessments of our school programs have demonstrated that 62% of students served were seeing professional theater for the very first time and 94% felt that they “had a better understanding of people with different experiences” after the program. Simultaneously, 98% of teachers felt the program enhanced engagement with their students.

In its commitment to the development of new work, the organization has collaborated with over 100 playwrights and composers while providing paid opportunities to hundreds of local artists. Our partnerships with organizations like Jewish Family Services, Yalla San Diego, and Indian Voices ensure that the company serves those whose stories might otherwise go untold.

You can help us change the story.

Blindspot Collective is looking for individuals with a passion for theatre and a heart for advocacy. Join the community that is building the arts organization that San Diego needs.

Here are some of the ways you can get involved:

BECOME A BOARD MEMBER

As a non-profit organization, we are always looking for Board Members who wholeheartedly believe in our mission and want to support the company through big-picture planning and strategic management. Board Members meet once a month, attend and support our projects and events, and facilitate advocacy and fundraising endeavors.

JOIN A COMMITTEE

Our Board of Directors relies on the professional expertise of volunteer committees to make recommendations about fundraising, communications, and programming. Committees meet every 4-6 weeks and support Blindspot Collective's efforts to produce large-scale theatrical events, launch world premieres, and create cutting-edge art for San Diego.

SPONSOR A SHOW OR PROGRAM

Blindspot Collective cannot rely on ticket sales alone to present groundbreaking original work. Your sponsorship will help ensure that unheard voices get the chance to be amplified and new art will be created.

BE AN ADVOCATE

Life-changing art cannot be created in a vacuum. It needs the support of like-minded individuals in the community to breathe and grow. We are consistently looking to forge new collaborations with individuals and organizations that share our values. If you support Blindspot Collective and the work its artists do, share with others news about our events, projects, and mission. We welcome everyone from all walks of life and value the diversity of a thriving community.

