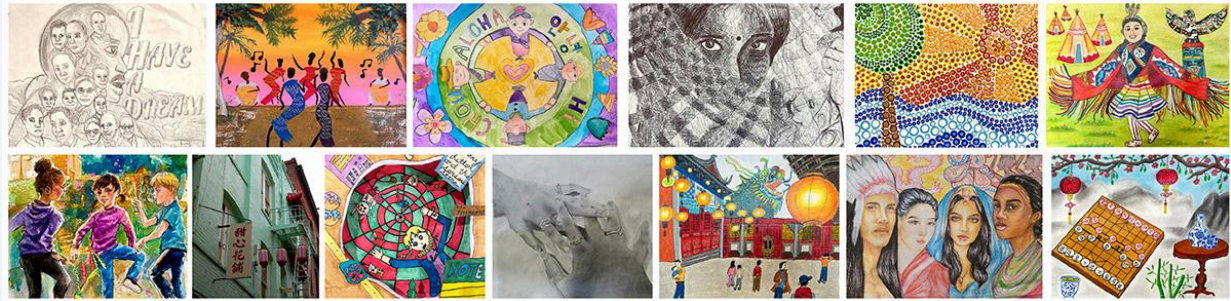




Artspiration Newsletter

April 2026 | Issue 8



Artspiration News

Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Happy May! This month we celebrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. There are cultures, languages, and geographical regions represented by this broad cultural label. On a personal note, my father was one of thousands of Filipino men who came to the United States as a young sailor to better his life in the wave of immigration in the 1950s, a migration that dates back to the late 1700s. This month was recognized in 1992 to commemorate the arrival of the first Japanese immigrant on May 7, 1843 and the Chinese involvement of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad on May 10, 1869. Let's rcelebrate the achievements of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders who have played critical roles in American history and continue to shape the American experience today.



Source: <https://www.si.edu/events/asian-pacific-american-heritage-month>



Rhythm & Roots: Celebrating AAPI Heritage Through Culture & Community

MAY 16, 2026
9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Santa Clara County Office of Education
1290 Ridder Park Drive • San Jose, CA 95131

The Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Educators Network is hosting its second annual fun-filled learning and cultural event to celebrate the expansive tapestry of histories and experiences that constitute AAPI culture and heritage. Spend time engaging in fun activities, experiencing dynamic performances, and attending culturally-relevant interactive sessions all focused on providing an unforgettably enriching experience.

AAPI Educators Network • www.sccoe.org/sclis/aapi



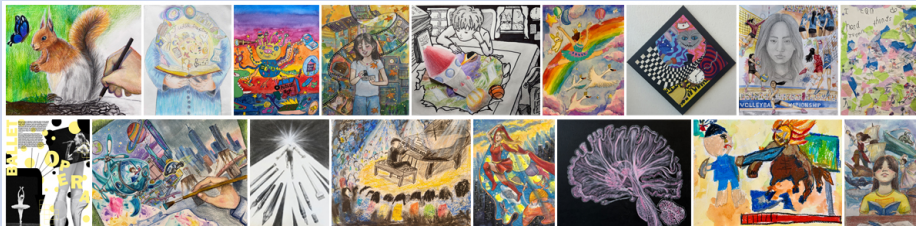
To register, please visit: https://sccoe.to/AAPI_Rhythm_Roots_2026

For more information, please contact: **Keysha Doutherd** • KDoutherd@sccoe.org



Join us for this free special event to celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in the Santa Clara Valley! Come and enjoy music, dance, visual art, and AANHPI-related digital media from one of the most linguistically and culturally diverse group in the United States.

Register at https://sccoe.to/AAPI_Rhythm_Roots_2026.



The 2026 Young Artist Showcase Theme - My Superpower: The Power to Imagine. The Passion to Create.

Everyone has a superpower—something that makes them unique, resilient, and extraordinary. It might be the rhythm in your music, the emotion in your performance, the movement in your dance, the vision in your art, or the message in your media.

Please look for our virtual gallery next month as well as the virtual Showcase for students, their families, and their teachers. See the information below.

- May 4, 2026 | Online Student Art Gallery at www.sccoe.org/arts/yas
 - May 14, 2026 | Young Artists Virtual Showcase Celebration: 4:00 p.m.
- Click on the link below to reach the registration page.

[Register for the Virtual Showcase Here.](#)

SCCOE Corner



We're excited for our upcoming **Teachers and Tacos** event on May 8th at RAFT from 4:00-6:00 pm. Please see attached flyer! This year, we're bringing a *Star Wars* twist to Teacher Appreciation Week—because our educators truly are the heroes of the galaxy!

This is a collaboration between Synopsys Outreach Foundation, Resource Area for Teachers (RAFT), Krause Center for Innovation, Ignited, SVEF, The Tech Interactive, and the Santa Clara County Office of Education. The goal of this initiative is to honor educators by offering a relaxed evening that blends connection and light professional learning. Educators have the opportunity to engage in hands-on STEM activities, connect with peers, and enjoy tacos generously sponsored by the Synopsys Outreach Foundation.



Santa Clara County
Office of Education

Lavender Graduation and Resource Fair

Friday, June 12, 2026

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Santa Clara County Office
McEntee Plaza, 70. W. Hedding, San Jose

Join us for an inspiring celebration honoring students and their achievements as they prepare for their next chapter. Together with families, educators, and community partners, we'll celebrate resilience, foster belonging, and connect students with the resources and support they need to thrive in the future.

Register by 5/31/2026

<https://sccoe.to/LavGrad26>



SJSU | QUEER HOPE
INSTITUTE



RAINBOW F.L.A.S.H.
Families Learning and Supporting Health

School Corner

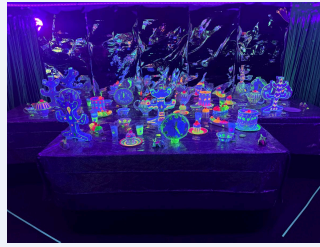
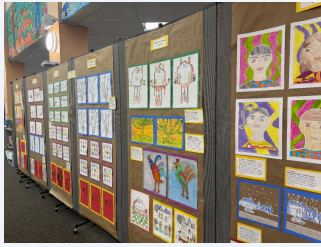
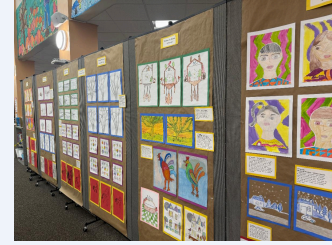


8th Annual Art Show at L. P. Collins Elementary School, Cupertino

The TK to 5th grade students displayed over 500 ceramic objects and 500 sculptures as well as STEM activities for the visitors of all ages. The 1/2nd and 3rd grade classes were excited to be the Art Ambassadors.

This year's "Glow in the Dark" gallery showcased the "Mad Hatter Tea Party" and the "Queens Garden" inspired by "Alice in Wonderland". The Infinity Mirror Wall created a lavish table setting with large teapots, cups, candelabras and cakes. Amazing topiaries and cool Cheshire Cat Masks were illuminated in the magical garden.

The day after the art show all 21 classes took turns visiting the art show for the fun “Walk-Through” hosted by the art teacher. The Art Ambassadors had a chance to guide the younger students through the exhibition and glow gallery.”



Proposition 28/AMS Update

Preparing for Your Proposition 28 Final Expenditure Report

by Dave Heckler, Patti F. Herera, Ed.D., and Elizabeth Dearstyne

Copyright: School Services of California, posted April 15, 2026

Editor's Note: From time to time, School Services of California Inc. features guest authors who bring valuable experience and expertise to an issue. This article is coauthored by Elizabeth Dearstyne from the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT), who prior to joining FCMAT was the Director of the School Fiscal Services Division at the California Department of Education (CDE) and oversaw the initial implementation of Proposition 28, the development of the relevant Annual Audit Guide provisions, as well as many of the financial and audit resources from the CDE.

In the fiscal year immediately following the passage of Proposition 28 (2022) that established the Arts and Music in Schools—Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act (AMS), local educational agencies (LEAs) received their first allocation to build and/or expand arts education programs for their students. Along with dedicated funding to support local arts initiatives, Proposition 28 contains various program and accountability requirements, including a mandate for LEAs to submit a final expenditure report following the conclusion of the three-year spending period.

Specifically, Education Code Section (EC §) 8820(f)(2) requires school districts, charter schools, and county offices of education to report any unexpended AMS funds to the CDE by October 1. This fall will be the first time LEAs will be submitting their final expenditure reports, including any unspent funds from their fiscal year (FY) 2023-24 AMS allocation, to the CDE.

While the Final Expenditure Report template the CDE provides is simple, monitoring AMS expenditures across fiscal years to ensure proper accounting of them to specific AMS allocations (e.g., FY 2023-24) will require additional work for LEAs that did not heed the CDE's guidance to use locally defined Standardized Account Code Structure (SACS) function or goal codes, project year, or another methodology (e.g., first in, first out) to differentiate expenditures by allocation year. AMS financial reporting and tracking is similar to the tracking LEAs need to do for many federal funding sources, such as Title I, II, III, etc., and LEAs should leverage their practices for these programs for AMS.

As with all restricted funding, LEAs are advised to spend their most restrictive dollars first. In the case of AMS allocations, not only are there restrictions on the uses of funds but also on the time frame in which LEAs may spend these dollars. Specifically, EC § 8820(f)(1) gives LEAs up to three fiscal years to spend each annual allocation. Thus, it is important for LEAs to spend their oldest allocations first. For the FY 2023-24 AMS allocation, this means that LEAs will need to spend their funds by **June 30, 2026**. Unspent AMS funds will revert back to the state for reallocation.

LEAs that did not establish local SACS codes or some other methodology to track AMS expenditures by FY allocation will need to review their AMS expenditures in FY 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26 to ensure that they are properly coded to a specific FY AMS allocation since SACS Resource Code 6770 does not differentiate AMS funding and expenditures by FY AMS allocation.

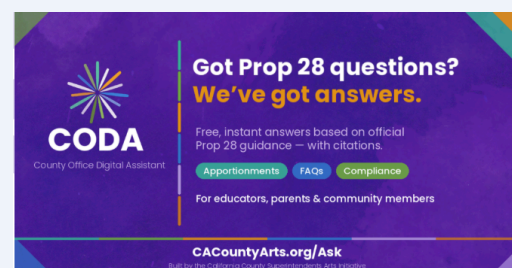
To help LEAs prepare to submit their Final Expenditure Reports to the CDE by October 1, 2026, for their FY 2023-24 AMS allocation, we created and are providing a **Proposition 28 Yearly Grant Expenditure Excel workbook** to use in their review and accounting of AMS spending. The workbook contains instructions and prompts to input expenditure data by instructional, non-instructional, and administrative spending. Additionally, the CDE provides **AMS Audit Compliance Worksheets** that help ensure LEAs are compliant with Proposition 28's spending requirements. We encourage collaboration between instructional and business leaders to ensure accurate accounting of AMS funding and expenditures.

Proper accounting of annual AMS spending will help LEAs optimize their AMS funding to support local arts education programs, as well as reduce the potential of reporting and returning unspent funds to the CDE.

Partner Corner



California County
Superintendents' Arts Initiative -



Arts Education and the California School Dashboard

The [Arts Education and CA Dashboard document](#) produced by a coalition of County Arts Leads has been updated in 2026! It will be a dynamic resource meant to support Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to include arts education in developing Local Control Accountability Plans and plans for Differentiated Assistance.

Download the One-Pager

Download the Slide Deck

CODA - Prop 28 Questions

Your County Office Digital Assistant for Prop 28 and Arts and Music in Schools Funding. It can assist with answering Prop 28 funding questions, including allocations, allowable expenses, audit requirements, and arts teacher workforce.

Ask CODA Questions



Ask CODA

Your County Office Digital Assistant for Prop 28 & AMS funding
Powered by the California County Superintendents Arts Initiative

Summer Institute

Space & Time

to energize your creativity in teaching

Applications available now! Due April 30

A week in July with yearlong experiences
No cost to selected participants

More info: kguthrie@lunadancecreativity.org

LUNA
dance & creativity



Dance Professional Development - Luna Dance Summer Institute

Now in its 25th year, Summer Institute (SI) is a nationally acclaimed, year-long professional development experience centered around the art of teaching dance to children. Learning in a collegial group of diverse educators, participants improve teaching practice, gain confidence as professionals, and develop long-lasting systems of support. SI includes in-person intensives, online sessions, and individualized coaching, and is **offered at no cost for selected participants**. Participants can receive continuing education units.

In-person dates: July 13-17, January 16-17, May 22

Applications Due April 30 **Request an application here.**

Technical Assistance



As your County Arts Coordinator, I am available for consultation on all aspects of arts education and can provide professional learning for educators, arts organizations, and community organizations. If you would like to connect, send me an email. In my response email, use the hyperlink 'Book time with Sofia Fojas' to set up a meeting, found in my signature.

Questions? Schedule a 1:1 with Dr. Fojas

Sofia Fojas
sfojas@sccoe.org
Artspiration@SCCOE | www.artspiration.sccoe.org



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