

**San Diego Unified School District**  
**Visual and Performing Arts Strategic Plan 2016-2021**  
**Executive Summary**

**Vision Statement**

*Transforming lives through the arts.*

**Mission Statement**

*San Diego Unified School District will promote artistic literacy, innovation, creativity, and excellence in the arts by providing a high quality, sequential, TK-12 arts experience for all students. By implementing district policies that support and sustain the arts as a core subject, the Visual and Performing Arts Department (VAPA) will support the highest quality arts education in dance, music, theatre, and visual arts, providing services in curriculum and instruction, professional development and community collaboration.*

**Guiding Principles**

*All students have equitable access to arts education  
We find strength in diversity*

On February 4, 2016 the Arts Empower Task Force met for the first time with the task of writing a strategic Visual and Performing Arts Education Plan for San Diego Unified School District. The committee's goals were to create a visionary plan for San Diego that would provide a high quality, comprehensive, sequential, standards-based arts education for all students at all schools. This committee represented a cross section of the district including administrators, visual and performing arts teachers, multiple subject teachers, community members, parents and students. The goal is to fully implement the plan within 3- 5 years, acknowledging that the implementation timeline will need to correspond with overall district financial obligations.

In the four sessions, the committee created a vision statement, mission statement and a District Plan to enrich SDUSD students' lives with the arts. The Plan is divided into five 'Priority Areas' that address the specific needs of a comprehensive arts program. Resources used to help define these goal areas were the *National Core Arts Standards, 2014; The Qualities of Quality: Understanding Excellence in Arts Education*, Project Zero, Harvard University, 2009; and *Ed Codes 51210, 51220 and 8950*.

The Priority Areas are:

1. Resources
2. Curriculum
3. Professional Development
4. Visual and Performing Arts Magnet Schools
5. Community Engagement and Relationships

In addition to the four sessions of the Visual and Performing Arts Task Force Committee, four focus groups convened to provide feedback and input on the *Priority Areas* created by the Task Force. The first focus group invited all community arts organizations affiliated with the San

**San Diego Unified School District**  
**Visual and Performing Arts Strategic Plan 2016-2021**  
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Diego Arts Education Resource Organization (AERO). The additional three focus groups invited all Music, Theatre, Dance, and Visual Arts teachers in San Diego Unified School District.

Each *Priority Area* has specific action steps to be taken, with their resulting outcomes, budget implications, and recommended timelines for implementation. The timeline for the plan has been divided over the five years for implementation. This would allow the district flexibility according to fiscal restraints but provide a roadmap for long-term implementation.

In the complete plan you will find:

1. Task Force Committee Members
2. Focus Group Contributors
3. Complete Visual and Performing Arts Education Plan

**San Diego Unified School District**  
**Visual and Performing Arts Strategic Plan 2016-2021**  
**Executive Summary**

**Visual and Performing Arts Task Force Committee**

Tara Graviss	Arts for Learning San Diego, an affiliate of Young Audiences, Executive Director
Michelle Pampo	Balboa Elementary, Kindergarten Teacher
Katrina Stansfield	Benchley Weinberger Elementary, Teacher
Dana Springs	City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture, Executive Director
Laura Berlin	Clairemont High School, Visual Art Teacher
Marc Dwyer	Correia Middle School, Music Teacher
Sara Dickman	Creative Performing Media Arts, Dance Teacher
Scott Thomason	Creative and Performing Media Arts, Principal
Laura Smith	Elementary Instrumental Teacher
Marjorie Treger	La Jolla High School, Theatre Teacher
Steve McCormick	La Jolla Playhouse, Director of Education and Outreach
Mike Snyder	Madison-Clairemont, Cluster Chair
Johanna Benson	Mingei, Senior Education and Outreach Manager
Jeanne Christensen	Mira Mesa High School, Music Teacher
Beth Mikulanis	Morse High School, Visual Art Teacher
Ann Bossler	Price Philanthropies, Director of Program Development
Aida Anderson	School of Creative and Performing Arts, Dance Teacher
Tim Farson	School of Creative and Performing Arts, Principal
Jazley Genovese	School of Creative and Performing Arts, Student
Kamila Reeder	San Diego High School, Student
John Gabriel	San Diego Opera, Education Director
Russ Sperling	San Diego Unified District VAPA Office, Director
Mark Nicholson	San Diego Unified District VAPA Office, Instrumental Music Specialist
Linda Gohlke	San Diego Unified District VAPA Office, Program Manager
Caroline King	San Diego Unified District VAPA Office, Learning Through the Arts
Denise Lynne	San Diego Unified District VAPA Office, Resource Teacher – Dance and Theatre
Marty Stegeman	San Diego Unified District VAPA Office, Resource Teacher – Visual Art
Mahogany Taylor	San Diego Unified School District, Parent
Dalouge Smith	San Diego Youth Symphony, President and CEO
Patrick Garcia	Scripps Ranch High School and San Diego High School of International Studies, Theatre Teacher

**Community Partners Focus Group Contributors**

Macedonio Artega	Teatro Izcalli
Judy Berman Silbert	Art Reach
Ted Pena	Arts Bus Xpress
Michele Engel	Arts Bus Xpress
Patricia Smith	Arts Bus Xpress
Tara Graviss	Arts for Learning San Diego
Kent Brisby	Asian Story Theatre
Lauren Scott	City Ballet San Diego

**San Diego Unified School District  
Visual and Performing Arts Strategic Plan 2016-2021  
Executive Summary**

John Nettles	City Ballet San Diego
Andrea Feier	Civic Dance Arts
John Highkin	Fern Street Community Arts
Allison Boles	La Jolla Music Society
Cris Scorza	Museum of Contemporary Art
Mario Mesquita	Museum of Contemporary Art
Chantel Lane	Museum of Photographic Art
Paul Girard	Pacific Coast Harmony
Cecelia Kaima	Playwrights Project
Mary Jo Ball	Rockademix
Jon Schwartz	Rockademix
Gwen Gomez	San Diego Museum of Art
Jeffery Ingman	San Diego Student Shakespeare
Adrienne Valencia	San Diego Symphony
Sharon Du Bois	Southern California Jazz Society
Liz Shipman	Student Shakespeare Fest, MCIT Studio
Lisel Gorell-getz	The Old Globe Theatre
Karen Ann Daniels	The Old Globe Theatre
Kristina Rosenberg	Timken Museum
Nina Baker	Villa Musica
Fiona Chatwin	Villa Musica
Veronica Murphy	Write Out Loud

**SDUSD Music Teachers Focus Group Contributors**

Debbie Burton	Crown Point Elementary Music Teacher
Maureen Blinn	DePortola Middle School Music Teacher
Robin Dye	Farb Middle School Music Teacher
Joshua Prout	Lewis Middle School Music Teacher
John Krylow	Mann Middle School Music Teacher
Matt Mulvaney	Mira Mesa High School Music Teacher
Joan Li	Montgomery Middle School Music Teacher
James Fogelman	Morse High School Music Teacher
James Sepulvado	Point Loma High School Music Teacher
Marc Surrey	Roosevelt Middle School Music Teacher
John Reynolds	School of Creative and Performing Arts Music Teacher
Brandon Corenman	University City High School Music Teacher
Julita Biales	VAPA Itinerant Choral Elementary Music Teacher
Jerri Harrison	VAPA Itinerant Choral Elementary Music Teacher
Andre Beller	VAPA Itinerant Instrumental Elementary Music Teacher
Kirk Hoffman	VAPA Itinerant Instrumental Elementary Music Teacher
Shawn Hughes	VAPA Itinerant Instrumental Elementary Music Teacher
Kirk Johnson	VAPA Itinerant Instrumental Elementary Music Teacher

**San Diego Unified School District**  
**Visual and Performing Arts Strategic Plan 2016-2021**  
**Executive Summary**

Mark Kilmer	VAPA Itinerant Instrumental Elementary Music Teacher
Walt McKnight	VAPA Itinerant Instrumental Elementary Music Teacher
Lucille Park	VAPA Itinerant Instrumental Elementary Music Teacher
Laura Smith	VAPA Itinerant Instrumental Elementary Music Teacher
Sandra Stram	VAPA Itinerant Instrumental Elementary Music Teacher
Julie Szweda	VAPA Itinerant Instrumental Elementary Music Teacher
Harvey Tellinghuisen	VAPA Itinerant Instrumental Elementary Music Teacher
April West	VAPA Itinerant Instrumental Elementary Music Teacher
Mark Nicholson	VAPA Office Instrumental Music Specialist
Kyoko Miura	VAPA Office Resource Teacher
Charisse Hines	Wangenheim Middle School Music Teacher

**SDUSD Dance and Theatre Teachers Focus Group Contributors**

Summer Briggs	Baker Elementary
Stacey Allen	Clairemont High School
Ricardo Garcia	Creative and Performing Media Arts
Richard Ciavarello	Creative and Performing Media Arts
Jennett Rivera	Dailard Elementary
Marjorie Treger	La Jolla High School
Denise Lynne	San Diego Unified District VAPA Office
Ruth Howell	Serra High School

**SDUSD Visual Arts Teachers Focus Group Contributors**

Susanne Friedrich	Clairemont High School
Barbara McCrosby	Community Representative
Paul Thomas	Crawford High School
Brian Black	Crawford High School
Jennett Rivera	Dailard Elementary
Laura Stauffer	Henry High School
Tina McCunney	Henry High School
Brenda Henderson	La Jolla High School
Carol Shamrock	La Jolla High School
Edward Moller	Lincoln High School
Gretchen Weidner	Morse High School
Beth Mikulanis	Morse High School
Gonja Wolf	San Diego Unified District VAPA Office
Marty Stegeman	San Diego Unified District VAPA Office

**Facilitators**

Courtney Sawada, Regional Director, The California Arts Project  
Pauline Crooks, VAPA Coordinator, San Diego County Office of Education