



The Neighborhood Voices ensemble performs their original play, "Another Day in Dena," at Villa Parke Community Center in Northwest Pasadena on December 12, 2025.

"This was my big moment. It was overwhelming but really great. I got to **grow and learn** a lot about myself. And I'm really, really—honestly, am really—**proud** of myself that I pushed myself with this."

- Meghan



This past fall, our 12-week intergenerational **Neighborhood Voices** program began with a walk in the park. Participants drew on their observations (squirrels, city signage, squawking parrots, graffiti, dog walkers, and a man sleeping on a bench) along with their own life experiences, strangers' obituaries, interviews with area residents, anonymous internet comments, and *Pasadena Star News* articles, to generate ideas for their original play.

Two Teaching Artists guided the ensemble to find the heart of each idea, shape it into a story, and give it life on stage. Participants drafted monologues, lists, and short scenes; exchanged letters as characters; and acted out their works-in-progress—filming to capture improvisations. The result? A tapestry of 16 evocative vignettes about life in the Pasadena area, with threads of grief, resilience, music, and human connection woven throughout.

ABOUT NEIGHBORHOOD VOICES

"It really taught me a lot about devotion, and dedication, and commitment to a process...just being devoted to each other and to the project, it's so fulfilling and rewarding. There is a lot of medicine here." - Bernie