

# Mariposa County

## Mariposa County Office of Education

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*“ Given the positive academic and social emotional impact the arts have on our students, we are excited to be investing in resources into building systemic practices and partnerships which grow and support equitable and rigorous arts learning throughout Mariposa County aimed at empowering classroom teachers, centering student voice, and integrating classroom curriculum with a myriad of creative placemaking efforts across Mariposa County at large. ”*



- Jeff Aranguena, Mariposa County Superintendent of Schools

### Mariposa County Office of Education Awarded Rural County Arts Cohort Grant to Develop Strategic Art Plan

In 2019/2020 the Mariposa County Office of Education was thrilled to be awarded a capacity building grant from the CCSESA Arts Initiative in partnership with the California Alliance for Arts Education as part of the Rural County Arts Cohort to develop a Strategic Art Plan for Mariposa. The effort is led by Mariposa County Office of Education VAPA Consultant, Cara Goger, and facilitated by Peggy Burt of the California Alliance for Arts Education. Guided by the insights of classroom teachers, administrators, students, artists, parents and community members and leveraging the unique strengths of our rural community, this in-progress plan prioritizes the following:

- Develop a sustainable, progressive, and diverse arts curriculum.
- Empower teachers with relevant Professional Development that allows choice while easing and elevating teaching.

- Promote and empower student voice while exhibiting students' creativity and expression.
- Support and celebrate relationships that foster each student's growth through authentic experiences.
- Forge relationships with community partners to support arts education.
- Partner with local businesses and organizations to provide space for students to create and/or present art.
- Share our mission about arts education, advocating for its benefits, persuading the community to participate and support.
- Empower an inclusive leadership team to support an equitable and sustainable Arts Education Plan implementation.
- Leverage existing and create new funding sources.

The final draft of this plan is scheduled to be completed in March 2020 and Cara Goger will be participating on a panel at the CCSESA Rural Arts Convening in April 2020, talking about the process of developing the plan.

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## Mariposa County Office of Education Partnership Programs

The Mariposa County Office of Education has a long standing partnership with the Mariposa County Arts Council to deliver standards aligned arts programming and teacher professional development equitable across all schools in Mariposa County. Here are two examples of these partnership programs:

**Artists in the Schools** This artist-in-residency/teacher PD program is offered in all 5th grade classes in Mariposa and integrates arts learning with Next Generation Science (NGSS) and Common Core State Standards (CCSS) based curriculum. Residencies span 12 weeks and provide hands-on visual art and music experiences that develop students' critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills. One of the major shifts in CCSS is its focus on critical thinking skills and evidence-based reasoning which challenges students to transfer knowledge across subject area boundaries in order to build capacity for the complex-decision making and problem solving they will surely face. Art can play an important role in realizing this pedagogical goal. "Through viewing, making, and discussing art works, students come to realize that the arts do not exist in isolation, but are always situated within multiple dimensions...]" (National Core Arts Standards: A Conceptual Framework for Arts Learning). Furthermore, "students who actively study the arts engage in and develop a disciplined, step-by-step approach to problems in creating, realizing, or understanding art..." (National Core Arts Standards: A Conceptual Framework for Arts Learning).



Additionally, the program builds capacity in teachers to integrate the arts into the existing curriculum through an instructional approach known

as graduated release. This method begins with the artist-educators providing 100% of the instruction, graduates to a co-teaching model with the teacher joining at previously determined points in the lesson, and culminates in the classroom teacher leading instruction while the artist-educator moves into a coaching role.



### SITE + VISION

Is a visual literacy program for high schoolers offered in every high school in the County that centers around field trips to exhibitions curated by major regional museums and supports a growing body of academic research indicating that exposing youth to art promotes emotional intelligence, a greater sense of self-worth and critical thinking skills. This program consists of a standards-aligned unit comprised of these three components:

- Pre-Field Trip Prep (3 weeks): Utilizing the image lists, interpretative resources, and study guides developed by museum curators/education staff for the selected exhibitions a museum educator will develop curricula for each exhibition and facilitate in-class discussions designed to build visual literacy skills and encourage engagement through interactive and inquiry-based discussion that prompts evidentiary looking.
- Field Trip (1 week): Students will visit the selected exhibitions and receive a gallery tour from an on-staff museum educator, this may include the opportunity to visit the vault or archives or meet with curatorial staff.
- Post Field Trip Reflection (1 week): Students will create a piece of artwork and compose an accompanying piece of prose or poetry inspired by the work of the artist(s) or curators involved in the exhibition they visited.

The selected exhibitions are presented by the Cantor Art Center/ Stanford, SFMOMA, the deYoung, the Oakland Museum of California and the Crocker Art Museum and leverage MCACI's relationships with these museums' Education Departments. MCACI's staff, museum educator and classroom teachers work with museum staff to select 3-4 current/upcoming exhibitions around which to build the units. Exhibitions are selected based on their artistic and cultural/social significance.