

Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

February 21, 2024

Board Room, SMMUSD District Office, 1717 - 4th Street, Santa Monica 90401

MINUTES

Attendees: Deborah Berek, Janis Gabbert, Zina Josephs, Elizabeth Manco, Lydia Muraro, Domi Piturro, Gina de Baca, Rebecca Terlizzi

1. The meeting was call to order at 7:02 PM by Co-chair Janis Gabbert.
2. **Minutes** -- January meeting minutes were approved by unanimous consent. (Muraro)
3. **Guest speaker** -- Dr. Devon Smith, was unable to attend.
4. **Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator Tom Whaley** reported on the following:
 - a. **Stanley Clarke concert** at JAMS with the Samohi Jazz Band, Samohi alum and Grammy winner John Beasley, and Clay Jenkins, the jazz trumpet professor at Eastman and whose daughter plays flute and tenor sax in the Samohi Jazz Band.
 - a. **Jazz Reach** – The assemblies for elementary and middle school students focused on the contributions of African American music (blues and jazz).
 - b. **Stairway of the Stars concerts** – Lydia is the Stairway Producer this year. Her son Leo created a code that attendees can scan as they arrive at the concert. The Honor Award recipient will be Samohi alum Julianna de Giacomo, an opera singer who will also perform on the concert.
 - c. **Measure R** funds have paid for purchasing a new piano for the JAMS Auditorium, restoring the existing JAMS grand piano, purchasing a new band/orchestra shell for Lincoln MS, \$30,000 annually for Stairway, paying for equipment and staff for a Music Composition class pilot at Samohi this year, paying for piano maintenance for the secondary schools, funding a technical theater technician for Barnum, purchasing the new Samohi marching band trailer, and support for Color Guard.
 - d. **Districtwide Art Shows** – One on April 23 in the Roberts Gallery for Santa Monica students. One on April 24 in Malibu for Malibu students.
 - e. **Theater** – At Samohi, Jeffe Huls is overseeing “Phantom of the Opera” while Terry Sakow leads the pit orchestra.
5. **Board Liaisons** -- Neither was able to attend the meeting.

6. **The DAC Mid-Year Report** was included in the 2/15/24 BOE agenda as an Information Item. Regarding the Year-End Report, Lydia raised the issue of sequential Visual Arts instruction at Lincoln MS. Rebecca noted that JAMS has several things that Lincoln doesn't have, including 3 levels of art instruction.
7. **Prop 28 update** – Proposals from school sites will go through a committee, then the DAC, then the Board of Education. 80% is to be spent on staffing. For example, Samohi will receive about \$350,000 next year. Suggestions included music coaches and instructional assistants to help Special Education students in the Visual Arts classes. Dance classes will have a new facility in the Exploration building. Theater will be asking for support for costumes, props, and prop making, and support for the Technical Theater teacher position.
8. **SMC dual Enrollment and Concurrent Enrollment Classes** – Domi explained that Dual Enrollment classes take place on the high school campuses and the students can get both high school and college credit. Concurrent Enrollment classes take place on the SMC campus. The Saturday Academy classes became popular. Students sign up at SMC and need to get permission from advisors and parents. Art classes are popular. The CTE program is evolving, and Domi is on the steering committee for Visual Design. SMC also offers a Bachelor of Science in Interaction Design. As well as Certificates in animation, film production, graphic design, photography, technical theatre, and visual development.
9. **Public comments** regarding items not on the agenda – Gina de Baca noted problems reserving space for the folklorico dance classes at Will Rogers.
10. **Agenda planning for the April 24 meeting** – Invite Dr. Devon Smith to discuss how the existing VAPA programs will be integrated into the Academies and the CTE pathways involving Media and Entertainment. Discuss the Year-End Report.
11. **Announcements** – Tom announced the Samohi Band fundraiser on March 14. Rebecca announced the Kindergarten Art Show at Roosevelt Elementary School.
12. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.