

Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

Wednesday, February 19, 2025 – 7 PM – in-person

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

AGENDA

VAPA DAC roster for 2024-25 and when terms expire:

Annie Azzariti – June 2025
Aimee Koeplin – June 2025
Elizabeth Manco – June 2025
Deborah Berek – June 2026
Janis Gabbert – June 2026
Domenic Piturro – June 2026
Zina Josephs – June 2027
Rebecca Terlizzi – June 2027
Michael Mollo – June 2027

7:00 PM -- Call to order and welcome

7:05 PM -- Approve minutes from January meeting

7:10 PM -- Calendar review

- Board of Ed meetings: February 27, March 6, 13, 19, and April 3
<https://www.smmusd.org/domain/2977>
- VAPA DAC meetings: April 23, and May 21
<https://www.smmusd.org/Page/3815>

REPORTS

7:15 PM -- Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator -- Tom Whaley

**7:30 PM -- Board of Education Liaisons – Maria Leon-Vazquez and
Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein**

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (per the DAC Charge)

7:45 PM – VAPA DAC charge for 2024-25:

- *Support a comprehensive preK-12 arts education program as an integral part of the core curriculum offered to all SMMUSD students, with dance, media arts, music, theater, and visual arts taught as discrete disciplines and integrated into other subject areas; as we align with and promote the Excellence through Equity Plan, which includes teaching cross-cultural and socio-emotional skills.*
- *Serve as a conduit for parents, teachers, students and community members to inform and make recommendations to the Board of Education on matters related to equitable access and successful participation in comprehensive, sequential, standards-based preK-12 arts education, while comparing the district's curriculum, scheduling, staffing, instructional materials, equipment, and facilities with National and State standards and frameworks; as we align with and promote the Excellence through Equity Plan.*
- *Maintain the Board and District commitment to the adoption of a new 6-year SMMUSD Arts Education Strategic Plan. Review and advise this Plan to align with and promote the Excellence through Equity Plan.*

1. Update from Dr. Stacy Williamson, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

2. Prop 28 update

3. DAC Mid-Year Report update

4. VAPA DAC vacancies

a. Discuss strategies for recruiting new members

b. DAC application form:

<https://www.smmusd.org/cms/lib/CA50000164/Centricity/Domain/304/DACappEngSP.pdf>

5. Media coverage

SMMUSD Celebrates Black History Month with JAZZ REACH's Stolen Moments

2/12/25 – SMMUSD new release

"In honor of Black History Month, the Santa MonicaMalibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) continued its partnership with JAZZ REACH, a nationally renowned nonprofit music organization from New York, to celebrate the achievements and influence of Black and African American musicians. "We want to recognize the countless ways in which African Americans have contributed to American culture and how they have led the way in advocating for civil rights, inclusion and racial equity," said SMMUSD Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator, Tom Whaley...This

year, the assemblies were attended by Santa Monica middle school students and 5th graders from each elementary school pathway. Through live music, videos, and multimedia presentations, students explored jazz's evolution and its deep connection to American culture. The program emphasized jazz as a unifying force, bridging cultural, ethnic, and economic differences, inspiring new stylistic idioms, and influencing music worldwide...."

Samohi Orchestras Honor First Responders at 20th Annual Spaghetti & Strings Event

2/7/25 – SMMUSD news release

"The nationally acclaimed, award-winning Santa Monica High School (Samohi) orchestras program hosted its 20th Annual Spaghetti & Strings event on Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025. In past years, the event has focused on fundraising, generating critical support for program expenses and much more. However, this year's event took on a new and deeply meaningful purpose, inspired by the students' compassion and the recent devastating fires that affected the broader community. Reimagined as a gesture of unity and support, the evening welcomed Santa Monica first responders, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) staff, and families affected by the fires. Instead of focusing on fundraising, the event emphasized connection and healing.

Guests were treated to an inspiring evening filled with the beautiful music of the Intermezzo, Philharmonic, Symphony, and Chamber Orchestras, accompanied by a comforting shared meal of spaghetti. This special gathering celebrated the resilience of the community, the strength of solidarity, and the profound ability music has to bring people together. The event was honored by the presence of Santa Monica (SM) Mayor Lana Negrete, SM Fire Department Chief Matthew Hallock, SM Police Department Chief Ramon Batista, and Matt Hill battalion chief, along with firefighters from Fire Truck 1 and Engine 2. Attendees enjoyed dinner, live music, and received a heartfelt standing ovation from more than 300 guests who expressed deep gratitude for their service."

Santa Monica High School Symphony and Chamber Orchestras to Perform at Los Angeles Philharmonic's Mahlerthon at Disney Hall

2/6/25 -- SMMUSD news release

"The Samohi Symphony and Chamber Orchestras will perform selected movements from Mahler's Fourth Symphony, *Totenfeier*, and other Mahler arrangements during the first half of the program. Other participating ensembles include YOLA, performing movements from Mahler's First Symphony, and ICYOLA, presenting selections from the Third Symphony."

6. Calendar of upcoming performances and arts exhibits

February 28 to March 2 and March 7 to 9 – Samohi musical “Chicago”

March 6-8 – MMS and MHS “Masque”

March 15 – “Stairway of the Stars” Concert

March 18 – Samohi Orchestras Spring Concert

March 25 – Samohi Bands Spring Concert

April 3 – Samohi Choral Masterworks

April 23 – District Art Show at Samohi

April 24 – District Art Show at Malibu High

May 1-4 – MHS musical

May 2 – Samohi Orchestra “Pops” concert

May 2-4 – JAMS/SMASH after school musical “Wizard of Oz”

May 8 – Samohi Senior Art Show

May 15 – MMS and MHS Band Concert

May 20 – Samohi Bands “Pops” Concert & Senior Recognition

May 20 – JAMS Orchestra Concert

May 21 – JAMS Band Concert

May 22 – LMS Choir Concert

May 29 – JAMS Choir Concert

May 29, 30, 31 – Samohi Theater “Public Domain”

May 29 – LMS Band Concert

May 29 – MMS and MHS Orchestra Concert

May 31 – Samohi Orchestra Senior Gala

June 3 – Samohi Choral Concert

June 4 – MMS and MHS Choir Concert

June 5 – LMS “Pops” Concert

June 5 – Samohi Jazz Bands concert

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

8:45 PM – **Public comments regarding items not on the agenda** -- Members of the audience may address the DAC on items not on the meeting’s agenda. The Brown Act states that Committee members may not engage in discussion of issues raised, except to ask clarifying questions or to refer the matter to staff.

8:50 PM – **Agenda planning for April 23 meeting**

8:55 PM – **Announcements and adjournment**