

Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

Wednesday, May 8, 2024 – 7 PM – in-person

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

Visitor parking for 1717 4th Street is available underground in spaces marked “SMMUSD.” Take the elevator to the lobby, turn left, and go to the board room.

The code to exit the parking lot will be provided at the meeting.

AGENDA

VAPA DAC roster for 2023-24 and when the 3-year terms expire:

Zina Josephs – June 2024
Lydia Muraro – June 2024
Annie Azzariti – June 2025
Aimee Koeplin – June 2025
Elizabeth Manco – June 2025
Deborah Berek – June 2026
Janis Gabbert – June 2026
Domenic Piturro – June 2026

7:00 PM – Call to order and welcome

7:05 -- Approve minutes from the February 2024 meeting.

7:10 PM -- Calendar review

- Board of Ed meetings: May 2 & 16, June 6, 20, & 27
<https://www.smmusd.org/domain/2977>
- VAPA DAC meetings:
May 22, 2024

7:15 PM -- GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Devon Smith will discuss how the existing VAPA programs will be integrated into the Academies and the CTE pathways involving Arts, Media, & Entertainment.

REPORTS

8:00 PM -- Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator -- Tom Whaley

8:15 PM -- **Board of Education Liaisons** – Maria Leon-Vazquez and
Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (per the DAC Charge)

8:30 PM – **VAPA DAC draft charge for 2023-24:**

- *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. DAC End-of-Year Report

2. Prop 28: “Arts and Music in Schools Funding Guarantee Accountability Act” and the 6-Year Strategic Arts Education Plan (2023-2029) - update

3. SMC’s Broad Stage and SMMUSD – Aimee Koeplin

4. VAPA DAC vacancies

a. DAC application form:

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

b. Board Policy re DACs: <https://www.smmusd.org/domain/118>

*"Membership recruitment will be ongoing throughout the year. **Minimally**, information about the District Advisory Committees will be shared with the public in **August, November, and January**. Applications for appointment to advisory committees may be submitted at any time during the year. **Once per***

quarter, an item shall be placed on the Board of Education agenda listing committee vacancies."

<https://www.smmusd.org/cms/lib/CA50000164/Centricity/domain/2939/2023-24/PR-FDAC.SeekingApplicants.pdf>

5. Upcoming performances and art exhibits:

Over spring break: The Samohi orchestra toured in Austria and Germany, the Samohi Chamber Choir and Madrigals toured in Spain, and the Samohi Wind Symphony participated in the Heritage Festival in Seattle.

April 23 -- Art Show at Santa Monica students -- Samohi -- 5 to 8 PM

April 24 -- Art Show for Malibu students -- Malibu High -- 5 to 7 PM

April 24 -- JAMS Arts Show -- Performance Studio -- 5 PM

April 25 -- Lincoln Choir Concert

April 26-28 -- JAMS/SMASH musical "Mean Girls"

April 26-28 -- Malibu High musical "Mean Girls"

May 2 -- Samohi Orchestra Pops Concert

May 3 -- Malibu High Coffee House/Film Festival

May 9 -- Samohi Senior Art Show

May 16 -- Malibu Band Concert

May 17 -- Samohi Film Festival

May 19 -- Samohi Spring Jazz Concert

May 21 -- JAMS Orchestra Concert

May 22 -- JAMS Band Concert

May 23 -- Lincoln Band Pops Concert

May 24 -- Samohi Spring Choral Concert

May 25 -- Samohi Orchestra Senior Gala

May 28 -- Samohi Band Pops Concert

May 29 -- JAMS Choral Concert

May 30 -- Lincoln Orchestra Concert

May 30 -- Malibu Spring Choir Concert

June 4 -- Malibu Orchestra Concert

6. Media coverage:

"Music Teacher Recognized : Angela Woo Given 2024 Music Educator Award" -- 4/18/24 -- *The Argonaut*

https://www.argonautnews.com/education/music-teacher-recognized-angela-woo-awarded-2024-music-educator-award/article_116a981a-fd43-11ee-8974-430af256bb5f.html

“Nearly Three Decades of Musical Success Honored at State Level” (photo)

4/11/24 – *Santa Monica Daily Press*

<https://smdp.com/2024/04/11/nearly-three-decades-of-musical-success-honored-at-state-level/>

“One of the driving forces behind the SMMUSD top-notch musical program was recently honored on the state level. In February, John Adams Middle School Director of Instrumental Music **Angela Woo** was presented with the prestigious 2024 California Music Educators Association Middle School Music Educator Award. Woo, who has worked at JAMS for 29 years, was commended for her contributions at the middle school level during the 2024 California All-State Music Education Conference in Sacramento...In addition... the Sacramento conference held what Woo called a ‘tremendous surprise,’ an election as a guest conductor for the 2026 California All-State High School Concert Band....

“Community Spotlight”

4/4/24 – *Malibu Times*

“Malibu Elementary students performed spectacularly with beautiful singing, wonderful dancing, and great acting in ‘The Wizard of Oz.’ Students from first to fifth grades rehearsed with theater teacher Zoe Langley at lunch recess with enthusiasm.”

“School District Reaches the ‘Stars’ with Annual Music Tradition” (photos)

3/21/24 – *Santa Monica Daily Press*

<https://smdp.com/2024/03/21/district-reaches-the-stars-with-annual-music-tradition/>

“Students of all grade levels and expertises joined together in the Samohi Greek Theatre on March 16 for the 73rd annual “Stairway of the Stars” concert, highlighting SMMUSD’s exemplary musical talents. Nearly 900 students in elementary, middle and high school representing every district campus performed, showcasing the district’s choir, band, jazz band and orchestra....The 2024 Stairway Honor Award was presented to district alum Julianna Di Giacomo. A graduate of Samohi in 1992, Di Giacomo has become a standout operatic soprano, performing worldwide alongside the likes of the Los Angeles and New York Philharmonic Orchestras.”

“March Brings High School Marchers Crucial Travel Upgrade”

3/21/24 – *Santa Monica Daily Press*

<https://smdp.com/2024/03/21/march-brings-marchers-crucial-travel-upgrade/>

“On March 14, the high school’s Discovery parking lot was packed with students from **Samohi’s Marching Band**, as they played a fanfare to welcome **the band’s**

new trailer onto campus for the first time. The brand-new trailer, built by Oklahoma-based company Clubhouse Trailers, will serve as home base during band competitions and keep intact the more than \$300,000 worth of equipment involved in each trek....”

“Malibu High’s MASQUE Showcase Students’ and Teachers’ Talents”

3/15/24 -- *Malibu Times*

<https://malibutimes.com/malibu-highs-masque-showcases-students-and-teachers-talents>

“Malibu High School’s much anticipated annual performance of MASQUE entertained and delighted attendees and garnered accolades from students and community members. The annual student-run 3-evening talent show began in 1995...This year’s performances featured all types of talent, from bands to solo singers to duets, as well as dancers and class films....

www.malibuhighsharktv.com

“Samohi String Sound Brings Spring to Barnum Hall” (photos)

3/11/24 – *Santa Monica Daily Press*

<https://smdp.com/2024/03/11/samohi-string-sound-brings-spring-to-barnum-hall/>

“Santa Monica High School’s finest orchestra musicians packed the stage at Barnum Hall on March 7...with its 2024 Spring Concert. The itinerary was filled with powerful performances from the Combined String and Concert Orchestras, as well as the Concert, Sinfonia, Intermezzo, Chamber, Philharmonic and Symphony orchestras....13 students earned California All-State Music Educators Conference All-State Orchestras and Bands honors in February. The concert’s program included an ‘in memoriam’ section for famed cellist Antonio Lysy who passed away in February, noted as ‘a treasured member of this orchestra family’ who has continuously supported Samohi students.”

“School District Sings the Blues alongside National Group” (photos)

2/27/24 – *Santa Monica Daily Press*

<https://smdp.com/2024/02/27/district-sings-the-blues-alongside-national-group/>

“As part of SMMUSD’s Black History Month education, district Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator Tom Whaley led efforts to secure grants for a 4-day JazzReach visit to district sites. JazzReach is a national non-profit music organization based in New York City, established in 1994 and ‘dedicated to the promotion, performance, creation and teaching of jazz music.’ Of course, blues has a major influence on jazz as well, leading to JazzReach assemblies

at SMMUSD middle schools entitled “Yes Indeed!” guiding 4th through 8th graders through the history of the genre”

“Learnin’ the Blues during Black History Month”

2/22/24 – Santa Monica Lookout

[https://surfsantamonica.com/ssm_site/the_lookout/news/News-2024/February-](https://surfsantamonica.com/ssm_site/the_lookout/news/News-2024/February-2024/02_22_2024_Learnin_the_Blues_During_Black_History_Month.html)

[2024/02_22_2024_Learnin_the_Blues_During_Black_History_Month.html](https://surfsantamonica.com/ssm_site/the_lookout/news/News-2024/February-2024/02_22_2024_Learnin_the_Blues_During_Black_History_Month.html)

“School District students were immersed in the legacy of the blues during a crash course offered by the New York non-profit JazzReach during Black History Month. JazzReach staged a series of ‘engaging and interactive assemblies’ that ‘showcased the evolution of the blues from its roots in the 19th-century American South to its influence on contemporary genres’ Using live music, videos, and PowerPoint presentations, JazzReach traced the influences of the genre on rhythm & blues, funk, gospel, rock, and hip hopTwo assemblies were held at each middle school, one for the 4th and 5th graders for each elementary school pathway, and one for the 6th through 8th graders....On the final day, the JazzReach professional combo joined the Samohi Jazz Band for a lunch-time concert at the Samohi Discovery cafeteria....”

“‘Phantom’ Descends into Barnum Hall for 6 Shows”

2/22/24 – Santa Monica Daily Press

<https://smdp.com/2024/02/22/phantom-descends-into-barnum-hall-for-six-shows/>

“The concert space of Barnum Hall will be transformed into the Paris Opera House for the next two weekends, as the ambitious students of Samohi Performing Arts will be taking on an all-time classic. Masterpiece musical *The Phantom of the Opera* comes to Barnum Hall...under the first-time direction of Jeffe Huls. The director is no stranger to Samohi, however, this being his 19th year as choir director at the school....Working with Huls on the show are theater director Kate Barraza and music director Terry Sakow”

“Frozen” – Malibu Middle School – February 8-11, 2024 -- video

<http://www.malibuhighsharktv.com/theatre.html>

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 the May 22 meeting**

8:55 PM -- **Announcements**