

Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

Wednesday, November 19, 2025 – 7 PM – in-person

Board Room, SMMUSD District Office, 1717 - 4th Street, Santa Monica 90401

AGENDA

VAPA DAC roster for 2025-26 and when terms expire:

Deborah Berek – June 2026

Janis Gabbert – June 2026

Domenic Piturro – June 2026

Zina Josephs – June 2027

Rebecca Terlizzi – June 2027

Michael Mollo – June 2027

Lauren Applebaum – June 2027

Wendy Nishikawa Jaffa – June 2027

Cynthia Boorujy – June 2027

Annie Azzariti – June 2028

Aimee Koeplin – June 2028

Emily Senchuk – June 2028

Kimberly Crawford – June 2028

Sarah Jane Barney – June 2028

7:00 PM -- Call to order and welcome

7:05 PM -- Approve minutes from October meeting

7:10 PM -- Calendar review

- Board of Ed meetings: November 20, December 11 and 18
- <https://www.smmusd.org/board-of-education/board-meetings>
- VAPA DAC meetings: January 21, February 18, April 29, May 20
- <https://www.smmusd.org/community/district-advisory-committees-dac/visual-performing-arts>

REPORTS

7:15 PM – Administrative Co-Chair and VAPA Coordinator – Dr. Jim Wang

7:45 PM – **Board of Education Liaisons** – Maria Leon-Vazquez and Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (per the DAC Charge)

8:00 PM – **VAPA DAC charge for 2025-26:**

- *Support a comprehensive preK-12 arts education program as an integral part of the core curriculum offered to all SMMUSD students, with dance, media arts, music, theater, and visual arts taught as discrete disciplines and integrated into other subject areas; as we align with and promote the Excellence through Equity Plan, which includes teaching cross-cultural and socio-emotional skills.*
- *Serve as a conduit for parents, teachers, students and community members to inform and make recommendations to the Board of Education on matters related to equitable access and successful participation in comprehensive, sequential, standards-based preK-12 arts education, while comparing the district's curriculum, scheduling, staffing, instructional materials, equipment, and facilities with National and State standards and frameworks; as we align with and promote the Excellence through Equity Plan.*
- *Maintain the Board and District commitment to the adoption of a new 6-year SMMUSD Arts Education Strategic Plan. Review and advise this Plan to align with and promote the Excellence through Equity Plan.*

1. DAC End-of-Year Report – review and revise

2. Visual & Performing Arts Department website:

<https://www.smmusd.org/departments/visual-performing-arts/home>

3. Media coverage

SMMUSD Congratulates Ten Samohi Students Accepted into SCVA Regional Honor Choir

10/27/25 -- SMMUSD news release

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1761584354/smmusdorg/pxcxgjycmdeyaewuwppx/PR-SCVASamohiChoir102725.pdf>

Ten Samohi Students Earn Spots in Regional Honor Choir

11/4/25 – Santa Monica Daily Press

<https://smdp.com/news/education/ten-samohi-students-earn-spots-in-regional-honor-choir/>

“Ten Santa Monica High School choir students have been accepted into the 2025 Southern California Vocal Association Regional Honor Choir following rigorous auditions. The students — Ansel Brodtkin, Alex Chalet, Anna Cervantes, Karin

Cervantes, Ava Collins-Cona, Curtis DiMundo, Zoey Jaffa, Mina Lotan, Harper McCallum and Milo Smith — earned the honor after auditions that tested sight reading, tonal and rhythmic memory, scales, triads, and solo performances. The singers will represent Samohi at the University of Redlands Nov. 6-8, joining 270 student vocalists from across Southern California for 3 days of intensive rehearsals culminating in a public concert....”

4. Calendar of upcoming performances and arts exhibits

November 19 – JAMS Orchestra Concert

November 20 – JAMS Band Concert

LMS Orchestra Concert

Malibu MS/HS Orchestra Concert

November 21-23 – Samohi Theatre Fall play – “The Play that Goes Wrong” --
Humanities Center

November 22 – Samohi Marching Band Championships -- Riverside

December 4 – JAMS Choir Concert

LMS Orchestra Concert

Malibu MS/HS Orchestra Concert

December 9 – Samohi Orchestra Concert

December 11 – Malibu MS/HS Choir Concert

December 16 – SMASH MS Concert (Olympic High campus)

January 13 – Samohi Band Concert

January 23-25 – LMS Musical

January 30-31 – Café Samo – Humanities Center

March 14 -- Stairway of the Stars Concerts -- Barnum Hall

March 26 -- Santa Monica Art Show -- Roberts Gallery at Samohi

April 23 -- Malibu Art Show -- Malibu HS

May 16 -- Magico Mexico -- Samohi

June 3 -- Kiwanis performances -- JAMS

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

8:45 PM – **Public comments regarding items not on the agenda** -- Members of the audience may address the DAC on items not on the meeting’s agenda. The Brown

Act states that Committee members may not engage in discussion of issues raised, except to ask clarifying questions or to refer the matter to staff.

8:50 PM – **Agenda planning for January 21 meeting** – Review and approve Mid-Year Report;
Olympic High School Principal Cynthia McGregory
and Academic Counselor Bailey Fronda

8:55 PM – **Announcements and adjournment**