There is a lot of evidence to support the fact that arts education provides learners with greater self-esteem, with motivation, enhanced emotional expression, and an appreciation of diversity."

– David W. Gordon, Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools

Sacramento County Office of Education

Supports the Arts

The Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) has worked tirelessly with school districts and art organizations to support the implementation and development of arts education. In 2018-19, this work was expanded when SCOE was awarded the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant (SSAE) through the California Department of Education. The million-dollar grant focused on providing all students with access to well-rounded art-oriented educational opportunities. The SCOE Arts Education Grant brought together stakeholders in arts education to develop their knowledge and inform how their work assists school districts in implementing arts education. The stakeholders worked together with job-alike colleagues through Community of Practice (COP) groups to discuss strategies and create connections to a variety of arts educators and programs. Through the use of grant funding, 13 Sacramento County districts were awarded $27,500 which VAPA coordinators used in a variety of ways to increase exposure to the arts. In addition to this, the 13 school districts were given 210 art kits containing colored pencils, oil pastels, water colors, and more. These kits were used in the classrooms and some were used...
Collaborations and Partnerships
The Arts Education Community of Practice (COP) met multiple times during the 2018-19 school year connecting district art leads and art teachers with art organizations throughout the county. The Arts Education COP allowed district and art organizations to network, access ideas, funding, and build partnerships. The Any Given Child, Sacramento Ballet, Images Theatre, the Crocker Art Museum, B Street Theatre, and Friends of the Arts Sacramento were the local art partners that are supporting establishing art education in our schools. These connections include field trips to local events, professional development for educators, and providing art exposure through assemblies and presentations. The Arts Education grant also supported teachers in obtaining their VAPA credential by sponsoring 50 teachers to obtain their Art or Music Added Authorizations. The purpose was to support our school districts in building art education programs with credentialed teachers. This work is continuing in the 2019-2020 school year with even more art organizations joining the conversation. David Garibaldi and his organization, Creator X, will collaborate with a number of school districts to create dynamic and engaging lessons for students. The district art leads meet once a month to discuss progress being made within their district and are joined by the art organizations the following month for a conversation on how to make arts education grow.

Next Steps
The Arts Education COP included collecting data on what arts programs already existed and what programs were being developed or improved the school districts. A final report was compiled from each of the districts detailing their next steps. One example of this work in action is that of Twin Rivers Unified School District, which has continued to grow their Festival of the Arts, an annual celebration of visual and performing arts. Students from multiple schools have their artistic creations displayed in the district office lobby, students play musical instruments, and perform dances for the general public to enjoy. The ongoing COP meetings with the district art leads and art organization leads will continue to build the partnerships that are necessary to provide art education in the school districts.