“At the San Francisco Unified School District, we provide a rigorous and meaningful arts education for each and every student in every zip code. As an Arts Equity District, we are focused on ensuring that all students have access to a quality arts education and programming throughout their experience in SFUSD, PreK-12. Our mission as a district is that every day, for each and every student, we will provide quality arts instruction and equitable support. Equity means you’re going to do more when more is needed... doing more in assisting our adults in giving all of our students, but specifically African-American and other students of color, the skills that they need to be successful in life and in the arts.”

– Vincent Matthews, Ed.D., Superintendent, San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD)
COUNTIES ON THE MOVE: Arts Education for All Students

COUNTIES ON THE MOVE: Arts Education for All Students

REGION 4

San Francisco County

with the Arts Equity Resolution to support sequential programming throughout all five arts disciplines.

With support and guidance from the Visual & Performing Arts Department, SFUSD schools have been able to build arts programs and to provide access to arts education for students who previously lacked access. The addition of a Teacher on Special Assignment (TSA) for SFUSD’s Pre-K Dance Pilot, with a focus on Early Education coordination, is giving an incredible boost to student learning in the arts during the critical years of cognitive development. Teachers continue to be supported with extended-hour stipends to nurture their leadership role as arts coordinators at every school site, building capacity at the school level, while continuing to sustain a powerful professional learning community.

SFUSD is focused on the Mosaic Initiative to support arts integration, creative careers, and summer/after-school programming in the arts. For SY 2020-21, SFUSD will be fully involved in the 135 Arts project that will support the Mosaic Initiative and Ruth Asawa School of the Arts. Through a grant from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Arts Education Master Plan is being revised to include the Arts Equity Resolution, specific language regarding African American achievement, inclusive practices, and an overall name change for the plan that reflects the mission and the breadth of SFUSD arts programming.

Through a partnership with the Mr. Holland’s Opus Foundation, SFUSD is now a Music Education District Support Services (MEDSS) district that will include an instrument inventory audit, a full program audit of all music education programming, professional development for instrumental music teachers, and a full report of its program including highlights and areas of need.

The deeply held promise of access, equity, and excellence in arts education, in combination with the many world class arts resources available in San Francisco, allow for the San Francisco campus to be the thread that binds these programs and arts learning opportunities together; serving students, parents, teachers, artists, and our larger community.