Artspiration Newsletter

November 2026 | Issue 14



Artspiration News

November 2026

Happy November! The Winter Concert season is just around the corner! Success to you and your student performers over the next two months. This is Native American Heritage Month.Celebrate the rich, diverse cultures of our indigenous peoples:

- **Native American Heritage Month Toolkit**
- **Resources for Families and Educators** (Child Care Resource Center)
- **Native American Heritage Month** (California Teachers Association)
- **Native California History Resources** (UC Berkeley)

Check in on the professional learning activities. Join us for an amazing year of learning and networking! Thank you for guiding our students through amazing arts experiences and deep gratitude for families for supporting students in their arts experiences!

Arts Education in the News

Why California rural schools struggle to expand arts education despite Prop. 28 windfall

by Vani Sanganeria
EdSource published October 9, 2026



There are challenges for small rural school districts in expanding arts programs with few teacher candidates. There is an opportunity for schools to pool funds and leverage relationships with arts organizations and teaching artists to teach in in and though the arts.

Read the **article** on the EdSource webpage.

Sanganeria, V. (2026, October 9). Why California Rural Schools struggle to expand arts education despite Prop. 28 Windfall | edsource. EdSource. https://edsource.org/2026/prop-28-rural-arts-funding/767780

2026-2027 ArtsEdConnect Grants

The ArtsEdConnect grantees have been chosen through a rigorous committee process. The next steps are establishing Memorandums of Understanding with each district or Local Educational Agency (LEA) so that we can send and they can receive the funds. Grant requirements are outlined in the MOU. Once the MOUs have been approved, our Business Office will initiate payment. Checks will be in the mail in December.

Here are some 2026-2027 statistics:

- Number of Districts: 20
- Number of Unique Schools: 34
- Number of Charter Schools: 8
- Total Awardees: 53
- Total Students Served: 5585
- Title I Schools: 67.9%

Save the Date: Viva el Mariachi Showcase



Join us for our annual celebration of Mexican dance and music.

Friday, March 12, 2027 at 6:00 pm
The Mexican Heritage Plaza Theater

Calling all youth mariachi and ballet folklorico groups: Apply to perform!

Application opens: Monday, October 19, 2026
Application closes: Tuesday, December 1, 2026

View the **Mariachi Youth Group/Ballet Folkórico Application**

The 2027 Young Artist Showcase



Theme - Teamwork: It Takes a Village!

Teamwork is work done by a group acting together so that each member does a part that contributes to the efficiency of the whole. Teamwork is important at work, in school, in sports, in performing arts ensembles, in theatre, dance, and in any collective activity (https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/teamwork).

- Application dates: October 12, 2026-March 29, 2027
- May 4, 2026| Online Student Art Gallery TBD
- May 20, 2027 | Young Artists Virtual Showcase Celebration: 4:00 p.m.

To find the application link and more information, visit the **Young Artist Showcase page** at the Artspiration website.

SCCOE Community of Practice/Network

2026-2027 Artspiration Leadership Council!

This is a space to learn about the arts initiative of the Santa Clara County Office of Education and help to guide it through its work plan and priorities. Stay in touch with the latest trends in arts education in California and the latest around Arts and Music in Schools aka Proposition 28.

All are welcome: administrators, arts leads, educators, community members.

Meetings are virtual.

Time: 4:00-5:15 pm
Dates:

- February 23, 2027
- April 27, 2027

Register for the Artspiration Leadership Council

Artful Teaching in the PK-12 Classroom

Join Dr. Fojas and her colleagues in a community of practice to explore strategies to blend arts instruction with another content area in a co-equal treatment of both content areas.

Session Dates:

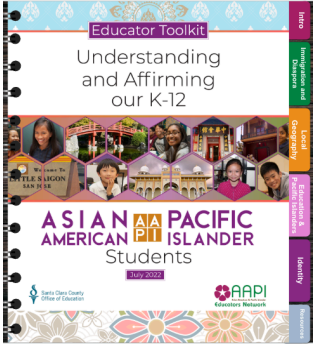
- **November 19, 2026**: The Arts and Mathematics
- **January 21, 2027**: The Arts and Science
- **February 25, 2027**: The Arts and Outdoor Learning & Environmental Literacy
- **March 25, 2027**: The Arts and History/Social Science
- **April 29, 2026**: The Arts and Mathematics Part 2

Register for Artful Teaching in the PK-12 Classroom

Asian American and Pacific Islander Educators' Network 2026-27

Please join us in supporting an inclusive, affirming, and equitable school environment for our county's Asian American and Pacific Islander students, families, staff, and educators.

- View the **flyer for the AAPIEN Network**.
- For more information about the Network, **visit the AAPIEN Network webpage**.



Community Partner Corner

Arts and Music in Schools Web Page Updates

As per California Education Code (EC) Section 8820(g)(4), the California Department of Education (CDE) has posted a master file inclusive of all annual reports submitted by local educational agencies (LEAs) to the Arts and Music in Schools (AMS) web page: **Proposition 28—Arts and Music in Schools Funding - Transforming Schools: Superintendent's Initiatives (CA Dept of Education)**. Please note that the CDE is currently reaching out to LEAs that have not yet submitted their board- or governing body-approved annual report. As a more comprehensive dataset becomes available, an updated master file will be posted.

The CDE has updated the **AMS Portal** to accommodate submission windows for the Annual Certification and the 2026–27 allocation waiver request. Please note that the login credentials have not changed from the prior year, and the submission window for waiver requests for the 2024–25 allocation remains open throughout its three-year expenditure period closing June 30, 2027.

Please Note: AB 2440 was signed into law on September 27, 2026, and will result in modification and updates to applicable AMS guidance. Listserv messaging will be sent when the web pages are updated to reflect new legislation. You may view the amended statutory language at the following link: **Bill Text - AB-2440 Arts and Music in Schools—Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act: allowable uses: pooled funding: certifications**.

Please share this update with your colleagues who may benefit and encourage them to join the AMS listserv by sending a blank message to **join-prop28@mlist.cde.ca.gov**.

Arts Research

Building Trust, Sustaining Art

Cross-Case Findings from the Arts Research for Communities of Color Fellowship
May 2026

Arts organizations rooted in communities of color operate at the intersection of artistic ambition and structural disadvantage while producing extraordinary work with significant cultural and civic value. The Arts Research for Communities of Color (ARCC) Fellowship was created to document this reality from the inside and contribute to a more equitable and sustainable arts field. To that end, this report is the culmination of this fellowship program. (SSRC, 2026)

Read the Wallace Foundation's research **article (pdf)**.

Social Science Research Council. Building Trust, Sustaining Art: Cross-Case Findings from the Arts Research for Communities of Color Fellowship. New York: SSRC, 2026. https://doi.org/10.59656/A-AO9456.001

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

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

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!