

Monterey County

I wholeheartedly believe in the transformative power of arts education, which aligns closely with the core drivers of the Monterey County Office of Education: equity, building capacity, and deeper learning. Throughout history, the arts have played a pivotal role in fostering diverse experiences, shaping perspectives, and instilling values, promoting an equitable and inclusive approach to education. Engaging with the fine arts serves as a cornerstone for enhancing learning in all academic disciplines, building the capacity of our students to explore and excel. Robust evidence supports the positive impact of arts education on reducing dropout rates and boosting attendance, reflecting our commitment to equity and deeper learning for all. Moreover, the arts offer a multitude of non-academic benefits, including promoting self-esteem, motivation, cultural appreciation, and social unity, further emphasizing our dedication to nurturing a well-rounded educational experience that builds capacity and fosters deeper learning.



- Dr. Deneen Guss, Monterey County Superintendent of Schools

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INSIDE EDUCATION

Each month, a select group of local community members hop on a bus for a fun and interactive field trip to explore Monterey County's classrooms and programs. Participants discover new possibilities in education and become better prepared to discuss, evaluate, and support our local schools. For the month of October 2023, the topic focused on Visual & Performing Arts. Participants had the opportunity to visit three local school sites: Gutierrez Middle School, Mission Park Elementary, and Alisal High School.



Inside Education members sketching their self-portraits as Tim Burton characters.

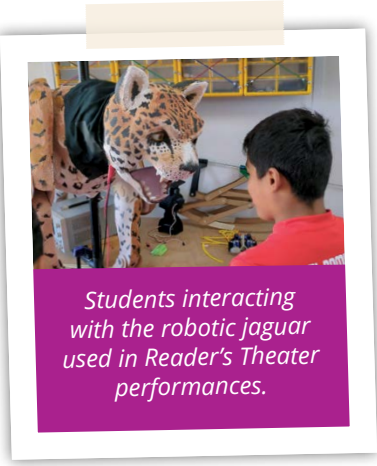
Holly Ann Isaacs is a grade 6 teacher at Gutierrez Middle that provides her students with the opportunity to explore traditional visual arts. Members from Inside Education engaged in an activity as student artists. They sketched a self-portrait of themselves through a Tim Burton-inspired lens.

Next, members went to visit Mission Park Elementary to engage in audio engineering and visual arts. Felix Diaz Contreras and Kenji Tanner worked closely with students to spark their curiosity and creativity. By providing digital/media art opportunities, students are able to express themselves in various mediums.



Mission Park students use water colors to express their artwork

Last but not least, Alisal High School's theatre director Veronica Pulido welcomed members to a sneak peek of her upcoming production. Pulido is working with one of our local aligned partners, Artist Ink, in bringing performing arts to life. Community members of all ages were invited to audition in Octavio Solis' La Posada Magica. A live performance of the show is scheduled for the winter 2023-2024 season.



<https://qrco.de/beoiMT>

comprehension of the narrative but also nurtures their creative thinking, problem-solving skills, and interdisciplinary knowledge.

LIFTING UP MONTEREY COUNTY'S MULTICULTURAL HERITAGE THROUGH THE ARTS

Our local arts programs play a pivotal role in celebrating and elevating Monterey County's rich multicultural heritage. These programs provide a platform for the expression and preservation of diverse cultural traditions, fostering a deeper understanding of our community's multicultural

tapestry. Through art forms such as dance, music, visual arts, and theatre, they not only showcase the immense talent within our community but also offer a bridge to connect people from different backgrounds. They bring forth a sense of unity and pride in our cultural diversity, promoting inclusivity and mutual respect.



SUMMER MATTERS

Over the summer, the Central Coast Mobile FabLab hosts a literacy program for grades 3-6 students all over Monterey County. Through the integration of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math, known as "STEAM," the FabLab supports students in leveraging literacy through The Living Text Project. Students design and program robotics to control digitally fabricated 3D puppets for Reader's Theater performances.

Lynne Cherry's *The Great Kapok Tree* was brought to life as students interacted and assisted in digitally designing the robotics-controlled animals from this children's classic. Storytelling becomes more engaging through the integration of STEAM. This strategy not only enhances students'

