

Kings County

Art, in all its forms, is one of the most human experiences we can have. Whether it is the product of mindful consideration or wild imagination, it is a window to a widened appreciation of our world. This is why education in the arts is an integral part of the curriculum for all students in Kings County. It is the embodiment of experiences we want for every student. From our preschools to our adult programs, artistic engagement impacts students' broader course of study by providing avenues for individual expression and opportunities for deep interpretation. What an exciting responsibility it is to foster such appreciation in our students.



- **Todd Barlow, Kings County Superintendent of Schools**

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Arts education, including visual arts, music, drama, media arts, and other disciplines, is an important part of a well-rounded education, and Kings County continues to highlight arts education's impact on students. Among the thirteen districts, students within the county are invited to participate in all art forms beginning in TK as an avenue of education and expression.

To support students in their art endeavors, the Kings Art Center hosts the Young Masters High School Art Exhibition each year. Students are encouraged to submit

paintings, photography, sculptures, and mixed media, with ribbons and cash awards presented to the top three winners in varying categories. With almost one hundred students participating each year, the



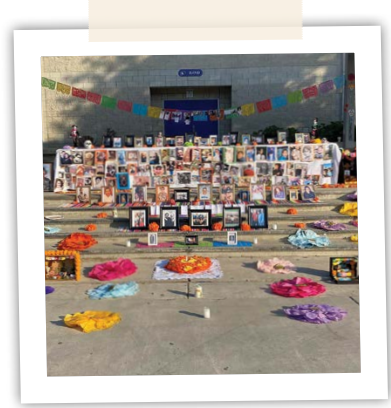


exhibition creates an opportunity for young artists' work to be displayed for the community. The creativity and artistry of the students represents the vision of the valley's next generation of Kings County.

JC Montgomery, in partnership with the Kings County Juvenile Center, has an annual Hip Hop-based project called "Stories with Style." During this project, students learn about Hip Hop culture and its impact on the world. They also have the opportunity to create graffiti style art, make beats, and record raps or spoken word poems. Local teaching artists lend authenticity to the project and provide creative coaching to students as they tell individual and community stories through art.



Recently, students had the opportunity to speak with alternative education leaders from across the state about the importance of engaging arts educational opportunities. In preparation for this opportunity, the students brainstormed what they would like to see changed in education. This brainstorm was used to write a song titled "Rose from Concrete," which was played for the alternative education leaders. Another song, "It's Not 2 Late," which was written and recorded by two JC Montgomery students, was awarded a Davey Award. Students also had a chance to work with artists from the organization Urbanists Collective to design an augmented reality mural that is showcased in Kings County.



With the social and technological changes taking place, Kings County strives to remain digitally up-to-date with the arts, incorporating artificial intelligence and augmented reality in its classes and art clubs. Hanford West High School works to prepare students wanting to pursue careers in film and music production by participating in Creative Careers Leadership Lab (CCLL), a student leadership organization. Student filmmakers are prompted with the challenge of telling a story in which the arts made a difference in someone's life, with some students choosing to focus on visual arts while others gravitate towards performing arts. Capturing fictional stories on film unleashes creativity and vision. Kings County wants all its students to have a story of their own about the arts making a positive impact on their lives.

