



Strategic Arts Education Plan

FIVE-YEAR UPDATE 2021-2026
SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
JUNE 2021

SOUTHERN COUNTIES CALIFORNIA ARTS PROJECT
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NOTE: In the following *2021-2026 SDUSD Strategic Arts Education Plan*, Action Steps are listed in the primary Goal Area they serve; however, many Action Steps also relate to and contribute toward achievement in other Goals Areas. Detailed implementation steps, timelines, and persons responsible are identified in the *2021-2026 SDUSD Strategic Arts Education Plan: Annotated Implementation*, available upon request from Russ Sperling, SDUSD VAPA Director.

SUMMARY

On January 21, 2021 the Strategic Arts Education Planning Committee for San Diego Unified School District met for the first time with the task of updating the 2016-2021 SDUSD Visual and Performing Arts Education Plan to advance high quality, comprehensive, sequential, standards-based arts education for all students at all schools. The committee examined the outcomes of the 2016-2021 SDUSD Strategic Arts Education Plan, and also reviewed the following research to inform the strategic planning:

- *San Diego Unified VAPA Data Analysis* conducted by Moxie Research, November 2019
- *Creativity at the Center: A New Vision for Arts Education in the San Diego Unified School District*, a blue paper by The Cultural Planning Group - San Diego, December 2020.

In five virtual sessions, the committee revised the SDUSD VAPA mission statement, identified new goal areas, new goals, and articulated specific action steps to achieve the goals and enrich SDUSD students' lives with the arts. The Plan is divided into four 'Goal Areas' that address the specific needs of a comprehensive arts program.

The 2021 SDUSD Strategic Arts Education Planning Committee included the SDUSD VAPA Advisory Council, SDUSD VAPA District Office Team, as well as additional individuals representing a cross section of the district including administrators, visual and performing arts teachers, multiple subject teachers, community members, and students. The strategic planning process was facilitated by Courtney Sawada, Regional Director of the Southern Counties California Arts Project (SouthCAP).

SDUSD Strategic Arts Education Plan 2021-2026 Committee:

Kayla Mae Baccay, SDUSD, dance student

Tim Benson, VAPA, Program Manager

Brian Black, Crawford High School, Visual Arts Teacher

Allison Boles, La Jolla Music Society, Education and Community Program Manager

Trisha Cox, Muirlands Middle School, Visual Arts Teacher

Isolina Delgado, SDUSD visual arts student

Anne Fennell, VAPA, Program Manager, K-12 Music

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Michael Fiedler, Serra High School, Instrumental Music Teacher

Lisel Gorell-Getz, The Old Globe, Education Coordinator

Hillari Hampton, SDUSD music student

Ann Marie Haney, Community Council for Music in the Schools, Chair

EJ Kovacs-Morgan, SDUSD theatre student

Andrea LeMaitre, SDSCPA, Dance Teacher

Don Masse, Zamorano Elementary School, Visual Arts Teacher

Beth Mikulanis, ALBA, Hoover High School, Visual Arts Teacher

Deirdre Moore, Arts for Learning San Diego, Residency Program Manager

Ethan Morgan, VAPA, Facilities Manager

Mark Nadeau, Elementary Instrumental Music Teacher

Candice Narlock, VAPA, Resource Teacher - Dance

Michelle Pampo, Balboa Elementary School, classroom teacher

Erika Phillips, The Old Globe, Arts Engagement Programs Manager

Meera Ramanathan, Zamorano Elementary, Visual Arts Teacher

Andrew Rodriguez, Bell Middle, music teacher

Donna Silva Garcia, SDSCPA and FOSCPA Liaison

Russ Sperling, VAPA, Director

Stephanie Steiner, SDSCPA, Theatre Teacher

Marjorie Treger, VAPA, Resource Teacher - Theatre

Honseng Tu, Wangenheim Middle School, Instrumental Music Teacher

Laura Williams, VAPA, Resource Teacher - Music

VISION STATEMENT

Transforming lives through the arts.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

All students have equitable access to arts education.

We find strength in diversity.

San Diego Unified School District Visual and Performing Arts (SDUSD VAPA) creates artistically literate, lifelong learners. To be artistically literate is to *recognize* and *utilize*...

The arts as communication: artistically literate individuals express and communicate ideas artistically and analyze and interpret the artistic communications of others.

The arts as creative personal realization: artistically literate individuals continue active involvement in creating, performing, and responding to art as an adult.

The arts as culture, history, and connectors: artistically literate individuals seek and appreciate diverse forms and genres of artwork and understand relationships between the arts and other knowledge.

The arts as a means to well-being: artistically literate individuals find joy, inspiration, peace, intellectual stimulation, meaning, and other life-enhancing qualities through participation in the arts.

The arts as community engagement: artistically literate individuals seek artistic experiences and support the arts in local, state, national, and global communities.

The arts as profession: artistically literate individuals support the arts as a profession by engaging with the arts.¹

¹ Adapted from the “Philosophical Foundations and Life-Long Goals,” *Introduction to the California Arts Standards*, California Department of Education, 2019.

MISSION STATEMENT

San Diego Unified School District prioritizes Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) as core academic pursuits, critical to a well-rounded education, by cultivating artistic literacy and developing in students the creative and intellectual capacity and skills necessary to thrive in cultural communities and career pursuits. SDUSD VAPA is committed to inclusion and diversity, so that *all* SDUSD students develop agency, creative capacity, and civic responsibility.

To achieve this mission, SDUSD VAPA...

...expands students' capacity to think critically about creative work and artistic processes for self-expression and discovery.

... develops shared understanding among educators, families, and interested parties of how acquired artistic knowledge, skills, and processes impact career paths in and beyond creative industries.

... ensures access to culturally responsive, relevant, and authentic coursework, pathways, instruction, and materials, in *all five arts disciplines: dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts*.

... builds community in and around schools by engaging all interested parties, allying with the region's economic development, workforce readiness, and higher education, and fostering collaborative relationships with the arts community to empower students' civic engagement.

GOAL AREAS

Goal Area 1: Equity and Access

SDUSD provides all SDUSD students with a meaningful, sequential, and standards-based arts education with access to culturally responsive, relevant, and authentic coursework, pathways, instruction, facilities, equipment, and materials, in all five arts disciplines: dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts.

SDUSD empowers all students, TK-12, to see, know, and understand themselves through the arts within a thriving arts community, while developing agency and building creative capacity.

2026 Goals

- 1.1 Increase access to sequential, standards-based arts education in all five arts disciplines during the school day for all **elementary** students (grades TK-5), in compliance with [CA Education Code 51210](#).
- 1.2 Increase access to sequential, standards-based course offerings in all five arts disciplines for all **secondary** students (grades 6-12), in compliance with [CA Education Code 51220](#).
- 1.3 Increase access to integration opportunities in all five arts disciplines for all students TK-12.
- 1.4 Increase the presence and inclusion of artistically and culturally diverse voices that represent our students and their communities.

RESOURCES (R) Action Steps

- R.1.0 Increase the capacity of the VAPA staff (VAPA Resource Teachers) to fulfill the commitments of the strategic arts education plan ([Goal Area 1](#)).
- R.2.0 Conduct annual **TK-5** gap analysis of arts instruction at all **elementary** sites, in all disciplines ([Goal Area 1](#)).
- R.3.0 Conduct annual **6-12** gap analysis of access to arts courses at all **secondary** sites, in all disciplines ([Goal Area 1](#)).
- R.4.0 Conduct ongoing research of student representation in arts programs, courses, and pathways ([Goal Area 1](#)).
- R.5.0 Increase VAPA materials, instruments, supplies, resources, and teachers/personnel for secondary students enrolled in VAPA courses to ensure equity of access ([Goal Area 1](#)).
- R.6.0 Continue to restore VAPA spaces and facilities to safe, operable conditions, and modernize facilities and equipment comparable to industry and university standards ([Goal Area 1](#)).

PROGRAMMING (PR) Action Steps

- PR.1.0 Increase awareness of existing VAPA programs (e.g., AEP) in all five disciplines to expand elementary arts learning ([Goal Area 1](#)).
- PR.2.0 Expand VAPA programs for elementary schools ([Goal Area 1](#)).

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PR.7.0 Revise magnet schools to increase arts integration and prevent minority group isolation. Participating Magnet Schools: Freese Arts and Culture Museum Magnet, CPMA, Webster Academy of Science and SDSCPA ([Goal Area 1](#)).

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING (PL) Action Steps

PL.1.0 Offer professional learning opportunities **for TK-12 teachers** in arts integration, aligned to the 2020 *CA Arts Education Framework*, (Chp. 8), facilitated by SDUSD VAPA and/or outside resources ([Goal Area 1](#)).

COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY (CA) Action Steps

CA 3.0 Create a campaign to increase and strengthen awareness of recruitment into VAPA programs ([Goal Area 1](#)).

Goal Area 2: Content, Curriculum, and Instruction

SDUSD provides all SDUSD students with content, curriculum, and instruction that places creativity at the center, cultivating artistic literacy through development in the four, standards-based artistic processes: Creating, Performing/ Presenting/ Producing, Responding, and Connecting.

SDUSD delivers quality arts instruction that consciously employs culturally responsive, relevant, and sustaining pedagogies.

2026 Goals

- 2.1 Develop, implement, and sustain culturally responsive, relevant, and anti-racist arts curriculum and instruction, in compliance with [Freedom Summer 2020 Board Resolution](#).
- 2.2 Diversify curriculum for inclusive representation of cultures, LGBTQ+, and special needs communities.
- 2.3 Expand standards-based learning models, curriculum, and instruction for TK-12 in all arts disciplines.
- 2.4 Increase the capacity of elementary classroom teachers to provide standards-based instruction in all arts disciplines, in compliance with [CA Ed Code, Section 51210](#).

RESOURCES (R) Action Steps

- R.7.0 Develop resources to assist instructional leaders (e.g., site administrators) in supporting TK-12 VAPA teachers ([Goal Area 2](#)).

PROGRAMMING (PR) Action Steps

- PR.3.0 Expand and align cluster course offerings and opportunities to strengthen standards-based 6-12 learning sequences in the arts ([Goal Area 2](#)).

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING (PL) Action Steps

- PL.2.0 Offer professional learning opportunities **for TK-12 VAPA teachers** in standards-based learning models, facilitated by SDUSD VAPA and/or outside resources ([Goal Area 2](#)).
- PL.3.0 Offer professional learning opportunities **for TK-12 VAPA teachers** to develop asset-based, anti-racist, and anti-biased approaches: culturally responsive, relevant, and sustaining pedagogies, facilitated by SDUSD VAPA and/or outside resources ([Goal Area 2](#)).
- PL.4.0 Offer professional learning opportunities **for TK-5 classroom teachers** to implement arts curriculum and instruction, facilitated by SDUSD VAPA and/or outside resources ([Goal Area 2](#)).

Goal Area 3: Lifelong Arts Connections

- SDUSD develops in SDUSD students the creative and intellectual capacity and essential skills necessary to thrive in a cultural community and/or career pursuit.
- SDUSD empowers all SDUSD students to think critically and creatively about their work and processes to appreciate, analyze, and apply artistic practices for self-expression and discovery.
- SDUSD ensures all SDUSD students graduate aware of how artistic skills and processes will impact career paths in and beyond creative industries.

2026 Goals

- 3.1 Increase and expand opportunities for students, during and beyond school, in all arts disciplines, and for all marginalized student populations, to pursue patronage and/or participation in higher learning and/or careers in the arts after graduation.
- 3.2 Increase and expand opportunities for community engagement through all arts disciplines for students beyond the school day.
- 3.3 Maintain and expand partnerships in the variety of VAPA programs that exist in the San Diego county colleges and universities.

RESOURCES (R) Action Steps

- R.8.0** Create and sustain partnerships with higher education institutions (community colleges, colleges, and universities) in San Diego County ([Goal Area 3](#)).
- R.9.0** Identify and share arts-related scholarship opportunities for students ([Goal Area 3](#)).

PROGRAMMING (PR) Action Steps

- PR.4.0** Expand arts opportunities for all student populations and continue to create and provide arts opportunities for marginalized student populations ([Goal Area 3](#)).
- PR.5.0** Continue to support the development of mentorship and intern/externship opportunities through community arts organizations and businesses for arts students in each arts discipline ([Goal Area 3](#)).

COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY (CA) Action Steps

- CA.1.0** Establish and maintain an alumni organization to track and survey graduates' community engagement, and participation in and continued patronage of the arts ([Goal Area 3](#)).

Goal Area 4: Creative Community and Civic Engagement

SDUSD develops and fosters collaborative relationships with the arts community to provide programming and civic engagement opportunities for students through the systematic delivery of arts education.

SDUSD builds community in and around schools by engaging all interested parties (students, parents, educators, leadership, staff, community members, and arts partners).

SDUSD cultivates relationships with the arts community, enhancing arts learning and leadership for SDUSD students and educators, while elevating the educational capacity of the arts community.

2026 Goals

- 4.1 Increase and expand partnerships between schools and local arts organizations in each school cluster and throughout San Diego County.
- 4.2 Increase and expand civic engagement learning opportunities and grade level experiences through arts learning.
- 4.3 Create opportunities for students to exercise their voice and agency within their creative community utilizing the arts as a tool to become creators and contributors.
- 4.4 Increase advocacy, professional learning, and resources for underserved, underrepresented, and under-resourced communities and organizations.

RESOURCES (R) Action Steps

R.10.0 Build awareness of TK-12 arts learning opportunities available through community arts organizations ([Goal Area 4](#)).

PROGRAMMING (PR) Action Steps

PR.6.0 Increase civic engagement learning and experiences in new and existing curriculum ([Goal Area 4](#)).

COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY (CA) Action Steps

CA 2.0 Establish a Student VAPA Advisory Council ([Goal Area 4](#)).

CA.4.0 Advocate for full funding of all arts pathways to support content, curriculum, and instruction implementation ([Goal Area 4](#)).