At Idyllwild Arts our academic and arts teachers throw themselves passionately into eliminating the distinction between creation and criticism. Small, seminar-style classes draw our students into the sharp critiques of the present that clear a way to create the world anew. Young people who crave individuality, but don’t know what that means, learn here that individuals are not just eccentric. Our students develop the initiative to pursue their private dreams for the public good, making all of us into stronger individuals.
“Idyllwild Arts - the place where we began the life we had not yet imagined.”
Dima Dimitrova
Class of 2008
& Nora German
Class of 2009
“Maintaining a strong academic workload was important to me, and Idyllwild Arts is one of the few places where I could combine both my passion for dance and my interest in continuing advanced academic coursework.”

Elliot Gordon Mercer
Class of 2005
“Music is like air to me, it has always been present in my life. It is the oxygen for my soul.”

Vania Dobreva
Class of 2002

“Being around people who love the arts gave me the courage to find my musical place in the world.”

Casey Abrams
Class of 2009
In jazz, great musicians make music of undesirable notes.

Marshall Hawkins
Jazz Faculty
The school offers a unique, supportive and safe environment that encourages self discovery, growth and risk taking.

Angelina Burnett
Class of 1996
The friends I made at Idyllwild continue to be my collaborators, my confidants and my support system, and they always will be.

Laura Holliday
Class of 2009
“Once a creative individual has been exposed to the Idyllwild Arts experience, everything else in life leading up to that point pales in comparison.”

—Donna Mitchell
Class of 1997
"I went from culturally homogenous backwoods, feeling misunderstood, to suddenly having awe and reverence and being surrounded by all these people that were all equally passionate."

Neal Beasley
Class of 2000
“If dance is your passion, Idyllwild Arts can make it your life.”

Jonathan Sharp
Dance Faculty
In a world where children are to be seen and not heard, I learned here how to roar.

Sabrina Melendez
Class of 2014
“My project was to create a website where artists from around the world who have been censored could tell their stories. Thank you for giving me the chance to make a footprint.”

Jordan Sternberg
Class of 2013
“Idyllwild Arts Academy is the ultimate experience, it helped me grow from a sheltered comic book geek, to express myself to the best of my ability.”

Dhaivat Mehta
Class of 2010
The Idyllwild Arts campus was the most open minded and inspiring community I’ve ever been part of. It was the perfect environment to find myself artistically and personally.

Kai Krause
Class of 2011
“You close your eyes and hear this incredible music that could be any esteemed orchestra in the world - and you open your eyes to realize that this exquisite music is coming from children.”

Rich Capparela, KUSC Radio, describing the Summer Program’s final music concert.
“Millions of men have lived to fight, build palaces and boundaries, shape destinies and societies; but the compelling force of all times has been the force of originality and creation profoundly affecting the roots of human spirit.”

Ansel Adams
Former Summer Program Faculty