

# Annual Report

2018-2019

## Clockshop

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[clockshop.org](http://clockshop.org)

Photo by Gina Clyne.

# Letter from the Director

Clockshop is in its 16th year. We are teen-aged now! It truly feels like Clockshop is coming of age—growing up, accounting for our actions and accomplishments, and getting ready for the next big thing. This year we focused on laying the groundwork for future projects. We expanded partnerships, seeded more ambitious art commissions, launched an environmental education program, and advocated for the future park.

The year also brought many beautiful and challenging projects to fruition. *South of Fletcher* concluded with an exhibition at Occidental College, and the podcast now has over 2,600 listeners. This January marked the inaugural Bowtie Storytellers, a new environmental education and interpretation program for youth that took place over three months. From the hyper-local perspective of these projects, we pivoted to a national partnership, and established a relationship with Socrates Sculpture Park, a park along the East River in New York City, that has a history similar to the Bowtie. In May, Socrates and Clockshop exchanged two large outdoor sculptures, and we anticipate more exchanges to come.

Much of my time was focused on collaborating with our river partners to plan the future of the wild and woolly 18-acres known as the Bowtie. I worked closely with the LA River State Park Partners (LARSPP) board and staff to advocate for funding for initial design plans for the park. To that end, a small group of us

went to Sacramento in February to meet with elected officials, such as Assembly member Wendy Carrillo, Senator Maria Elena Durazo, and California State Park Director Lisa Mangat. We spoke to them about our work at the Bowtie, especially Bowtie Storytellers. For all involved, this was a new experience, and I've learned a lot about how to work within government to make things happen. The meetings were successful! In June 2019, the Governor signed a new budget for the state of California that allocates \$500,000 for an initial design proposal for the future state park. We are ending our fiscal year looking ahead and thinking about what Clockshop will become.

With gratitude,

Julia Meltzer  
*Executive Director*

Performers at Carmina Escobar's *Endless Life*. Photo by Gina Clyne.



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The Bowtie. Photo by Gina Clyne.



# Our Work

Clockshop is a multidisciplinary arts organization in Los Angeles. We commission work by artists and writers, curate inclusive public programs about pressing political and environmental issues, and collaborate with institutions to build new audiences and strengthen the social fabric of our community and the world beyond.

Our core activity is the production of year-round commissions and public programs. We bring this mission to our partnership with California State Parks on the Bowtie Project, an underused public space along the Los Angeles River that will be the next urban state park in Los Angeles.

**Together, we help our community realize its agency in shaping the future of the city.**

*Puente* by Rafa Esparza. Photo by Gina Clyne.



# Our Team

**Julia Meltzer**, Founder & Executive Director

**Ana Cecilia Alvarez**, Development Manager

**Lindsey Lee Eichenberger**, Public Programs Director

**Mackenzie Hoffman**, Associate Curator

**Katie Manos**, Graphic Designer

## Our Board Members

**Sue Bell Yank**, President

**York Chang**, Vice-President

**Ashley Hunt**, Secretary

**Andrew Vought**, Treasurer

**Beatriz Cortez**

**William Deverell**

**Beth Gibb**

**Tracy Gray**

**Ann Le**

**Julia Meltzer**



Team members Lindsey Lee Eichenberger and Julia Meltzer. Photo by Gina Clyne.

# 2018-19 Project Highlights



**4**

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ART COMMISSIONS

**18**

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EVENTS

**OVER  
3,600**

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PARTICIPANTS

# South of Fletcher

Fonografia Collective, a collaboration between Ruxandra Guidi and Bear Guerra, partnered with Clockshop to produce a podcast, photo exhibition, and public events about change on and around the Bowtie and the Los Angeles River.

Once one of Southern California's most important rail yards, the Bowtie parcel now functions as one of Clockshop's main programming sites. It will soon become the next urban California State Park in Los Angeles, joining a patchwork of river-adjacent parks that are shaping the course of river revitalization. *South of Fletcher* investigated both the subtle and dramatic changes taking place at the Bowtie. It uncovered some of Los Angeles's biggest issues—the housing crisis, lack of open space, effects of climate change, and the forces of urban development—as they come to a head in this unique piece of land next to the Los Angeles River.

In partnership with Oxy Arts, major themes from this project were woven into Occidental College's CORE Program for incoming freshmen, complementing the *South of Fletcher* photo exhibition that took place at Occidental's Weingart Gallery.

The *South of Fletcher* podcast series is available online and has over 2,600 listeners. [LEARN MORE](#)

Photos by Gina Clyne and Bear Guerra.





*South of Fletcher: Stories from the Bowtie.* Photo by Bear Guerra.

# Partnership with Socrates Sculpture Park

Clockshop formed a new partnership with Socrates Sculpture Park in 2019. In May, we presented *Into the ground*, a collaborative sculpture by Joe Riley and Audrey Snyder. This project was originally commissioned for The Socrates Annual in New York and made its west coast debut at the Bowtie.

*Into the ground* reflects on how urban ecologies uptake and transform contaminants, and how collective bodies realize agency through ground-up organizing. At Socrates, this sculpture engaged with the park's history of transformation from landfill to public park, and in Los Angeles, it draws similar parallels to the Bowtie's transformation-in-progress.

In the same month, Socrates exhibited *Tzolk'in*, the sculpture that artist Beatriz Cortez premiered at the Bowtie in June 2018. [LEARN MORE](#)

*"It has been an enormous honor for us to work alongside the Clockshop crew. We are grateful for the opportunity to share Into the ground with a new place and community. The people, programs, and projects as well as the feral/free sense of the Bowtie are very close to our ways of thinking and making. It is wonderful to continue this work together."* - JOE RILEY AND AUDREY SNYDER



Details from *Into the ground*. Photos by Gina Clyne.



*Tzolk'in* by Beatriz Cortez at the Socrates Sculpture Park. Photo by Gina Clyne.

# Bowtie Storytellers

In 2019, Clockshop introduced Bowtie Storytellers, a free public program for LA youth. Bowtie Storytellers uses the Bowtie as an outdoor classroom, to teach students about urban geography and nature. Our goal is to nurture the next generation of park advocates and promote an ethics of stewardship.

Bowtie Storytellers adopts a peer-to-peer education model. Teenaged participants (16-18 years old) completed an intensive course that taught them skills in plant and wildlife identification, nature interpretation, and how to assess the river's ecological health. All of them received an official certification from the National Association of Interpretation. The teenagers proceed to teach a younger cohort (9-13 years old) what they learned. At the end of the program, both groups were celebrated and encouraged to share their knowledge with their friends, their families, and other members of their community.

In this first year of Bowtie Storytellers, we reached 40 youth participants. We are actively seeking funding for 2020 and 2021. We hope to secure a larger second cohort, and to begin building relationships with teachers at nearby schools. [LEARN MORE](#)

*“Even though I live right down the street, before Bowtie Storytellers I had never heard of the Bowtie. Now I know its history and can be a part of its future as a State Park.” - PIA, 17*



Photos by Savannah Wood and Gina Clyne.



Junior Interpreters at the Bowtie. Photo by Gina Clyne.

# The Past, Present, and Future of the Bowtie Project

Since 2014, Clockshop has executed over 80 artist projects, performances, and events at the Bowtie, for over 5,000 participants and attendees. Thanks, in part, to our work, the Bowtie is now a recognized location where Angelenos come to spend time along the Los Angeles River. Clockshop is the first non-profit arts organization in the state of California to have a legal partnership with California State Parks (CSP). We are currently in preliminary talks with CSP to make art and culture programming a permanent part of the mission of the future State Park. We envision this park as a place where Angelenos can enjoy bold artistic work and appreciate the unique, naturalized landscape.

## Site History

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- 1873:** The site is deeded from the city of Los Angeles to Southern Pacific Railroad.
- 2003:** The site is purchased by California State Parks and is slated to become the next State Park.
- 2014:** The first Bowtie Project artwork is unveiled at the site.
- 2019:** Governor Gavin Newsom approves California state budget that includes \$500K for an initial design proposal for the State Park.

Image courtesy of the Los Angeles Flood Control District.



# Financials

2018 was our most successful year to date.  
We raised **\$250,000!**

INCOME:

**\$250,000**

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

**\$200,000**

INDIVIDUAL:

**\$104,000**

FOUNDATION:

**\$52,000**

GOVERNMENT:

**\$44,000**

EVENT INCOME:

**\$10,000**

EXHIBITION FEE:

**\$40,000**

EXPENSES:

**\$240,000**

EDUCATIONAL  
PROGRAMS AND  
FREE EVENTS:

**\$20,000**

9%

44%

SALARIES AND  
PROFESSIONAL FEES:  
**\$105,000**

37%

10%

COMMISSIONS  
SUPPORTING  
NEW WORK:

**\$90,000**

RENT AND OFFICE  
ADMINISTRATION:  
**\$25,000**



# Our Supporters

Clockshop is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and relies on the generosity of government and foundation support, as well as individual donors. Clockshop's programs were supported by the following entities in 2018-2019:



National  
Endowment  
for the Arts  
[arts.gov](http://arts.gov)



GOOD WORKS  
FOUNDATION



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



MIKE KELLEY FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS



# A Note from Our Board President

Clockshop's two sites in Northeast LA are both places of breathtaking possibility, but they couldn't be more different. One is like a sanctuary—a thriving garden and inviting event space that feels like home. The other is a wild, untamed, 18-acre strip of land along the Glendale Narrows section of the Los Angeles River, punctuated with thrilling artistic discoveries, detritus, and graffiti. It is public open space that unveils all the complicated realities of land use and cultural identity in Los Angeles, amidst a context of rampant real estate speculation, gentrification, and displacement.

Clockshop's focus on the role of arts in civic society plays out through its unique partnerships, artist commissions, and programs that unfold across these two sites. Through art, Clockshop imagines the future, radically proposing different realities while productively critiquing the one we live in. This plays out in warm, intimate concerts or powerful political lectures in their event space, where strong bonds and new ideas are formed between people from all sectors who believe in a more equitable society. This also manifests in poetry readings by the light of the moon, campfire storytelling, urban fishing,

and monumentally powerful works of public art and performance that bring all manner of people together in a post-industrial landscape, to interrogate the land, amplify oft-silenced cultural voices, and elicit bold new ideas of how we view our urban environment.

I care about the city of Los Angeles, and this is my neighborhood. I believe in the power of arts to be a critical, questioning voice in the face of a housing affordability crisis, environmental injustice, racial and gender inequities. Clockshop invests in the voices of artists who blaze new conversations about what kind of society we ultimately want to live in.

Thank you for your support,

Sue Bell Yank  
*Board President*

Creating seed pods at Bowtie Storytellers' Family Campfire. Photo by Gina Clyne.





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