



# Artspiration Newsletter

Winter 2025 | Issue 5



## Artspiration News



Winter is upon us! Even though we've been getting lots of rain, here's a photo of a winter day in 1976 when it snowed in the San Francisco Bay Area. It was cold and, as the day wore on, the snow became slushy and eventually melted away. I do remember being pelted by more than one snowball that day!

As I write this, we are in the last week of November and are looking forward to holiday shows, concerts, and celebratory programs. This edition is full of research related to work and the arts. We also have a deadline coming up for mariachi and folklorico directors who want to perform at the annual *¡Viva el mariachi!* Showcase in March (It's earlier this year!).

Stay warm, happy holidays, and best wishes on a successful winter event season!



## Artspiration Leadership Council 2025-26

A few weeks ago, a team of arts leaders, arts educators, and school and county administrators met for two sessions as part of a strategic planning process. The sessions produced feedback that will shape the direction of Artspiration for the next two years. We will meet in January to refine the mission and vision and streamline the buckets of work. Deep gratitude to those who are coming along on this journey!

Register by clicking on the button below. The rest of the sessions will be dedicated to a two-year work plan, implementing Proposition 28 - Arts and Music in Schools, and supporting sustainable and transformative arts education in our schools.

### Artspiration Leadership Council

- January 21, 2026, 4-5 online
- February 17, 2026; 4-5 online
- April 21, 2026, 4-5 online

## 2026 ¡Viva el Mariachi! Showcase

**Deadline to Apply: Monday, December 15, 2025**

The Santa Clara County Office of Education is excited to present the 2026 ¡Viva el Mariachi! Showcase on Friday, March 20, 2026, at the Mexican Heritage Plaza Theater, beginning at 6:00 PM. If you are leading a youth mariachi or ballet folklórico group and want to apply to perform, please click the button.

[Apply to Perform at the Showcase](#)

## The 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. “My Superpower” invites artists across all disciplines to explore and express the inner forces that define them. Whether it’s the courage to speak out, the power of imagination, or the strength to overcome, this theme celebrates the diverse ways we channel our creativity into something powerful.

This is your moment to shine and turn your superpower into your art.

### Key Dates

#### **2025-26 YOUNG ARTISTS SHOWCASE SELECTION PROCESS:**

- October 15, 2025 – April 1, 2026 | Electronic submissions of PK-12th-grade student artwork and media
- Week of April 13, 2026 | People's Choice Awards Adjudication
- May 4, 2026 | Online Student Art Gallery at [www.sccoe.org/arts/yas](http://www.sccoe.org/arts/yas)
- May 14, 2026 | Young Artists Virtual Showcase Celebration for all grades: 4:00 p.m.

**\*\*For a 1:1 consultation, please click on the link at the bottom of the page.**

[Go To the Young Artist Showcase Page](#)

## SCCOE Corner

### Calling All Student Artists!

The SCCOE County Mock Trial Tournament isn't just for those in the courtroom! Student artists are invited to showcase their talents by competing as **courtroom artists** throughout the tournament. Winners will earn an opportunity to represent Santa Clara County as individuals at the State Finals in the Bay Area in March 2026.



For more information, visit [sccoe.to/MockTrial](https://sccoe.to/MockTrial) or email [mocktrial@sccoe.org](mailto:mocktrial@sccoe.org).

## Partner Corner

### 2025–26 Expanding Access to Arts Education Community of Practice

The passage of the Arts and Music in Schools Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act (Prop 28) has brought increased attention to the need for the strategic use of this and other funding streams to ensure equitable access to a sequential, standards-based arts education for all students at all grade levels.



#### Community of Practice participants will build their capacity for leadership in arts education by:

- Exploring opportunities for expanding access to all students, including emerging multilingual learners, students with disabilities, and students in under-resourced communities.
- Deepening understanding of various models for funding arts education.
- Sharing ideas and promising practices around arts and arts integration.
- Hearing from a variety of arts education leaders and engaging in conversations around problems of practice.

**Audience:** Participation is open to all county and district arts education leaders, PK-12 arts teachers, teaching artists, and community arts organizations. No cost, but advanced registration is required.

**Dates:** December 5, 2025; February 6, March 6, and April 3, 2026

**Time:** 10:00-11:30 AM

[Register Here!](#)

## K-12 Corner

**New!** Share your school events in the newsletter! Please provide a brief 75-word description of the event, an accompanying image, ticket information, contact details (including website), and location to be included in this newsletter, space permitting.



Welcome to PHHSDRAMA.COM! Home of the Piedmont Hills High School Drama Department. It's A Wonderful Life is an iconic holiday movie: George Bailey, the Everyman from the small town of Bedford Falls, whose dreams of escape and adventure have been quashed by family obligation and civic duty, whose guardian angel has to descend on Christmas Eve to save him from despair and to remind him—by showing him what the world would have been like had he never been born—that his has been, after all, a wonderful life.

December 5th @ 7PM

December 6th @ 2:00PM & 7:00PM

# Arts Education and Creative Pathways Research



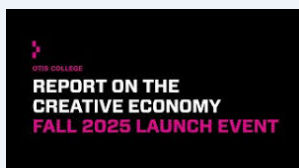
## California Arts Education Landscape 2025

*Benge Steele, C., Woodworth, K.R., Baeta, D., & Terrell, E. (2025) California arts education landscape 2025, SRI*

### Abstract

Commissioned by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and conducted in collaboration with Education First, this report examines how new funding and policy shifts—especially the 2022 Arts and Music in Schools (AMS) Act—are reshaping arts education in California. Drawing on a document review, interviews, and a convening of Hewlett grantees, the report identifies seven key levers: Data, Accountability, Research, Advocacy, Policy, Planning, and Resource & Capacity Building.

The AMS Act represents a major investment and opportunity, but gaps in data, workforce capacity, and accountability present challenges to successful implementation of the new law. Prior to passage of the AMS Act, only 11% of schools met arts access mandates, and now over 5,500 arts teachers are needed statewide. The report calls for infrastructure investment—especially in planning, data, and research—to ensure that all students, particularly in under-resourced communities, benefit from high-quality, culturally responsive arts education. [Read the study here.](#)



## The 2026 Otis Report

*The Creative Economy Report | Initiatives | Otis College of Art and Design*  
(2025). Otis.edu. <https://www.otis.edu/about/initiatives/creative-economy/index.html>

The [Otis College Report on the Creative Economy](#) offers valuable insights into the impact of creative industries on California's economy. First published in 2007, the report has evolved into a comprehensive research program, featuring in-depth studies, an interactive digital dashboard that showcases real-time data and trends across creative sectors, and a series of in-person and online events. [View the non-profit dashboard.](#)



## California Proposition 28 Arts and Music Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act: Initial Impact on Arts Organizations

*Herpin, S. A., Wynveen, K., & Berry, W. (2025). California's Proposition 28 Arts and Music Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act: Initial impact on arts organizations. WestEd.*

Arts education in California received an unprecedented infusion of financial support in 2022. Passed by California voters, Proposition 28, the Arts and Music in Schools — Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act, guaranteed dedicated annual funding for K–12 arts education—approximately \$800M to \$1B annually.

As part of a study WestEd is conducting on the impact of Prop 28 on California arts education interest holders, this report examines the initial effects of Prop 28 on community arts organizations. [Get the report.](#)



## The State of Creative Work

(Insert citation here)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free," "personalized," "complimentary," or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take action, so consider inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"



## Creative Expression, Caring Relationships, and Career Pathways: A Guide to Youth Outcomes in Community Arts Programs

Foundation, W. (2025). Creative Expression, Caring Relationships, and Career Pathways A Guide to Youth Outcomes in Community Arts Programs. *Wallace Foundation*. <https://doi.org/10.59656/A-YA2685>

This new report identifies the long-term benefits of youth participation in community arts programs, from well-being to future trajectories. [Read the report.](#)

## Technical Assistance and Office Hours



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  
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