

# San Francisco County



In SFUSD, the arts transcend being an extracurricular activity; they form the foundational bedrock of inspiration, innovation, and individual expression.

Cultivating creativity through the arts in our Pre-K-12+ grade classrooms goes beyond molding artists; it involves nurturing well-rounded, resilient individuals equipped to tackle the challenges of an ever-evolving world.

Here, we firmly believe that the sparks of imagination and the symphony of creativity are just as vital as any other lesson, collectively crafting a tapestry that embodies a fully enriched educational experience.



- **Matt Wayne, San Francisco Unified School District Superintendent**

**San Francisco Unified School District** ■ Contact: Ron Machado, [machador@sfusd.edu](mailto:machador@sfusd.edu)

The primary aim of the Arts Department within the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) is to ensure equitable access to high-quality arts education and programming for all students. As an Arts Equity District, SFUSD is committed to advancing the objectives outlined in the Arts Equity Resolution and SFUSD's Vision 2025, particularly focusing on equity, access, achievement, and accountability. To fulfill this commitment, SFUSD is expanding cultural arts initiatives and fostering partnerships with community cultural leaders. The Visual & Performing Arts Department is dedicated to aligning with the Arts Equity Resolution by promoting sequential programming across all five arts disciplines, providing professional development, and collaborating with various departments within our district to integrate and further art education.

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION ENRICHMENT FUNDING**

In 2004, San Francisco voters approved the ballot initiative Proposition H, establishing the Public Education Enrichment Fund (PEEF) as law within the City Charter. The City and County of San Francisco contributes to this fund annually from its discretionary General Fund revenues to support education programs for San Francisco's youth. San Franciscans renewed their commitment to children, youth, and families in 2014 by reauthorizing PEEF and passing Proposition C, the Children and Families First Initiative, with a 74% approval vote. The passage of Proposition C guaranteed to fund PEEF and the Children and Youth Fund through the 2040-2041 academic year.

The legislation mandates that half of the SFUSD allocation supports and enhances Sports, Libraries, the Arts, and Music (SLAM). For



instance, because of PEEF, each of the 74 elementary schools in SFUSD has a credentialed music teacher to teach instrumental music to grade 4 and 5 students, with instruments provided for free through our department. Additionally, at least one other credentialed art teacher provides instruction in dance, theatre, or visual arts for a minimum of one day per week. Per pupil funding from PEEF for each site is utilized for partnerships with our community-based arts organization consultants in other disciplines, enabling students to experience a broad range of arts disciplines throughout their Pre-K to grade 5 education.

Additionally, each of our Pre-K-12+ schools is supported by an Arts Coordinator who participates in professional development and team planning designed and facilitated by the Arts Department; this is generally a site-based teacher who receives extended-hour stipends to support their leadership roles at each school, fostering arts capacity at the school and community level, and maintaining a robust professional learning community.



### PROPOSITION 28 FUNDING

SFUSD schools have successfully established and enhanced arts programs, granting access to arts education for students who previously lacked such opportunities. Proposition 28 funding has allowed us to expand upon the Pre-K art program, coupled with an emphasis on early education coordination, significantly enhancing student learning in the arts during critical cognitive development years.

Another key objective of our department is to reduce the number of schools served by itinerant elementary teachers. This allows these teachers to establish stronger connections

with students, families, and staff within assigned sites, reduce overall student teaching loads, and immerse themselves in the community, becoming an integral member of it, for a more significant positive impact in the arts. The goal is to ensure that each school benefits from a minimum of two art disciplines taught by credentialed art teachers, with students receiving at least one class per week for at least one semester.

Proposition 28 has played a pivotal role in streamlining the workload of our Elementary Itinerant Art Teachers, resulting in a substantial decrease in the number of school sites each teacher serves. Presently, 91% of these teachers are assigned to three or fewer schools, and 75% are specifically allocated to two or fewer schools. Concurrently, there has been a concerted effort to bolster the full-time equivalent (FTE) positions of art teachers in our secondary schools. Notably, this initiative has led to an additional allocation of 60 FTEs for the 2023-2024 school year, bringing the total to 160 FTEs funded jointly by PEEF and Proposition 28. The Arts Department is proud to provide support to over 250 Arts Teachers throughout the SFUSD in order to serve all district students.

