



**Wildwood School**

**Position Statement  
Head of School Search  
Wildwood School**

**Los Angeles, California  
Start Date: July 1, 2026**



# Head of School

## Position Statement



### Overview

Dedicated to the principles of progressive education that place students at the center of their learning, Wildwood School is celebrated for its unique, innovative program and its passionate, talented, and engaged students. Located on two campuses in the Los Angeles Westside, Wildwood is home to 726 students in three divisions. The school seeks a Head of School for July 2026 to follow the successful 19-year tenure of Landis Green, who has stewarded the school's long and proud history of student-centered pedagogy and bold innovation. Founded in 1971 as an elementary school inspired by England's Summerhill movement, Wildwood embraced diversity, inclusivity, and a curriculum fostering social-emotional learning as essential to intellectual growth and nurturing children's emerging passions. In 2000, when Wildwood expanded to include middle and upper school, it adopted the Coalition of Essential Schools' Common Principles as its framework. While many schools claim a "progressive" stance, often limited to social attitudes, Wildwood embodies true progressivism in both curriculum and pedagogy, standing among the few genuinely progressive college-preparatory schools in the country.

Wildwood is a dynamic and inspiring community in which to work and learn. The school has energy, momentum, and clarity of vision, as well as a refreshing and genuine openness to research-based change and forward-thinking teaching practices. Wildwood School's deep commitment to ongoing professional development feeds a renowned Outreach Center that provides programming for public and independent school teachers, administrators, and trustees in 16 states and eight countries. Wildwood is also a founding member of the Mastery Transcript Consortium.

The elementary school is located in Mar Vista, while the middle and upper school building is three miles north between Century City and Santa Monica. Both campuses are alive with laboratories, studios, quiet study spaces, classrooms, and places where the school community enjoys gathering for events. The elementary school campus has outdoor play spaces, a garden, basketball court, field, and plenty of shady oases. An essentially urban school, Wildwood's middle and upper campus takes advantage of local parks and partners with public athletics facilities as needed. Students attend from all over the greater Los Angeles area and are drawn to the school's excellent reputation as one of the city's leading and most exciting independent schools.

### Mission Statement

*Wildwood School cultivates reflective scholars, bold innovators and compassionate leaders equipped with the skills, ethics and inspiration to transform their world.*

### Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Mission Statement

*Wildwood School is a dynamic community of culturally and racially diverse families and educators. Wildwood honors individual differences and creates conditions where all can feel safe, accepted, and empowered. Our healthy exchange of perspectives and experiences cultivates compassionate, effective change makers.*



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## Position Statement



### At A Glance

**Grades:** K-12  
**Students:** 726  
**Students in Flexible Tuition Program:** 21%  
**Students of Color (self-identified):** 44%  
**Faculty and Staff:** 93 faculty, 67 staff  
**Faculty and Staff of Color:** 42%  
**Average Faculty Tenure:** 19 years  
**Operating Budget:** \$34.4 million (24-25 school year)  
**Annual Fund:** \$2.175 (23-24 school year equaling 6% of the budget)

### Community

Diverse, eclectic, and engaged, Wildwood students are unabashedly *themselves*. The qualities of the typical Wildwood student are that there is no such thing as a typical Wildwood student! Over 44% of Wildwood students self-identify as people of color, and the community is welcoming of gay, lesbian, trans, non-binary and questioning students and families. Religious, cultural and political differences are honored, and students routinely engage with fellow community members who think and believe differently from one another. Wildwood students represent a variety of talents and interests; there is a lively exchange of ideas both inside and outside the school's classrooms.

Parents and guardians of Wildwood students are attuned to the well-being of their children and the school as a whole. Without exception, they treasure the warm, kind relationships they and their children can form with teachers, advisors and other parents and students. They also appreciate that the school supports students' well-being and the development of self-awareness and self-reflection. Families embrace Wildwood's progressive pedagogy, confident that it uniquely prepares students to thrive in the world.

As lifelong learners, Wildwood teachers are encouraged to bring their skills and passions into the school's collaborative and innovative curricular framework. Faculty and staff engage actively in task forces, work groups, and committees, fostering cross-divisional interactions and enhancing student learning through joint curriculum design and project development. Professional development is prioritized with both internal and external opportunities for all staff. Faculty interested in inventing and refining curriculum are encouraged to apply for support through The Landis Green Innovation Fund. Rooted in equity and social justice, Wildwood embraces faculty and staff who contribute to multicultural education, global citizenship, and a diverse, inclusive community.

# Head of School

## Position Statement



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The Board of Trustees is exceptionally strong and high functioning. Their thoughtful stewardship of the school is apparent in the care taken in building the trustee team with various talents, their unwavering willingness to dive into challenging initiatives, and a bone-deep understanding of the importance of focusing on strategic rather than operational initiatives. The Wildwood Board keeps itself informed and evaluates and supports the Head of School; trustees serve as enthusiastic ambassadors for Wildwood's mission and programs.

## Program

Wildwood School provides a progressive, inquiry-based education from kindergarten through 12th grade that fosters critical thinking, creativity, and personal growth, with all assessment narratives based on achievement of mastery in standards and skills. The school's signature programs emphasize student agency, collaboration, and project-based learning:

- **Exhibitions:** Beginning in elementary school with the leadership of All School Meetings in 5th grade, then Gateways in 8th and 10th grades, and culminating in Senior Exhibitions, students present themselves and their work publicly, explaining their learning process, demonstrating mastery, and building confidence in their ability to articulate their viewpoints, while receiving feedback from peers, faculty, and families.

- **Advisory:** Meeting for a full block daily, Advisory gives each middle and upper school student a dedicated advisor who provides academic and emotional support, guiding them through academic challenges and personal development.
- **The Institutes at Wildwood:** Wildwood offers three specialized constructivist student research programs for which there is no syllabus or predetermined curriculum— Wildwood Institute for STEM Research & Development (WISRD), Wildwood Institute for Social Leadership (WISL), and Wildwood Institute for Entrepreneurship (WIE). They are entirely student driven and largely student governed with the guidance of a director.
- **International Community Involvement:** upper school students can expand their learning by participating in service and cultural exchange programs abroad, gaining global perspectives.
- **Internships:** Upper school students gain hands-on career experience through partnerships with local businesses, nonprofits, and organizations, preparing them for post-secondary success.

Wildwood's curriculum is interdisciplinary and project-based, integrating social-emotional learning (SEL), Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB), and a focus on global citizenship. Wildwood weaves DEIB principles throughout its K-12 curriculum, faculty training, affinity groups, and signature programs like the Multicultural Leadership Institute, offered to educators around the world through the Wildwood Outreach Center. This commitment shapes students into thoughtful, engaged global citizens.

The school's arts program nurtures creativity and self-expression across grade levels, with ample opportunities in theater, music, and visual arts, whether on stage or in the student art gallery.

# Head of School

## Position Statement



Athletics are a vital part of Wildwood’s program from the first days of kindergarten. Formal team play begins in 5th grade, where students explore soccer, basketball, and volleyball. By upper school, 70% of students participate in a variety of varsity and junior varsity sports, emphasizing character development, teamwork, and resilience.

For more information on Wildwood School’s dynamic program, visit [www.wildwood.org](http://www.wildwood.org).

## Finances and Fundraising

Wildwood School has made sound decisions that have had a significant financial impact since its inception. This includes expanding from elementary to K-12, executing long-term site leases with term options, performing site improvements and strategically purchasing local real estate (which has produced meaningful rental income over the last 10 years). Prudent financial leadership has facilitated steady enrollment numbers and healthy surpluses over the years, which, together with philanthropic support, has generated successful investment/endowment/cash account balances (presently above \$65MM). The opportunity/challenge of acquiring a permanent home for Wildwood in the Los Angeles Westside is a major strategic priority for the school. Wildwood School trustees have maintained focus on wise stewardship and paid close attention to the long-term sustainability of the people, place and programs at the school.

Along with skilled financial management, Wildwood School has a solid record of successful fundraising. The Wildwood Fund is robust every year, generating over \$2 million in 23/24, and periodic campaigns have raised funding for the three Institutes, significant building refurbishments, enhancing Flexible Tuition funding, building faculty salaries, tuition support and the school’s endowment.





## Strengths

Committed to the values of community and forward-thinking education, Wildwood fosters a joyful, inclusive, and engaged learning environment. Key strengths of Wildwood include:

- **Joyful and Connected Community:** Wildwood's students, faculty, administration, and parents share strong, intentional connections, contributing to a unique sense of belonging that makes the school a special place. The school values authenticity, with a welcoming, down-to-earth, and supportive community.
- **Innovative Progressive Education:** Faithful to its progressive roots and aligned K-12, Wildwood offers an adaptable and innovative, high-quality, student-centered educational program. This flexibility allows the school to remain responsive to its students' needs and the evolving world.
- **Dedicated Faculty and Staff:** Wildwood is characterized by strong relationships between students and teachers. Teachers are committed to fostering individual growth and supporting each student's unique learning journey.

- **Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB):** Wildwood has a long history of leadership in DEIB and remains committed to the evolution of these efforts.
- **Strong Governance, Administration, and Vision:** Wildwood benefits from thoughtful leadership by its Board of Trustees and Administrative team, who support the school's strategic initiatives and ensure its long-term success.

## Challenges and Opportunities

As Wildwood School continues to advance, there are exciting opportunities for the next Head of School, in partnership with the Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff to lead the community in these key areas:

- **Strengthening Campus Cohesion:** Wildwood spans two campuses, and there is an opportunity to further align the student, staff/faculty, and parent experience across divisions to create an even more cohesive K-12 identity.
- **Enhanced Facilities:** Acquiring a permanent home for Wildwood will ensure continued success on multiple fronts. In partnership with the Board, the next Head of School must





energize the community in securing a permanent campus, driving long-term facilities planning and development that aligns with the school's vision and ensures future stability.

- **Enrollment Management:** While Wildwood's enrollment is strong, the next Head must address fluctuations across divisions and enable steady growth. This will involve continuing to be innovative with admissions efforts, enhancing the school's visibility, and maintaining a balanced, diverse student body.
- **Philanthropy and Financial Growth:** As Wildwood continues to expand its vision for the future, strengthening its culture of philanthropy will be essential to supporting long-term initiatives and continued programmatic excellence.
- **Enhancing Faculty Support and Collaboration:** As the school continues to innovate and embrace progressive pedagogy, support for faculty professional growth and collaboration is paramount.
- **Evolving Parent Engagement:** Wildwood's committed parent body is integral to its community. The next Head will guide the school in meeting parent expectations while fostering a collaborative, supportive partnership.



## Personal and Professional Attributes

The next Head of School at Wildwood will be a dynamic leader who embodies the school's core values and is prepared to guide the community into the future. Key attributes of the ideal candidate include:

- **Inspiring and Uplifting Presence:** The Head will have an approachable, hands-on leadership style, maintaining a visible and consistent presence across all divisions, engaging with students, parents, faculty, and staff in meaningful ways that enhance the learning environment. The Head should set a tone of decency and respect for all to follow.
- **Confident and Clear Communication:** Strong communication skills are essential, enabling the Head to articulate the school's vision with clarity and confidence. The Head will be personable, approachable, and able to engage effectively with all stakeholders.
- **Financial and Philanthropic Command:** The Head will confidently deploy strong philanthropic and financial acumen to lead the school's strategic initiatives with a focus on long-term growth.
- **Commitment to DEIB:** The Head will have a deep commitment to and demonstrated experience with leading diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging efforts. The Head will continue prioritizing this work, ensuring it remains a central part of Wildwood's culture and future growth.
- **Team-Oriented and Collaborative Leadership:** The Head will be a true collaborator. They will work closely with faculty, staff, parents, students, and the Board. They will value teamwork and ensure all community members feel supported and appreciated.

# Head of School

## Position Statement



- **Problem-Solver with Strategic Vision:** Comfortable managing complexities and dualities, the Head will identify and maintain what is working well and embrace the challenges of progressive education while driving innovation and forward-thinking solutions.
- **Humility and Growth Mindset:** The Head will step into the role humbly and confidently guide the school into its next phase. Maintaining a sense of humor and a deep love of learning will enable them to connect authentically with the community.



## Application

Wildwood School has retained Resource Group 175 (RG175) to support the search for its next Head of School. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume, personal statement, and writing sample (note: the personal statement and writing sample need to be in the same pdf) online at <https://rg175.com/candidate/signup>.

The application deadline is **February 15, 2025** for a start date of **July 1, 2026**.

**Compensation:** The school expects to offer the new Head an annual base salary in the range of \$450,000 - \$600,000, plus a housing allowance and standard benefits.

For an initial inquiry or to nominate a potential candidate for this exciting leadership position, please contact one of the following RG175 consultants:

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