



LAWNDALE

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Lawndale Elementary School District Strategic Plan for Arts Education

2025-2030

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 9.04.2025

LA COUNTY
artsed
COLLECTIVE

In Partnership with the LA County Arts Ed Collective

INTRODUCTION

Lawndale Elementary School District Strategic Arts Plan (2025–2030) is proud to present its 2025–2030 Strategic Arts Plan, developed collaboratively with district staff, educators, students, parents, and community partners. This comprehensive five-year roadmap is designed to elevate and expand arts education across all LESD schools through strategic, equitable, and sustainable actions.



GUIDING PURPOSE

A team of administrators, teachers, parents, and community members collaborated from December 2024 to June 2025 through three full-day convenings and subcommittee meetings to develop this Five-Year Strategic Arts Plan. Using the Technology of Participation methodology, the group created a shared vision, assessed the district's current reality, and identified strategic directions and actions. The planning team was guided by the question: **"In five years, what do we want to see in place in the arts as a result of our plan?"**

A Shared Vision for Quality Arts Education:

EQUITABLE ACCESS
TO HIGH-QUALITY,
CULTURALLY
RELEVANT ARTS
INSTRUCTION

GREATER
ENROLLMENT
AND
PARTICIPATION
IN THE ARTS

RECOGNITION
THAT THE ARTS
ARE ESSENTIAL,
NOT ELECTIVE

ROBUST
SYSTEMS,
FACILITIES, AND
FUNDING TO
SUPPORT ARTS
INTEGRATION

ACTIVE COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT AND
STUDENT-CENTERED,
FUTURE-READY
LEARNING
EXPERIENCES



DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY ARTS TEAM MEMBERS



Adrian Rendon, Music Teacher
Anne Marie D'Agostino, Visual Arts Teacher
Anne-Marie Mowad, 21st Century Learning Coordinator
Barbara Boehm, Director of Operation, EsMOA
Bryan Puertas, Communications Manager, EsMoA
Chloe Espino, Student
Dennis Howard, RAP Director
Dulce Stein, Curator, EsMOA
Elizabeth Kneisley, Visual Arts Teacher
Emilie Leigh, Middle School Principal
Estella Church, Parent

Eva Sweeney, Co-Founder, EsMOA
Helene Trudeau, District Arts Coordinator
Iliana Cruz, Teacher Leader
Juan Rodriguez, Music Teacher
Lety Varela, Director of Teaching and Learning
Luis Sanchez, Parent
Martha Sierra, Executive Assistant, Ed Services
Marysol Perez, Elementary Assistant Principal
Sandy Seufert, Arts Consultant, Arts Ed Collective
Tracy Pumilia, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services
Victor Sanchez Lomeli, Student

CURRENT LANDSCAPE

LESD has a strong **foundation in arts education** with over 15 years of K–5 instruction in Visual Arts, Music, and Theatre via partnerships with P.S. Arts. Middle schools each have full-time Visual Arts and Music educators, and students benefit from **expanded learning** through programs like the RAP after-school music initiative and **community partnerships** with organizations like Harmony Project and ESMoA. However, **challenges remain** in ensuring equitable access across schools and grade levels, expanding staffing, increasing integration across disciplines, and optimizing resources and scheduling.



THE CASE FOR ACTION

The time is right to strengthen arts education in LESD. Students need creative outlets that foster belonging, well-being, and future-ready skills, particularly as they recover from the effects of the pandemic. State investments such as Proposition 28 provide new funding streams that make sustainable arts programming possible. With strong community partnerships and growing recognition of the arts as essential, LESD is ready to build a more equitable and vibrant arts ecosystem.



The Lawndale Elementary School District Strategic Arts Plan reaffirms LESD's commitment to nurturing the whole child through the arts and ensures that all students – regardless of background – have access to meaningful, high-quality arts learning experiences throughout their PK–8 journey.



LCAP GOALS AND ARTS STRATEGIC GOALS

The Strategic Arts Plan is aligned with the District's Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) goals and is built around nine key Strategic Goals under four LCAP priorities:

LCAP Goal 1 - Increase Academic Achievement

Goal 1 : Design Comprehensive, Robust and Rigorous Arts Instruction

Goal 2: Provide Culturally Relevant and Inclusive Arts Experiences

Goal 3: Hire and retain high-quality visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Instructors

Goal 4: Build educator capacity and promote arts integration

LCAP Goal 2 - Ensure Equity and Access

Goal 5: Develop Transparent, sustainable funding systems (including Prop 28)

Goal 6: Create Channels for Arts Advocacy and Communication

LCAP Goal 3 - Improve Parent and Student Engagement

Goal 7: Expand community partnerships and collaborative arts programming

Goal 8: Increase parent and community involvement in arts education

LCAP Goal 4 - Provide 21st Century Learning Enviroments

Goal 9: Reimagine, design and improve facilities to support high quality arts learning



PHASED IMPLEMENTATION (2025-2030)

The plan is structured into two phases:

- Phase 1 (2025–2027): Focuses on planning, piloting, stakeholder engagement, professional development, and foundational systems.
- Phase 2 (2027–2030): Scales up initiatives, expands programming, evaluates impact, and refines strategies.

**CREATING
DIGITAL
PORTFOLIOS
TO DOCUMENT
STUDENT
GROWTH**

**ENHANCING
FIELD TRIP
PROGRAMMING
ALIGNED WITH
VAPA
STANDARDS**

**HIRING ARTS
EDUCATORS
BASED ON
PROGRAMMING
NEEDS**



**ACTIVATING
GALLERY
SPACES IN
SCHOOLS**

**HOSTING
PARENT
TRAINING AND
ARTS
VOLUNTEER
PROGRAMS**

**PARTNERING
WITH LOCAL
COLLEGES FOR
CTE ARTS
PATHWAYS**



ACTION PLAN

LCAP Goal #1 Increase Academic Achievement

Arts Strategic Goal 1: Design Comprehensive, Robust, and Rigorous Arts Instruction

Key Actions

- Create a plan for digital portfolios for student collaborative work
- Support K-8 VAPA Articulation for Curriculum

Arts Strategic Goal 2: Provide Culturally Relevant and Inclusive Arts Experiences

Key Actions

- Map sequence of arts experiences to K-8 articulated curriculum

Arts Strategic Goal 3: Hire Quality VAPA Arts Instructors

Key Actions

- Determine priorities for hiring elementary and middle school arts teachers
- Hire Elementary and MS teacher(s)

Goal 4: Build Capacity for Delivering Arts Experience

Key Actions

- Invite volunteers to support the implementation and productions of arts events and programs
- Identify and inventory the talents of LESD Staff
- Develop arts integration within the curriculum through collaborative structures



LCAP Goal #2

Ensure Equity and Access

Goal 5: Create Sustainable, Equitable, and Transparent Funding Systems

Key Actions

- Create a model Prop 28 Expenditure Plan tracking tools aligned to the Strategic Arts Plan
- Research grant opportunities

Goal 6: Create Channels for Arts Advocacy and Communication

Key Actions

- Establish a District Community Arts Team (DCAT) to participate in policy making and project development
- Align Community Liaisons, VAPA Staff and the Arts Coordinator to meet and communicate regarding all programming



LCAP Goal #3

Improve Parent and Student Engagement

Goal 7: Nurture Community Partnerships and Collaborations

Key Actions

- Build partnerships with LESD MS and Centinela Valley VAPA Teachers to collaborate and work together with their students as partners
- Encourage all schools to participate in multiple community events
- Develop a pre-CTE Pathway and partnership with Centinela Valley and El Camino College (Creating an Arts Consortium)
- Grow partnership with Experimentally Structured Museum of Art (ESMoA)

Goal 8: Increase Community Involvement

Key Actions

- Bring elementary school audiences to middle school productions/art exhibits during the school hours
- Recruit parent volunteers to support art events during and after school hours
- Actively promote attendance to school events district-wide and in surrounding communities
- Create a model for an arts culminating showcase for advanced arts classes



LCAP Goal #4

Provide 21st Century Learning Environments

Goal 9: Reimagine and Design Quality Arts Spaces and Resources

Key Actions

- Conduct a space inventory to find quality spaces for art showcases, performances, and events
- Prioritize and implement improvement to arts spaces



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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"THE ARTS ARE A MAJOR AREA OF HUMAN COGNITION, ONE OF THE WAYS IN WHICH WE KNOW ABOUT THE WORLD AND EXPRESS OUR KNOWLEDGE. MUCH OF WHAT IS SAID IN THE ARTS CANNOT BE SAID IN ANOTHER WAY. TO WITHHOLD ARTISTIC MEANS OF UNDERSTANDING IS AS MUCH A MALPRACTICE AS TO WITHHOLD MATHEMATICS"

HOWARD GARDNER
HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

ABOUT THE ARTS ED COLLECTIVE

In 2002, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors established the Arts Education Collective to align efforts across the region with the ambitious goal that LA County's 1.5 million public school students receive a well-rounded education that includes the arts.

The Arts Ed Collective is comprised of policy makers, educators, arts organizations, teaching artists, funders, business leaders and community advocates. Strategic direction for the initiative is guided by the Leadership Council and Funders Council. The Los Angeles County Arts Commission offers administrative support and the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) provides curriculum and instructional services for educators Countywide. www.LACountyArtsEdCollective.org

This strategic plan for arts education was developed as part of the LA County Arts Education Collective to advance the goals of Arts for All Children, Youth, & Families: Los Angeles County's New Regional Blueprint for Arts Education, supported by Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture.



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Story in the Stars, Caitlin Wong, 10th Grade