April is Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month in California!

In 2019, Californians for the Arts (CFTA) successfully campaigned for the state to recognize and celebrate the arts by declaring April as Arts, Culture & Creativity Month (ACCM) through a concurrent resolution passed in the California Senate. In 2021, an additional resolution was declared to recognize artists as second responders.

This year’s theme, “The Arts Work,” will provide weekly opportunities to explore and establish how the arts work to heal, to build community, to advance justice, to empower youth and to create jobs. Each week will feature theme-based messaging campaigns to create public awareness and webinars featuring panel discussions with thought leaders and practitioners. New to ACCM 2022 is The Arts Work Showcase, which invites artists and organizations of all disciplines to submit their projects as examples of these themes to a gallery on our website. This new program intends to uplift creative workers and honor their work with weekly drawings for a cash prize.

2022 Summer Arts Integration Institute**Now Accepting Applications!

June 20-23, 2022

The Arts leads in four county offices of education - Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey - are collaborating to bring an exciting 4-day conference dedicated to
teaching educators strategies to incorporate arts learning into the curriculum in their classrooms!

The theme is ‘Connection’. The mission of the conference is to provide standards-based, culturally responsive learning in arts immersion and arts integration so that students have equitable access to arts education and the opportunity to develop their voice and & empower leadership; creativity; equity lens; social and emotional wellness; and connectedness.

We envision a community of teachers, teaching artists, and administrators who develop and demonstrate the skills and knowledge to support equitable, culturally responsive arts education in our schools.

K-12 Teachers and teaching artists are welcome to apply! You will:

- Share and inspire best practices for CA standards-based arts integration AND integrated learning between content areas
- Explore creativity and its role in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Mathematics (STEAM) and the language arts
- Show the connections between arts education and the LCAP goals including, but not limited to, school climate and culture; student engagement; social-emotional wellness and learning; equity and the Social Justice Standards
- Provide models for both immersive arts experiences and arts integration

Facilitators include Aimee Espiritu, Arts Equity Professional Expert and Katherine Silva, Arts Integration Professional Expert from the Santa Clara County Office of Education; Amalia Diaz and Camilo Ortiz, music specialists and music teachers in El Sistema Santa Cruz Pajaro Valley; Monica Galvan, visual arts specialist and Program Coordinator for Mariposa Arts; and Lauren Yurkovich, freelance illustrator and credentialed K-12 arts teacher.

2022 Summer Arts Integration Institute

Click here to apply!

2022 Young Artist Showcase

This year's theme for the 2022 Young Artist Showcase was Contact Zones, The Places Where We Meet. This is a celebration of human connections. Many of the students' pieces illustrated the many different ways they connected to each other, to themselves, and to their respective communities. Sixteen districts, one hundred-eleven students and eighty-one pieces of
artwork can be seen at the following link on the Artspiration website on the Young Artist Showcase page linked below.

The Young Artist Showcase had its first public showing at the Arts As Emancipatory Conference on March 13 online. Many of the youth artists were in the virtual space. Janice Sapigao and her Youth Poet Laureates, including Anouk Yeh, 2021-22 Santa Clara County Youth Poet Laureate, and Vice Youth Poet Laureate Mahder Aklilu led poetry performances and workshops and were joined by Grammy winners Alphabet Rockers who led a hip hop workshop and performance for teachers and youth.

2022 Young Artist Showcase Video Slide Show

Click here to see the video!

People's Choice Awards - Young Artist Showcase

We had an amazing display of artwork reflecting a diversity of design conceptions for the theme, Contact Zones: Places Where We Belong. Thank to all the youth who submitted pieces to this Showcase! The pieces that were chosen below reflected the theme in creative ways and the associated artists statements were thoughtful and compelling.

Thank you to our team of adjudicators Kimberly Snyder of the New Museum of Los Gatos, our Artspiration Professional Experts Aimee Espiritu and Kati Silva, SCCOE colleague and Maker's Space Specialist, Gena Pacada - all of whom assisted us in determining the students who best represented the theme in each grade level. The titles of the pieces for the People's Choice Awards are listed below:

**Kindergarten** - K. Lee, Los Altos Unified School District: *Meet and Fun*

**Grade 1** - People's Choice Award: H. Jian, Cambrian School District: *Park Playground for Kids' Happy Reunion*

**Grade 2** - A. Yen, Cupertino USD: *The Happiest Moment*

**Grade 3** - People's Choice Award: N. Sun, Cupertino USD: *Happy Moment With My Lovely Friend*
  * Honorable Mention: N. and L. Hsiao, Santa Clara USD: *We Are Twin Brothers*
  * Honorable Mention: C. Lee, Cupertino USD: *Meeting My Friends Again*

**Grade 4** - People's Choice Award: J. Leaokittikul, Cambrian SD: *Get Out of My Comfort Zone*
  * Honorable Mention: E. Chuang, Cupertino USD: *At School, Finally*

**Grade 5** - People's Choice Award: Multiple Students Cupertino USD:
Fun Meeting at Art Class

- Honorable Mention: P. Tsai, Cambrian SD: Back to Nature

Grade 6 - People's Choice Award: J. Lee, Milpitas USD: Connecting Through Knowledge
- Honorable Mention: E. Cheng, Sunnyvale SD: Where Friendship Intersects

Grade 7 - People's Choice Award: A. Kwong, Milpitas USD: Let's Catch Up!

Grade 8 - People's Choice Award and BEST IN SHOW: A. Tsai, San Jose USD: Contact at the Music Stop
- Honorable Mentions: Longing and The Digital Square

Grade 9 - People's Choice Award: S. Chen, Mountain View-Los Altos USD: Meet in Water
- Honorable Mention: Z. Lim, Fremont UHSD: Fockey Cat

Grade 10 - People's Choice Award: M. Chetty, Mountain View-Los Altos USD: Garden of Hera
- Honorable Mention: H. Minjares, Mountain View-Los Altos USD: Dysphoric Feeling

Grade 11 - People's Choice Award: I. Tedesco, Fremont UHSD: Daydream
- Honorable Mention: O. Bar-Yossef, Palo ALto USD: Hidden Peacefulness

Grade 12 - People's Choice Award: J. Han, East Side UHSD: The Same Song

Artspiration Community Partner Corner

Directing Change

We are excited to announce that thanks to a generous sponsorship from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Injury and Violence Prevention Branch’s Office of Suicide Prevention, we are able to offer our Mental Health Thrival Kits to more schools and organizations throughout California. The Directing Change Mental Health Thrival Kit can be used to celebrate wellness and promote positive coping skills for youth with easy to follow activities to enhance basic skills for social emotional wellness. This kit includes a mental health journal, bookmark, pen, colored pencils, and decal sheet. The journal can be used for journaling exercises to promote reflection and self-expression. The inside covers include grounding and breathing techniques to help cope with stressful moments, and also includes crisis resources for youth. The journal is available electronically to download and view here.

Mental Health Thrival Kit

Click here to access the kit.
Studio Pathways Summer Intensive Offerings

Looking for a responsive, restorative and engaging PD? Apply to attend one of Studio Pathways' Summer Intensives. Apply individually or as a whole school. This learning opportunity explores creativity and the arts while confronting and grappling with social inequity in education. The Studio Pathways team provides a structure for addressing inequity while placing love and joy at the center of learning. If you’d like to further your study of the connection between the arts, cognition and culture, then don’t miss out on learning with Studio Pathways.

Professional Development Information Link
Click here for more information.

Luna Dance Institute

Are you a practicing dance teaching artist or classroom teacher ready for a fresh creative spark and time to develop your craft? Are you hungry for a collegial community that will support you through and beyond the challenges of teaching during Covid, and help you stay true to your values?

Apply to Luna's Summer Institute (SI)! Now in its 21st year, the SI is a nationally-acclaimed professional development experience that brings together 6 teaching artists & 6 practitioners to activate & inspire individual & collective imaginations.

The 2022-23 SI is a year-long comprehensive and hybrid experience. It includes a week of intensive workshops, follow-up Zoom and in-person sessions, mentorship & coaching, and collegial support, all focused on the art of teaching dance. Applications due April 11.

Summer Institute dates: July 18-22
with follow-up workshops January 14-15 & May/June, 2023
Half-day Saturday Zoom sessions in September, November, March, April

No cost for selected applicants.
$25 application fee.
Please contact Jochelle jperena@lunadanceinstitute.org if application fee is a hardship. Small travel stipends available.
Join us for DESIGNING CULTURES OF WELCOME: Fostering a Beloved Community of Creativity and Care
August 1-3, 2022

During this 3 day engaging learning experience you will learn about how to integrate Restorative Practices, Culturally Responsive Teaching, Creative Inquiry and neuroscience, as strategies for creating student-centered, welcoming learning environments. You will experience a set of hands on, minds-on creatively centered activities that build empathy and motivation so that students can more readily engage and become active learners across learning content areas and learning environments. Open to all K-12 teachers, educational leaders, support staff, community arts administrators, and teaching artists. Graduate units available for participating teachers.

Designing Cultures of Welcome - Summer 2022
Click here to apply.

Call for Submissions - Bringing the Light Series: In Our Words
Youth Poets K-12! Submit up to two (2) poems sharing your feelings and emotions over the last three years. What have you seen? How have you been able to cope? We are open to any other topic you want to discuss that has stemmed from being a part of this new world we live in. This is an opportunity to spread your voice through pen and paper. This call closes June 1, 2022

Sofia Fojas, Arts Coordinator
For any questions or suggestions, please contact me at sfojas@sccoe.org.