

Tulare County

In Tulare County, our office has a long history of supporting the arts through instruction, educator networks, and student events and programs. We strongly support the arts because we know that they aid in students' social-emotional development such as self-expression and self-confidence—skills that are life-long assets.

– **Tim A. Hire, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools**



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THE QUAIL PROJECT

In 2021, the Tulare County Office of Education (TCOE) was awarded a prestigious five-year, \$1.7 million grant under the U.S. Department of Education's Assistance for Arts Education (AAE) program. AAE grant funds are supporting TCOE's Quality Arts Instruction and Learning (QUAIL) Project. The primary goal of the QUAIL Project is to promote high-quality, standards-based arts education for all Tulare County students in the five arts disciplines (dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts). This is accomplished through professional learning, community

partnerships, and the creation and dissemination of resources. QUAIL expands the work of the Tulare County Arts Master Plan and CreateTC, Tulare County's Arts Education Coalition.

THE TULARE COUNTY ARTS MASTER PLAN

Developed in 2018 by a diverse cadre of educators, arts organizations, and community partners, the Tulare County Arts Master Plan identifies goals and outcomes for planning, implementing, and sustaining high-quality arts learning experiences, both inside and outside of school. The plan is guided by an overarching vision:

We believe that every student in pre-Kindergarten through grade 12 deserves equitable access to high-quality arts learning as part of a well-rounded education.

It focuses on two foundational cornerstones – Arts as Core and Arts for All – and four strategic directions: 1: Educational Equity for All; 2: Social and Emotional Well-Being; 3: College, Career, and Civic Life Readiness; and 4: Sustainable Systemic Change.

COUNTY PARTNERSHIPS

CreateTC, the Tulare County Arts Education Coalition, began in 2019 with the goal of expanding high-quality arts education opportunities for Tulare County schools and communities. Organizations involved in CreateTC include TCOE, Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency, Tulare County Suicide Prevention Task Force, Tulare County Association of Governments, Tulare County Workforce Investment Board, Tulare County Museum, Arts Consortium (Tulare County's designated arts council), College of the Sequoias, the Museum Alliance of Tulare-Kings Counties, as well as a number of other local arts and cultural organizations.



These agencies have committed to supporting the ongoing goal of increasing access to arts education opportunities in Tulare County.

TCOE has several other partner agencies in the community. Since 1955, TCOE and the Sequoia Symphony Orchestra have partnered to present the annual Young People's Concerts. TCOE also partners with the Arts Consortium to promote and fund the annual Tulare County Poetry Out Loud and Youth Poet Laureate competitions.



COMMITTED TO STUDENTS, SERVICE, AND SUPPORT

TCOE supports districts with several annual arts programs designed to give students the opportunity to both experience and participate in the visual, performing, and media arts. In the performing arts, the TCOE Theatre Company hosts musical theatre productions, a popular traveling production program known as OnStage, and various vocal, dance, and acting workshops throughout the year. Another longstanding event in the performing arts is Poetry and Prose On Stage. For more than 30 years, elementary and middle school students have honed their recitation skills before an audience and a judge at this event.



In the visual arts, all Tulare County schools are invited to submit two- and three-dimensional artwork to the annual Student Art Exhibition. Artwork is displayed online during Arts Education Month in March.

TCOE supports media arts through the coordination of the annual Slick Rock Student Film Festival. Hundreds of aspiring middle and high school filmmakers from across the Central Valley submit their videos to this competition every year. To support arts educators, TCOE provides ongoing professional learning in a range of areas, including arts integration, standards implementation, and social-emotional learning.