

# 2023 Annual Report

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**Parent  
Organization  
Network**  
*Breaking Through Barriers*

# Director's Message

Dear Members and Partners:

2023 was quite a year for PON and our collaborative partners! PON reached an important milestone as I celebrated 10 years leading this impactful organization.

We returned to hosting in-person workshops for parents of English learners, co-hosted the Black Family Summit in February, hosted the Latino Family Summit in September, and wrapped up 2023 by co-hosting the inaugural conference for the California Family Engagement Network (CA-FEN) in December in Los Angeles. Our thanks to all our partners and donors who helped make the parent voice stronger throughout 2023.

We raised a total of \$895K. The additional funding helped pay for expenses related to convening parents across LA County and leaders across California. Some of the new funding is helping PON build capacity for communications in 2024. For more details about what is coming in the new year, please see "2024 Priorities".

We know PON will continue to grow in size and influence in 2024 and I look forward to working with you to reach our collective goals.

In solidarity,

*Araceli Simeón*



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# About PON

## OUR MISSION

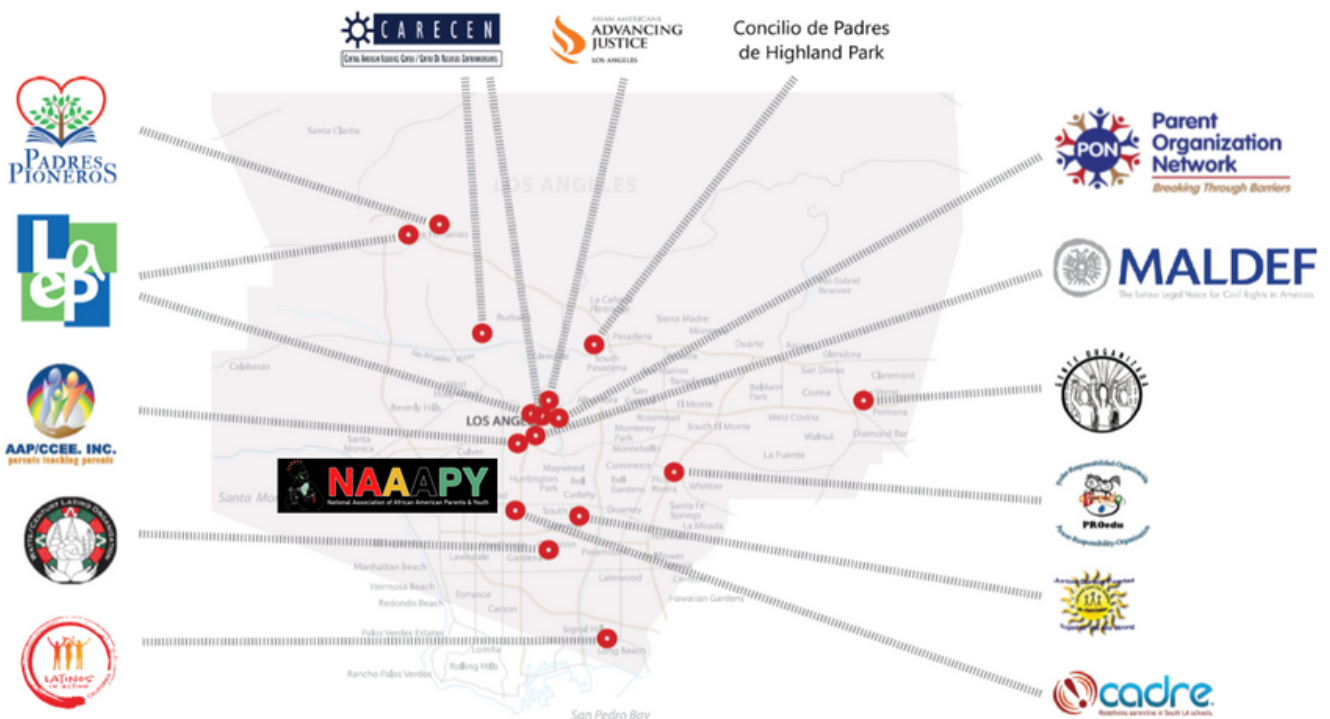
PON unites the power of underserved parents\* to break through barriers in public education, so parents and educators can effectively partner to ensure equity and excellence for all students.

PON defines "parents" broadly to include birth, adoptive, foster parents, and legal guardians, as well as grandparents, adults siblings, aunts and uncles, and other relatives and non-relatives who are involved in raising and educating a child.

## OUR THEORY OF ACTION

Advocate and build capacity to improve conditions and increase the readiness for effective family-school partnerships so together they can better support student success and close opportunity and achievement gaps in education.

## OUR MEMBERS



# Our 2021-2025 Goals

## 1

### ADVOCACY

To remove barriers to family engagement and build staff practices to promote and support family engagement.

## 2

### CAPACITY BUILDING

To strengthen parent capacity to effectively work with others (i.e., parents, organizations, school officials) on collective projects or campaigns to ensure equity and excellence for all students.

## 3

### ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

To strengthen PON's organizational capacity to sustain an effective and efficient parent engagement network.

## 4

### RAISE PUBLIC PROFILE

To raise our public profile to achieve greater visibility and name recognition, and highlight PON's successes among key stakeholders.

## 5

### DIVERSE NETWORK

To ensure a broad, diverse network of parents, organizations, partners, and allies committed to family engagement as a means to achieve educational equity.

# 2023 Highlights

We are pleased to highlight progress in strategic goals related to advocacy, capacity building and organizational development.

## 1

### ADVOCACY: FAMILY MATH, TK IMPLEMENTATION, & STATEWIDE NETWORK

#### A. Family Math

In 2023, the final version of the California Department of Education's Math Framework included more robust language related to family engagement. This was accomplished through PON's research and partners' advocacy over three years. Although it is not mandatory for school districts to implement the new framework, it influences the choices made by educators when designing math courses and publishing companies when they update math books.

#### B. Monitoring TK Implementation in School Districts

Last August, PON released a report on TK implementation. TK enrollment numbers were lower than expected. We learned from parents that schools varied greatly in their readiness to serve four-year-olds and many are excluding parents in the educational process. We will continue advocating to improve family engagement in TK and increase outreach so families are aware of their program options.

#### C. Formalizing the California Family Engagement Network

CA-FEN is composed of about 20 family-serving organizations across the state. The network convened in December to assess the current landscape for family engagement and provide direction for the work in 2024-2025. CA-FEN has entrusted PON with leading this incredibly important work in the coming years.



# 2023 Highlights

## CAPACITY BUILDING

# 2

### A. For English Learner Success (4ELS) Program

In 2023, one hundred parents completed the 4ELS program from seven school sites in three school districts. Overall, parents increased their knowledge about English language development (ELD), reclassification requirements, and where their child stands in that process. School staff and nonprofits staff who attended the training are benefiting from the program as well by learning more about the ELD programs or learning new strategies to engage multilingual families.



Key lessons learned from working over three years with parents of English learners include:

- Parents are not aware their children are being classified as English learners. Many EL students also are not aware where they stand.
- This lack of awareness leads parents to decline services, support.

**Recommendation:** Educators must share data with parents at least three times per year, providing three to five data points beyond grades so they know their children's progress on reading, ELD, and math competency.

### B. LATINO FAMILY SUMMIT

One hundred thirty-five parents participated in the event hosted at Pomona College on September 28th sponsored by the Weingart Foundation. PON members led workshops providing information about early education options, math, monitoring learning, ethnic studies, and immigration. The event culminated with a panel featuring two sons of PON parent leaders and their journeys completing college and launching their careers or businesses.



# 2023 Highlights

## 3

### **ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY: Budget increased ~10%**

This year PON raised approximately \$895K through multi-year grants. The budget for the year grew about 10% from 2022. The new resources paid for costs related to hosting events for parents or leaders. New funding is coming from small contracts or stipends allowing staff or parents to participate in committees, coalitions, or research projects.

## 4

### **RAISE PUBLIC PROFILE: New websites coming in 2024**

In 2023 PON raised funding to develop a new website for CA-FEN and to refresh the PON website to include parent-friendly information and resources. The CA-FEN website was released in January and the updated PON website will be available by Summer 24.

Our collaborative work with parents of English Learners was featured in EdSource and by the Sobrato Foundation. PON is also now an Advisory Committee Member of the Consortium for English Learner Success.

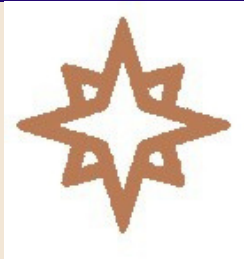
## 5

**DIVERSE NETWORK: PON co-hosted the National Association for African American Parents & Youth's 2023 Black Latino Family Summit and developed the Cross-Cultural Solidarity Project.** The summit gathered about 140 leaders last year and NAAAPY and PON will be co-hosting a new summit in March. The Cross-Cultural Solidarity Project will be piloted in April.



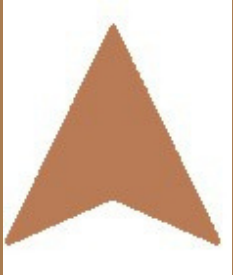


# Priorities in 2024



## NEW PROJECTS

- PON will grow the Los Angeles County network and continue to serve families while merging our critical policy work with CA-FEN. CA-FEN identified three priorities: family engagement in pre-service; alignment of family engagement in statewide initiatives and stakeholder engagement; and developing a family engagement policy platform and a public outreach communications campaign.
- PON is seeking nonprofit status. To begin the incorporation process, we are recruiting additional board members. We will transition into a new legal structure in 2025.



## WORK WE ARE CONTINUING

- Training and follow-up for parents of English Learners. Developing a Training of Trainers to share our best practices when working with parents of English learners.
- Monitoring policy at state agencies related to family engagement in math, TK implementation, and educator professional development and credentialing.
- Piloting the Cross-Cultural Solidarity Project and refining it.
- Engaging network members and partners in developing relevant content for families and practitioners.



## CHANGES

We will prioritize outreach and communications. As PON grows in capacity and influence we must be prepared reach more parents and connect them with groups and services that will support their child's development and educational journey.

# 2023 Financials

## INCOME: \$885K

In 2023 PON raised a total of \$885K, with 89% coming from foundation grants and 11% from foundation or corporation contracts. The contractual work is for coalition participation.

## EXPENSES: \$675K

This year PON spent \$675K, almost 75% more than in 2022 (\$371K). Of this amount, 54% or \$364,365 paid for personnel salaries and benefits. Nine percent (9%) or \$64,950 covered fiscal sponsorship fees. The remaining 36% paid for operating expenses including: Consultants (\$96,738 or 14%), PON Summit and CA-FEN Conference expenses (\$43,906 or 6.5%); and 4ELS program expenses (\$13,307 or 2%).

Please note this year “consultants” included sub-grants to the National Association for African Americans Parents & Youth to support their efforts to engage Black families (\$20K) and Latinos In Action to help us engage families of English Learners in Long Beach (\$6K). We also funded event coordinators, a facilitator for the cross-cultural solidarity project, a web designer, interpreters, and communications support.

## Acknowledgements

Our work would not be possible without the trust and commitment of our funders, partners, members, parents and staff. Thank you so much for your ongoing support!

### FUNDERS:

- Alpha D. & Associates LLC
- Alliance for a Better Community & the Consortium for EL Success
- Amity Foundation
- California Partners Project
- California Partnership for the Future of Learning & Learning Policy Institute
- Heising-Simons Foundation
- Sobrato Philanthropies
- The California Endowment
- The Education Trust West
- The Social Changery LLC
- Weingart Foundation

