

Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

Wednesday, February 18, 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 – Approve minutes from January meeting

7:10 PM -- Calendar review

- Board of Ed meetings: February 19

<https://www.smmusd.org/board-of-education/board-meetings>

- VAPA DAC meetings: 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 Midyear Report update

2. Visual & Performing Arts Department website:

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

3. Scheduling VAPA Classes in Middle and High School

- a. “The Value of Access to Engaging Electives in Every Year of Secondary School and Impediments to Participation – PTSA report (24 pages)
- b. “Creating Avenues for All Students to Join and Remain in Music Classes while Navigating Scheduling Roadblocks and Detours” – *Teaching Music*, Jan 2026

4. Media coverage

SMMUSD and Santa Monica Conservancy Celebrate Restoration of New Deal Art and Architecture at Santa Monica High School

12/17/25 -- *SMMUSD news release*

Fall VAPA Highlights Showcase Student Excellence across SMMUSD

12/19/26 -- *The SMMUSD Wave*

1/19/26 -- *The SMMUSD Wave*

Many Faces. One Malibu High.

AP Studio 2-D Art students at Malibu High School recently unveiled their first photo installation, featuring 10 layered portraits that transform into new faces as each layer is revealed. The project celebrates identity, creativity and the diverse stories that make up the Malibu High School community.

Learning Through the Lens: Photography in Action at Malibu High

Malibu High School photography students recently had a hands-on learning opportunity as they photographed a Unimog, also known as a Freightliner tractor, parked on campus. The military vehicle, owned by photography teacher Carla Bowman-Smith, was brought to campus to give students an up-close subject for practicing composition, lighting and creative perspective.

The Freedom to Imagine: P.S. ARTS at Franklin Elementary School

P.S. ARTS Informance activities recently took place at Franklin Elementary School, inviting students and families to create art together on campus. The experience celebrated this year's P.S. ARTS theme, "The Freedom to Imagine," and highlighted creativity, collaboration and joyful learning through the arts. P.S. ARTS is made possible by donations to the Santa Monica Education Foundation.

Samohi Bands "Bands on the Road" Benefit Concert

Please join Samohi Bands on Feb. 3, at the John Adams Middle School Performing Arts Center for "Bands on the Road," an evening of iconic music, an exclusive wine auction, silent auction items and concessions, while showcasing the talents of 100 student musicians under the direction of Kevin McKeown. This year's concert, titled "Collective Resonance," will feature performances by several small ensembles performing intimate instrumental chamber music, in addition to performances by the Samohi Wind Symphony and Wind Ensemble.

5. Calendar of upcoming performances and arts exhibits

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 April 29 meeting**

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