

# ***Fine Arts DAC Report to Board of Education***

## ***May 5, 2005***

### ***("The Year in Review")***

#### **1. Overall Progress**

Arts for All: Regional Blueprint for Arts Education — SMMUSD was chosen as one of five vanguard school districts in L.A. County to participate in the project. An "Arts for All" team, consisting of stakeholders in the district and chaired by Tom Whaley, Cyndi Mladinov, and Linda Gross, developed a 3-phase, 9-year arts education plan for the district. It was approved by the Board of Education on February 3, 2005.

Development of new district standards-based visual and performing arts curriculum is in process.

"Celebration For The Arts 2005" — 2<sup>nd</sup> annual event, sponsored by the Education Foundation of Santa Monica-Malibu and the Pier Restoration Corporation, it featured art work and performances by over 800 district students at Santa Monica Pier on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The local band Venice also performed a benefit concert at The Arcadia, and various organizations and individuals (including Supt. Deasy) donated items for the Silent Auction. The goals were to promote arts education in our communities, showcase the work of our students in all four arts disciplines, improve cross-articulation among schools, and fundraise for the "For The Arts" endowment campaign.

#### **2. Grants and Partnerships**

\$60,000 grant from the Entertainment Industry Foundation (EFI) and the California Alliance for Arts Education (CAAE) to support the first phase of the "Arts for All" plan

\$62,500 from Cher, restricted to supporting music and theatre programs

\$50,000 P.S. Arts funding for K-5 visual arts and K-3 Orff music programs at Muir Elementary School

\$28,875 in Co-Arts Grants for in-school projects from the City of Santa Monica Cultural Affairs Division.

\$25,000 P.S. Arts funding for a K-5 theatre teacher at Edison Language Academy

\$25,000 from City of Santa Monica for travel scholarships for Samohi choir students.

\$24,000 in grants from Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation — \$8,000 each for Dream Strings, Dream Winds, and the JAMS music department

\$12,000 from the Gail Dorin Foundation to support Dream Strings in the Title I schools

\$10,000 grant from the Dwight Stuart Youth Foundation, obtained by Linda Gross and Tom Whaley, to support Dream Winds in the Title I schools

\$10,000 grant obtained by the Education Foundation from the Maurer Family Foundation to purchase a new gas kiln at Samohi

\$10,000 in free tickets for 160 elementary students to attend a concert at Disney Hall

\$8,000 worth of instruments from VH-1 Save the Music Foundation for the three middle school band programs

\$6,000 in Arts Transportation Grants from the City of Santa Monica Cultural Affairs Division.

\$5,000 from the Ella Fitzgerald Foundation to support Dream Strings in the Title I schools

\$5,000 donated to the Edison Language Academy and the music teacher for performing on the soundtrack of the Disney movie “Pooh’s Heffalump”

\$4,000 from the Cavigga grant at Malibu High (history of quilt making)

SMC Madison Project offered free attendance for SMMUSD students at dance and opera performances

Total: \$345,375 not including proceeds from “Celebration For the Arts 2005”

### **3. Dance**

The new 4<sup>th</sup> grade dance program, “Music in Motion,” has provided dance instruction during PE at all district elementary schools, replacing the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade “Dance for All” program.

Enrollment in Samohi dance classes has increased to 120 this year, and the after-school SMC dual-enrollment dance class has been reinstated with 35 students participating.

### **4. Theatre**

JAMS had a lunchtime Drama Club.

Lincoln had a Drama workshop class with 41 students in the fall, plus an after-school Drama Club which presented a musical in the spring.

Malibu High had 36 students enrolled in drama classes and presented a fall play and a spring musical, *Beauty and the Beast*.

Samohi had 109 students enrolled in drama and film classes, and presented *Play It Again, Sam* in the fall and *The Music Man* in the spring.

### **5. Visual Arts**

JAMS had two year-long Advanced Art classes, in addition to Exploratory, but lost its ceramics instructor and is down to 1.0 FTE . Art instruction is currently impacted due to water damage and black mold in the art classroom.

Lincoln had a semester-long Advanced Art Workshop in the spring, in addition to Exploratory Arts 6, Crafts 7, and Art 8.

Malibu Middle had 134 students enrolled in semester-long art classes, including the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Advanced Art class.

Malibu High had 273 students enrolled in art classes in the fall, with 53 students in AP Art. The Cavigga Grant continued to fund study of the history of quilting. SMC provided design classes

on Monday-Wednesday. Malibu High has had a 100% pass rate for students taking the AP Art exam over the last 3 years.

At Olympic High, art students painted eight 15-foot long murals on the outside of the school, painted a mural at Bubba Gump on the Pier in exchange for supplies money, and assisted David Legaspi with murals at Celebration For The Arts 2005. 65 students are enrolled in Drawing and Painting, and Advanced Drawing and Painting.

Samohi had 871 students enrolled in art classes in the fall (down 51 from last year possibly due to problems in scheduling beginning art classes), including 42 students in AP Art. One of the six art teachers may be re-assigned to teach two non-art classes. We think that the drop in enrollment may be because of the way the houses are set up and because counselors may have been advising students not to take art until their last two years. The AP Art Show ("TRAPA") displayed the work of Samohi art students at the Roberts Gallery in February, and the Senior Art Show will be held in May, with scholarships to be awarded. Samohi visual art students have also had their work displayed this year at the Pentagon in Washington, DC. And, students from Samohi participated in a program at the Santa Monica Museum of Art (SMMOA) during spring break. SMC provided a dual-enrollment art class this year. The Samohi Art Department created its own web site this year: <http://www.samohi.smmusd.org/art/index.htm>

Student artwork from JAMS, Lincoln, Malibu High, Olympic High, and Samohi was exhibited in the Carousel building during "Celebration For The Arts 2005" at Santa Monica Pier in April.

Malibu Arts Angels continues to subsidize instructional programs, and the Samohi Art Department parents are exploring setting up a similar fundraising organization to provide necessary instructional equipment and materials.

Many students from Samohi and Malibu HS have gone on to study at prestigious colleges such as: Otis College of Art and Design, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Rhode Island School of Design, and Oxford University in England.

## **6. Music**

Over 1,000 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders students studied instrumental music this year.

At the 4 title I schools, all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders have music instruction. The Rogers program allows students to choose between instrumental and vocal/general music. In addition to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade instrumental music, Edison also had a K-5 vocal/general music program taught by a non-credentialed teacher from the Santa Monica Music Academy, funded by last year's Jackson Browne concert. Muir also had a K-3 Orff music program provided by P.S. Arts.

Dream Strings and Dream Winds continued to provide after-school guided practice for Title I elementary and middle school students.

Students from Edison sang music by Carly Simon on the soundtrack of the new *Pooh's Heffalump* movie, in theatres now.

Instrumental music students from Muir and Rogers performed at the House of Blues, and were featured in a documentary on A&E in April entitled "Jam Sessions."

Over 150 elementary students participated in the All-District Honor orchestra. They performed at Stairway and also spent a day at Disneyland, recording a soundtrack for a cartoon.

The Elementary Honor Orchestra and the Santa Monica High School Wind Ensemble were featured in clinics at the California Music Educators Association (CMEA) statewide conference in Pasadena in March.

Angela Woo, Director of Instrumental Music at JAMS, was chosen “2005 Outstanding Teacher of the Year” by the Santa Monica Rotary Club.

Lincoln acquired band/orchestra risers this year using School Improvement and Booster funds.

The guitar class at Olympic High School is being taught by one of the members of the local band Venice.

Many performing groups participated in adjudicated festivals and competitions, receiving “Superior” ratings and/or trophies.

The Samohi choirs traveled to Honolulu to compete in the Gateway Choral Festival at BYU-Hawaii over spring break. All four choirs (Samohi Chorale, Jazz Choir, Chamber Singers, and Madrigal Ensemble) won first place in their categories. Chamber Singers also won the Grand Champion prize for the highest scores in the entire festival. The students also visited King Kamehameha High School, where choir is a graduation requirement.

The Samohi orchestras performed in Reno, Nevada at the national conference of the American String Teachers Association. The Chamber Orchestra received a superior rating, and the Symphony Orchestra won first place nationwide for high school orchestras. The Symphony Orchestra has been invited to perform at Disney Hall next year!

Approximately 2,320 students were enrolled in secondary music classes, an increase of about 96 from last year. Many were selected to perform in honor choirs, bands, and orchestras at the Southern California, state, and national levels. Nearly one third of the students in the California Orchestra Directors Association (CODA) statewide orchestra were from SMMUSD.

SMMUSD music teachers again served as representatives in the statewide music organizations, as conference clinicians, and as festival adjudicators.

Students performed in winter and spring concerts at all elementary schools, JAMS, Lincoln, Malibu High, and Samohi, and 1,000 student musicians performed in the 56<sup>th</sup> annual Stairway of the Stars. Both Stairway concerts were sell-outs and ended with standing ovations.

Middle and high school parents continue to subsidize instructional programs.

Many SMMUSD music students go on to some of the best music schools in the country, such as Eastman School of Music, Juilliard, and the New England Conservatory of Music.