

Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

Wednesday, January 21, 2026 – 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:

June 2026: Deborah Berek, Janis Gabbert, Domenic Piturro

June 2027: Lauren Applebaum, Cynthia Boorujy, Wendy Jaffa, Zina Josephs, Michael Mollo,
Rebecca Terlizzi

June 2028: Annie Azzariti, Sarah Jane Barney, Kimberly Crawford, Aimee Koeplin,
Emily Senchuk

7:00 PM -- Call to order and welcome

7:05 PM – Guest speakers -- Olympic High School Principal Cynthia McGregory
and Academic Counselor Bailey Fronda

7:20 PM -- Approve minutes from November meeting

7:25 PM -- Calendar review

- Board of Ed meetings: January 22, February 5 (Malibu), February 19
<https://www.smmusd.org/board-of-education/board-meetings>
- VAPA DAC meetings: February 18, April 29, May 20
<https://www.smmusd.org/community/district-advisory-committees-dac/visual-performing-arts>

REPORTS

7:30 PM – Administrative Co-Chair and VAPA Coordinator – Dr. Jim Wang

8:00 PM – Board of Education Liaisons – Maria Leon-Vazquez and Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (per the DAC Charge)

8:15 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 Midyear Report – Review, revise, and approve.

2. Visual & Performing Arts Department website:

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

3. Media coverage

SMMUSD Presents Holiday Visual and Performing Arts Events 2025

12/1/25 – *SMMUSD news release*

Santa Monica High School to Present 20th Annual Motus Perpetuus Winter Choral Concert Dec. 12

12/8/25 – *SMMUSD news release*

Fall VAPA Highlights Showcase Student Excellence Across SMMUSD

12/16/25 – *SMMUSD news release*

“The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) congratulates students, educators and arts programs across the district for an outstanding season of visual and performing arts achievements. From statewide music honors to award-winning theatre performances, students continue to demonstrate exceptional creativity, talent and dedication.

-Twelve Samohi students selected for 2025 CODA Honor Orchestras... These students traveled to the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California, Dec. 5-6 for rehearsals and a culminating concert open to the public...

-Samohi Theatre earns second place awards at DTASC JV Festival -- The Samohi Theatre Department participated in the Drama Teachers of Southern California (DTASC) JV Division Festival Nov. 8, competing with schools across the region in multiple theatre categories. Both group scenes and the monologue entry earned second place awards...

-Samohi Theatre production earns perfect scores from CETA adjudicators -- Samohi Theatre's fall play, “The Play That Goes Wrong,” received perfect scores

from California Educational Theatre Association (CETA) adjudicators for its November 16 performance. 8 actors, 12 student technicians, and the full ensemble cast and backstage crew received certificates of merit...

-Twenty-four SMMUSD students selected for All-State Music Ensembles -- 24 students from John Adams Middle School, Lincoln Middle School, and Santa Monica High School have been selected to participate in the 2025 All-State Music Ensembles through the California All-State Music Education Conference, known as CASMEC. CASMEC is the statewide conference that brings together California's top middle and high school musicians for honor ensemble performances, workshops, and exhibitions...."

Fall VAPA Highlights Showcase Student Excellence across SMMUSD

12/23/25 – *Santa Monica Daily Press*

<https://www.smdp.com/fall-vapa-highlights-showcase-student-excellence-across-smmusd/>

4. Calendar of upcoming performances and arts exhibits

January 23-25 – LMS Spring Musical

January 30-31 – Café Samo

February 7 – Samohi Orchestra Spaghetti & Strings

February 12 – LMS Band Concert

February 26-28, March 1 – MHS Spring Musical

February 26-28, March 1, 6-8 – Samohi Spring Musical

March 14 -- Stairway of the Stars Concerts, Arts & Music Festival

March 17 – Samohi Orchestra Concert

March 24 – Samohi Band Concert

March 26 – LMS Orchestra Concert

March 26 -- Santa Monica Student Art Showcase -- Roberts Gallery at Samohi

April 17 – Samohi Cathedral Classics Choir Concert

April 23 -- Malibu Student Art Showcase -- Malibu HS

May 1 – Samohi Orchestra Pops Concert

May 1-3 – JAMS//SMASH Spring Musical
May 1-3 – MHS Musical
May 16 -- Magico Mexico – Samohi
May 20 – JAMS Orchestra Concert
May 20 – Samohi Jazz Concert
May 21 – JAMS Band Concert
May 21 – LMS Choir Concert
May 21 – MMS/MHS Orchestra Concert
May 22 – Samohi Choir Concert
May 26 – SMASH Concert
May 28 – JAMS Choir Concert
May 28 – LMS Band Concert
May 28 – MMS/MHS Band Concert
May 28-30 – Samohi Theatre Public Domain
May 30 – Samohi Orchestra Senior Gala
June 2 – Samohi Band Concert
June 3 -- Kiwanis Finalist Performances
June 4 – LMS Pops Concert
June 4 – MMS/MHS Choir Concert

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 February 18 meeting**

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