Arts education is very personal to me. It’s what kept me interested in school and has done the same for my own children. We know it positively impacts student learning, but more importantly it enhances the quality of life for our students. The arts, including dance, music, theatre, and visual arts, must be a priority for us as we prepare our students for their life journey.

– J. Todd Finnell, Ed.D., Imperial County Superintendent of Schools

Strategic Planning for Arts Education in Imperial County
In the 2019-2020 school year, Imperial County Office of Education was selected to participate in an arts education planning process in partnership with CCSESA: Arts Initiative and the California Alliance for Arts Education. The purpose of The Rural County Arts Cohort grant is building greater access to arts education in rural counties. An ad-hoc committee of 22 participants - both school district employees and community partners - met to review data, share experiences and expertise, and prioritize goals and objectives for arts education in Imperial County.

Long-time arts educator, Jim Thomas masterfully facilitated the planning process to create a customized plan that includes a set of county-wide goals, action
steps, outcomes, fiscal implications, and a timeline for implementation. The outcomes of this work will guide how the Imperial County Office of Education supports and provides resources for maximum access to high-quality arts education.

“The rapidly evolving global economy demands a dynamic and creative workforce. The arts and its related businesses are responsible for billions of dollars in cultural exports for this country. It is imperative that we continue to support the arts and arts education both on the national and local levels. The strength of every democracy is measured by its commitment to the arts.”

– Charles Segars, CEO of Ovation