

Ventura Unified School District

K-12 Standards-based

Arts Education Master Plan

Phase I. Elementary Program



**Presented to the Ventura Unified School Board
September 2009**

To provide feedback please contact Kathy Asher at Kathy.asher@venturausd.org

Ventura Unified School District

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Ventura Unified School District
Arts Master Plan Design Team

- Kathy Asher, Director, Curriculum and Instruction
- Paul Browne, Teacher Specialist – Elementary Music
- Catherine Coffey, Teacher Specialist – Elementary Visual Arts
- Kathryn Dippong-Lawson, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, City of San Buenaventura
- Debbie Golden, Vice President, Board of Education
- Heidi House, Teacher Specialist – Elementary Music
- Georgeanne Lees, Cultural Affairs Supervisor, City of San Buenaventura
- Celena Turney, Arts Education Consultant

**Arts in Education Master Plan Vision Statement
Ventura Unified School District**

The Arts Education Master Plan will ensure the arts are an integral, interdisciplinary, sequential part of every student's education, fostering inspiration, creativity, and a life-long appreciation of the arts.

**Vision Statement
For Elementary Visual and Performing Arts
Ventura Unified School District**

In 3-5 years, Ventura Unified School District's Elementary Arts Education Program will show evidence of the following characteristics:

- Learning environs are vibrant, creative, active, and visible
- Student's lives are enriched by a multi-faceted approach to learning
- Arts curriculum is integrated, comprehensive, and articulated
- Teachers are prepared and confident through professional development and supportive leadership
- Family and community partners are mobilized, visible, and collaborative
- Leadership and advocacy are aligned with the vision
- Substantial ongoing financial support from multiple funding streams

Project Background and Planning Process

In 1984, the City of Ventura established an Arts Education Task Force comprised of a coalition of artists, educators, parents, and other concerned citizens. This focus group was very active throughout the cultural planning process for the 2005 Ventura Cultural Plan, and helped to develop the arts education policy for the City. After the Cultural Plan was written, the nucleus of the task force remained as an arts education advocacy group, and merged with the Ventura Arts Education Arts Collaborative. The VEP Arts Collaborative is comprised of Ventura Unified School District teachers, principals, community volunteers, City staff, artists, and other community parties.

The Ventura Unified School District maintains a strong belief in providing all students with a comprehensive education, which includes the arts as a part of that core curriculum. In order to strengthen the teaching of the arts by providing a vision, focus and support for arts education, VUSD, in collaboration with the Ventura Educational Partnership Arts Collaborative, designed an Arts Education Master Plan, which will serve as a blueprint for integrating the arts into all K-12 VUSD students' curricula. The plan is district driven.

In July 2008, the VEP Arts Collaborative engaged Arts Education consultant, Celena Turney to provide coaching and group facilitation for the development of Phase I of a district-wide Arts Education Master Plan. A Visual and Performing Arts Task Force was convened and designed the implementation plan under consideration at the September 2009 Board of Education meeting. The following components formed an integral part of the planning process:

1. 3-5 year Practical Vision Statement
2. Strategic Directions
3. Short-term Implementation Plan beginning with the 2009/2010 school year

State of the Arts at the Elementary Level in the Ventura Unified School District

Strengths

- All four art forms are offered
- District specialists in Music and Visual Arts
- All-district 3rd –5th grade Choir
- Collaboration with outside agencies
- VEP Grants support instruction, resources, and extended learning opportunities at cultural institutions and museums
- Some after school arts-centered programs are offered

Challenges

- High student/music teacher ratio negatively impacts student learning
- Lack of time to incorporate the arts into the curriculum on an ongoing basis
- Absence of district-wide instrumental music program for upper elementary students
- Lack of coherent, consistently offered, standards-based art instruction for each grade level
- Lack of funding to support the hiring of more art/music teacher specialists

Arts Education Policy

Ventura Unified School District

BP6142.6

The Governing Board recognizes that Arts Education, including dance, music, theatre, and visual arts, is part of the core curriculum for all K-12 students and that the value and benefits of arts education have been extensively documented. The Board also recognizes that instruction in the basic skills and content knowledge of the arts develops perceptual abilities that extend to all careers and areas of life. An arts education enables students to develop an appreciation of the arts, critical and creative thinking skills, initiative, self-expression, self-esteem, and discipline.

Given the richness in diversity and multiculturalism in the State of California, the arts build bridges between cultures by helping pupils broaden their perspectives to better understand their world and the diverse cultural influences that surround them. Communication, imagination, appreciation for various cultures, and information are keys to career opportunities, education, and a life-long appreciation of the arts. Therefore, it is the policy of the Ventura Unified School District to acquaint all students with the joy of the arts so they can perform, produce, and appreciate what art can do for them and for the world.

The Board encourages development, implementation, and evaluation of quality, standards-based sequential and comprehensive pre-K through adult arts education, with equity and access for all. The arts education program should enable students to achieve the goals outlined in the Content Standards for California Public Schools, which include the Visual and Performing Arts Content Standards.

The Board also encourages the integration of community arts resources into the educational program. Such resources may include opportunities for students to attend musical and theatrical performances, observe the works of accomplished artists, and work directly with artists-in-residence and volunteers.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a budgeted plan, establish procedures to implement Board policies, and provide for the on-going review, evaluation and development of the District's arts education program.

Policy VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: September 9, 2008 Ventura, California

Strategic Directions for Elementary Visual and Performing Arts

- Communicate and build awareness of district’s arts education plan.
- Develop a funding plan to sustain arts education.
- Promote the district’s arts vision and plan through active and informed leadership.
- Dedicate a visible space at each school site for sharing arts learning and arts appreciation.
- Nurture community partnerships.
- Build an integrated standards-based sequential curriculum for Elementary Music and Visual Arts.
- Allocate time and resources for professional development days in the arts.

Phase I and II Goals for Elementary Visual and Performing Arts

Phase I Goals

1. Adopt a multi-phased 3-year district-wide plan for Elementary Visual and Performing Arts.
2. Develop an informational brochure and power point presentation to communicate about and advocate for VUSD’s Elementary Arts Education Plan.
3. Establish a committee to research and develop funding opportunities from multiple sources.
4. Establish arts docents for each elementary school.
5. Foster Community Outreach Partnerships for showcasing student work.
6. Ensure consistency in VAPA curriculum development.
7. Create a foundational understanding of sequential standards-based instruction in the arts for classroom teachers and administrators.

Phase II Goals

1. Develop a comprehensive Arts Assessment plan for the Visual and Performing Arts to “inform and improve instruction as well as to provide accountability.”
2. Create standards-based dance and theatre programs at the Elementary level. Develop personnel and budget plans to support these new programs.
3. Articulate district-wide K-12 coursework and learning goals for the Visual and Performing Arts.