

# Visual & Performing Arts District Advisory Committee (VAPA DAC)

**Wednesday, May 24, 2023 – 7 PM – in-person**

**The SMMUSD District Office has moved to 1717 - 4th Street, Santa Monica 90401.**

**Parking Instructions:** Park in the multi-level parking structure located at 333 Civic Center Dr. This is across from the new district office.

From 4th Street, turn west on Civic Center Drive (between Pico Blvd. and the freeway), then turn right again. The entrance to the parking structure is close to Olympic Drive.

*(If you park underground at 1717 - 4<sup>th</sup> St., you will be responsible for paying the Hilton Hotel parking fee -- \$10 the first hour, \$6 per hour thereafter.)*

If anyone doesn't want to attend the DAC meetings in person at the district office, he/she can agree to list their address on the top of the agenda and attend via Zoom. Then, Tom will need arrange for a spider phone system so everyone can be heard, and we can view those joining via Zoom on a white screen in the conference room.

## **AGENDA**

### **DAC roster for 2022-23:**

Janis Gabbert – term expires June 2023  
Deborah Berek – June 2023  
Domenic Piturro – 2023  
Lydia Muraro – June 2024  
Zina Josephs – June 2024  
Annie Azzariti – June 2025  
Aimee Koeplin – June 2025  
Elizabeth Manco – June 2025

### **New DAC application form:**

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

As per BP 1313 (adopted 11/18/21), the Board of Education and SMMUSD shall place this information at the top of their meeting agendas.

### **STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR THAT PROMOTE CIVILITY AT ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS:**

Treat everyone with respect and courtesy.	Keep an open mind and, if merited, allow yourself to be persuaded to change your opinion.
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Listen to others respectfully.	Acknowledge dissension as a civic right and as a tool to use to reach the9 best decisions.
Agree to disagree, and don't make it personal; discuss the issue, not the person.	Accept responsibility and maintain self-control.

#### **NORMAS DE CONDUCTA QUE PROMUEVEN LA CIVILIDAD EN TODAS LAS REUNIONES PÚBLICAS:**

Tratar a todas las personas con respeto y cortesía.	Mantener la mente abierta, y si la ocasión lo amerita, permitir ser persuadido a cambiar de opinión.
Escuchar a los demás de manera respetuosa.	Reconocer el disenso como un derecho cívico y como una herramienta para tomar las mejores decisiones.
Aceptar las diferencias y no tomarlas de forma personal; debatir el asunto, no la persona.	Aceptar la responsabilidad y mantener el autocontrol.

7:00 PM – **Call to order and welcome**

7:05 PM – **Approve minutes** from February 2023 meeting (on page 6)

7:15 PM -- **Calendar review**

- Bd of Education meetings – June 1, June 22 (special meeting), June 29
- VAPA Calendar -- <https://smmarts.net>

#### **REPORTS**

7:20 PM -- **P.S. ARTS**

7:25 PM -- **Administrator Co-Chairperson** -- Dr. Jacqueline Mora

7:35 PM – **Staff Liaison and VAPA Coordinator** -- Tom Whaley

7:50 PM -- **Board of Education Liaisons** – Maria Leon-Vazquez and Dr. Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein

#### **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (per the DAC Charge)**

8:00 PM – **VAPA DAC charge for 2022-23** – Approved by the Board of Ed on 9/14/22

- *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. **Year-End Report to the Board of Education** – Due date: June 8 for the June 22 meeting or June 15 for the June 29 meeting.
- 2. **Goals (charges) for 2023-24 school year** -- AR 1220 reads: “After consulting with the committee, the co-chairpersons and Board liaison(s) shall draft the committee’s goals and/or deliverables for the school year and submit the goals and/or deliverables for approval by the Board of Education no later than the end of October. The goals and/or deliverables shall align with and support the District’s central focus on Excellence through Equity.”
- 3. **Prop 28: “Arts and Music in Schools Funding Guarantee Accountability Act” and the 6-Year Strategic Arts Education Plan (2023-2029)** -- update
- 4. **SMC concurrent enrollment classes update** – Domi Piturro
- 5. **VAPA DAC vacancies** – Flyer for VAPA teachers to share with parents – Update DAC Board Policy and Administrative Regulations:  
<https://www.smmusd.org/domain/118>  
DAC application form:  
<https://ca50000164.schoolwires.net/cms/lib/CA50000164/Centricity/Domain/304/DACappEngSP.pdf>
- 6. **Upcoming performances and art exhibits:**
  - May 24 – JAMS Band Concert
  - May 19- Samohi Choir Concert
  - May 20- Samohi Jazz band competes at Super Jazz Fest -- West Ranch HS
  - May 20- Samohi Orchestra Senior Gala in Barnum Hall – 4 PM
  - May 21- Samohi Jazz Concert, Guest Artist Francisco Torres -- 6 PM, Barnum
  - May 24 – JAMS Band Concert
  - May 25 – LMS Band Concert
  - May 31 – JAMS Choir Concert
  - June 1 – Malibu High Orchestra Concert

- a. *Highlights:* Over spring break, the Samohi Wind Ensemble and Chamber Orchestra toured in Ireland. The Samohi choirs toured in the Pacific Northwest and, with more than 20 schools competing, Samohi brought home the Gold from the WorldStrides Performing Arts Heritage Festival in Seattle. The MHS orchestra performed at Carnegie Hall. In April, the Malibu orchestra earned the highest scores of any ensemble at the “Music in the Parks” Festival at Disneyland. Samohi Band Director Kevin McKeown received the 2023 SCSBOA outstanding veteran teacher award; Angela Woo, Director of Instrumental Music and Chair of the VAPA Department at JAMS, was this year’s guest conductor of the SCSBOA High School Orchestra; and John Beasley, Samohi ‘77, was the guest conductor of the SCSBOA High School Jazz Band. Carla Bowman-Smith’s advanced photography students’ images were included in the Malibu City Recreation Guides for both Winter and Spring this year.  
<https://malibucity.org/DocumentCenter/View/30857/2023-Winter-Rec-Guide?bidId=>
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**7. Media coverage:**

- a. **“From Practice to Performance: How to Get to Carnegie Hall -- Malibu High School musicians know the answer: practice, practice, practice”** -- 4/27/23 – *Malibu Times*  
<https://malibutimes.com/from-practice-to-performance-how-to-get-to-carnegie-hall>  
“Not many people can say they’ve played Carnegie Hall, but the Malibu High School Orchestra can. The 42 teenagers who make up the group made memories that will last a lifetime after their performance at the storied venue in March....Music teacher Dr. Maia Zander and Principal Patrick Miller were two of the chaperones. This is the orchestra’s third time performing at the renowned hall....”
- b. **“Samohi Choir Wins Top Honors at the Worldstrides Festival in Seattle”**  
4/25/23 – *Santa Monica Daily Press*  
“Three of Samohi’s choirs won top prizes at the WorldStrides Performing Arts Heritage Festival in Seattle, Washington last weekend. Chamber Singers won a First Prize Gold Award, Madrigal Ensemble won a Second Prize Gold Award, and Samohi Chorale won a First Prize Gold Award in each of their respective divisions, consisting of competing choirs from across the country.

All three choirs performed so well at Saturday's competition that they each qualified for an Adjudicator's Trophy, which includes an invitation to perform in 2024 at a Festival in Carnegie Hall in New York City, one of the premier music festivals in the world. Chamber Singers tied for the overall highest scoring choir in the competition, and all three choirs received the choral sweepstakes award. Four of the choir students were also recognized by the judges with Maestro Awards as outstanding soloists.

**c. Malibu High School Students Make a Splash with Latest Musical 'The Spongebob Musical'"**

4/5/23 – *Malibu Times*

<https://malibutimes.com/malibu-high-school-students-make-a-splash-with-latest-musical-the-spongebob-musical>

"The theatrical party was filled with heart, humor, and many bubbles. The audience sang and clapped along while Spongebob, played by Ethan Marshall, along with his friends Patrick, Sandy Cheeks, Squidward, Mr. Krabs, and the whole Bikini Bottom gang, entertained the audience in this brilliant, bright, and hilarious musical. Not only is this the last show of the year for seniors, but staff, students, and former students said farewell to MHS Theater Director Jodi Plaia, who is retiring after 27 years of teaching, 21 of them at Malibu High. She has directed 62 consecutive productions in Malibu since 1996...."

**d. "SMMUSD Students and Music Teacher Perform at the Hollywood Bowl"**

3/10/23 -- SMMUSD press release

<https://www.smmusd.org/cms/lib/CA50000164/Centricity/domain/2939/2022-23/PR-SMMUSDatHollywoodBowl031023.pdf>

"The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) applauds the more than 20 students who were featured in 'Encanto' at the Hollywood Bowl, an all new Disney Original Special. Led by SMMUSD music teacher Jessi Spike Gravelle, students from Edison Language Academy, Franklin Elementary School, Roosevelt Elementary School, John Adams Middle School, and Lincoln Middle School performed live for 18,000 people in January...."

**e. "Samohi Theatre's 'The Drowsy Chaperone' Takes the Stage in Santa Monica" (photo)**

3/1/23 – *Santa Monica Mirror*

<https://smmirror.com/2023/03/samohi-theatres-the-drowsy-chaperone-takes-the-stage-in-santa-monica/>

"Tickets are now available for Samohi Theatre's production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*, a romantic tale set in the roaring 20s with a cast of zany characters that includes dancing gangsters, huge musical numbers, mistaken identity, and vaudeville-style gags....*The Drowsy Chaperone* has been hailed as "the Perfect Broadway Musical" by *New York Magazine* and won 5 Tony Awards and 7 Drama Desk Awards when it first played on Broadway in 2006...."

**f. "41 Santa Monica Students Named to California All State and Honor Choir, Orchestra, and Band"**

2/22/23 – *Santa Monica Mirror*

<https://smmirror.com/2023/02/41-santa-monica-students-named-to-california-all-state-and-honor-choir-orchestra-and-band/>

"41 Santa Monica students were recently named to the All State and Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association (SCSBOA) Honor Choir, Orchestra and Band, and to the 2023 California All State Music Education Conference (CASMEC)....

'The reason for the success of our music students is because of our outstanding music teachers and support from our district leadership, Board, Santa Monica Education Foundation, and community,' said Tom Whaley. SMMUSD consistently sends among the highest number of participants of any school district to CASMEC....

Additionally, Kevin McKeown received the 2023 SCSBOA outstanding veteran teacher award; Angela Woo, Director of Instrumental Music and Chair of the VAPA Department at JAMS, was this year's guest conductor of the High School Orchestra; and John Beasley, Samohi '77, was the guest conductor of the SCSBOA High School Jazz Band. For a full list of the SMMUSD All-State and Honor Choir, Orchestra and Band, visit:

<https://bit.ly/AllStateHonorsList2023>

**g. "Malibu High Freshman Stars in Musical in Santa Monica"**

2/17/23 – *Malibu Times*

<https://malibutimes.com/malibu-high-school-freshman-stars-in-musical-in-santa-monica>

"There's a charming musical playing at the Morgan-Wixson Theatre in Santa Monica. One of its stars is Malibu's own Joaquin Hosfeld. The 15-year-old earned one of the leads in the show based on Academy Award-

winning actress Julianne Moore’s best-selling children’s book series “Freckleface Strawberry.” The musical is for all ages, with a theme of inclusivity....”

h. **“Hot Off the Press: Malibu Middle School’s Spring Musical ‘Disney’s Newsies Jr.’”**

2/16/23 – *Malibu Times*

<https://malibutimes.com/hot-off-the-press-malibu-middle-schools-spring-musical-disneys-newsies-jr>

“Based on Disney’s musical film and the real-life newsboy strike of the 1890s in New York, “Disney’s Newsies Jr.” is a version of the Broadway musical that was brought to life by students in Malibu Middle School. In the musical, and in history, when powerful newspaper publishers like Joseph Pulitzer...raise paper prices at the newsboys’ expense, their charismatic leader... rallied other newsies to strike against the unfair conditions....27 Malibu students come together to sing, dance, jump, flip, and cartwheel on stage as they create a movement to fight for what’s right....*Newsies Jr.* was directed by Dr. Krysta Sorensen, Brigette Leonard, and Amanda Kofsky....”

i. **“Malibu High School Student Receives Prestigious Award for Writing and Digital Art”**

2/16/23 – *Malibu Times*

<https://malibutimes.com/malibu-high-school-student-receives-prestigious-awards-for-writing-and-digital-art>

“The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards is the nation’s longest-running and most prestigious program for creative teens, dating back to 2023. The contest is judged based on the program’s core values: Originality, skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision. Malibu High junior Thomas Drummond received 5 awards this year....He earned his awards as a student of Carla Bowman-Smith, a photography and digital design teacher with Malibu High’s visual and performing arts program....’She got me where I am today, definitely,’ he said.”

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**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 2023-24 school year**

8:55 PM -- **Announcements**

9:00 PM – **Adjournment**