



Artspiration Newsletter

September 2026 | Issue 12



Artspiration News



Ch-ch-ch-changes - Final Stand Alone Issue

As we move into this year, the Learning and Instruction Department is transitioning to a departmental newsletter beginning in October.

To continue to receive the Artspiration news, please subscribe [here](#).

In the new newsletter, professional learning opportunities, the latest education news, workshops, events, and resources, from Artspiration along with news and resources will be highlighted across the different content areas. We hope you enjoy this new format so please subscribe!

Apply for An ArtsEdConnect Grant!

August 20, 2026 - September 25, 2026

The ArtsEdConnect partnership of the Santa Clara County Office of Education and SVCcreates is pleased to announce that through the generosity of the Warmenhoven Family Foundation and the County of Santa Clara, arts education grants will be awarded again this school year.

ARTS GRANTS

For Santa Clara County Teachers
Transforming education through the arts for each and every learner in Santa Clara County

Accepting Applications: AUG 20, 2026 - SEPT 25, 2026

For more information about the grant, eligibility, and to apply, scan the QR or visit: www.sccoe.org/arts/artsedconnect

Santa Clara County Office of Education

The ArtsEdConnect program awards grants to eligible teachers and classrooms in public and charter schools in Santa Clara County to support arts education programming in our schools. Teachers can use the grants to take students on arts field trips, bring artists into the classrooms, fund student performances, and create various art projects that foster creativity, innovation, self-expression, and social and emotional learning.

For more information about the grants and to apply, please visit:

www.sccoe.org/arts/artsedconnect

SAVE-THE-DATES: 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:

- October 22, 2026: Designing Arts Integration in A Post-Proposition 28 Ecosystem
- 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



**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.

Dates: 4:00-5:15 pm

- October 26, 2026
- February 23, 2027
- April 27, 2027

Register:

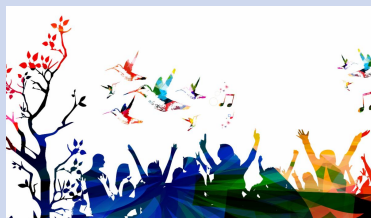
<https://sccoe.to/artspirationleadershipcouncil>



**Save-the-Date:
Viva el Mariachi
Showcase**

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

Join us for our annual celebration of Mexican dance and music! Application information will be released soon!



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: 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.

Challenge Success Annual Conference 2026

I am presenting at the Challenge Success Conference at Stanford on Sunday, September 27 with Kyle Holmes, Director of the California County Superintendents' Arts Initiative. Our session will address the ways the Arts and Music in Schools funding is transforming student well-being and engagement. We will be providing implementation data and a framework to strengthen arts programs' alignment to school goals.

The mission of this conference is to partner with school communities to elevate student voice, and implement research-based, equity-centered strategies that improve student well-being, belonging, and engagement. We hope you can attend!

Register: <https://www.challengesuccess.org/2026-annual-conference/>



SCCOE and Partner Corners

1290 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95131
www.sccoe.org

AAPIEN 2026-2027

The Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Educators Network is committed to supporting inclusive, affirming, and equitable school environments for each and every AAPI student, family, and staff of our Santa Clara County districts and schools.

We encourage you to participate in this network as an opportunity to connect with other AAPI educators; learn about trending topics related to AAPI students and educators; discuss issues, challenges, and supportive actions related to AAPI students and educators; and to find out more about aiming for leadership roles.

The network supports AAPI educator development by providing professional learning opportunities that are culturally responsive.

For more information, please visit our [AAPI webpage](#).

Dates:
October 5, 2026
November 16, 2026
February 8, 2027
April 12, 2027
Special community event May 2027

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

Audience:
All educators, AAPI community members, those that work with or advocate for AAPI students

Grade Level(s): TK – 12

Register:
https://sccoe.to/AAPIEN_26-27

For more information, please contact:
Keysha Douthard • 408-453-4345 • KDouthard@sccoe.org

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.

1290 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95131
www.sccoe.org

Learn, Build, Innovate: A STEAM EXTRAVAGANZA

Fuel Your Curiosity. Ignite Your Classroom.
Step into a high-energy day designed for educators with hands-on STEAM experiences, classroom-ready ideas, and connections that last beyond the event!

- Explore interactive STEAM stations
- Attend STEM Flash Sessions
- Book 1:1 office hour with SCCOE content coordinators
- Get hands-on and creative in the makerspace

The Perks:

- Enjoy complimentary lunch!
- Receive a free STEM kit with ready-to-use classroom resources
- **First 50 registrants** receive a free copy of "The Promises and Perils of AI" by Ken Shelton & Dee Lanier
- Optional field trip to RAFT - receive up to \$100 store credit & free membership.

Date: Saturday, October 10, 2026
Time: 10:00 – 3:00 P.M.
Location:
1290 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95131
Audience:
Classroom Teachers, ToSA's, Site Administrators
Grade Level(s): TK – 12
Cost: \$30
Registration:
<https://sccoe.to/LearnBuildInnovate>

Come curious. Leave inspired.
Ready to lead.

For more information, please contact: Anupama Gupta • (408) 453-4276 • agupta@sccoe.org

STEAM Extravaganza 2026

Come to our Ridder Park campus and be a creative! Explore, learn, get resources, and receive up to \$100 store credit and a free membership at RAFT!

Register:
<https://sccoe.to/LearnBuildInnovate>

- See the flyer above for registration information or register [here](#).
- For more information about the Network, visit the AAPIEN Webpage [here](#).

SCCOE Partner Corner



Hammer Theatre Center News

National Geographic Live: Chasing Monarchs student matinee ~ Friday, Oct. 9

The presentation features National Geographic explorer and photographer Jaime Rojo, who will share the remarkable migration story of monarch butterflies and the conservation efforts helping protect them. The program is recommended for students in **grades 3–8** and offers a great opportunity to connect science, environmental studies, and visual storytelling.

Student group tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and reduced-price or complimentary tickets, as well as transportation assistance, may be available for qualifying schools.

Here are the links to the [ticket request form](#) and a [short preview of the program](#).

TheatreWorks SILICON VALLEY

Theatreworks is offering two programs to K-12 school districts for classroom teachers and their students. Along with **4 student matinees**, the Young Playwrights Project, and Concepts-At-Play programs reintroduced last year, TheatreWorks is also rolling out their **Fall Workshop series** for teens and older adults onsite at

our rehearsal space but are also designed to be brought into K-12 classrooms.

Please contact Jake Arky, Director of Education at jarky@theatreworks.org for more details on pricing, booking and all other details.

Univision is collaborating with Santa Clara University on its annual **Camino de los Muertos** celebration, taking place on the SCU campus on **Sunday, November 1, from 3:00–8:00 p.m.** This will be our fourth year helping execute this special community event.

The focus of the event is to bring the community together to celebrate Día de Los Muertos in a traditional and meaningful way while honoring and keeping our cultural traditions alive. Last year, we featured altars created by local community groups, organizations, and members of the SCU community, along with performances by local dance groups, musicians, and artists throughout the event.

For more information, please contact Karina Nava at knava@univision.net or call (408) 930-5038.



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

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