

California Department of Education

Arts Education Update Newsletter

Spring 2021

Check It Out

What's New pp. 1–2

COVID-19 and Why Art? p. 2

Partner Updates p. 3

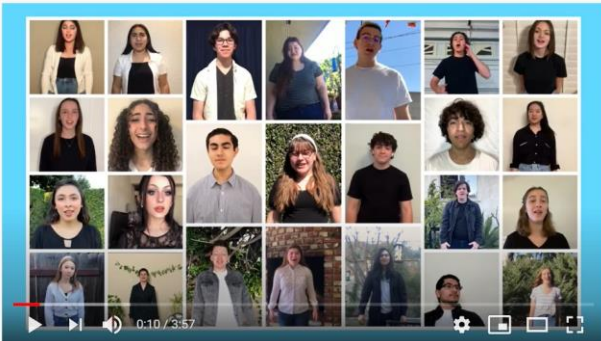
Resources p. 4

Upcoming Events pp. 5–6

Artist's Corner pp. 6–7

Disclaimer: The professional learning opportunities and resources contained within are intended solely to provide access to information. The inclusion of an opportunity or resource is neither an endorsement nor recommendation by the CDE.

Do you have a favorite resource, interesting article, informative event, etc. that you'd like to share? Send an email to Diane Crum at dcrum@cde.ca.gov.



Click [here](#) to listen to the Fullerton Union High School vocal ensemble.

What's New

California Educators Together Platform

Have you been looking for ways to share resources and collaborate with other educators from around the state? [California Educators Together](#), the California Department of Education's (CDE) new platform, hosts an online community of practice where California educators can share content, resources, and strategies, and support one another in a variety of content areas and topics. Visit the platform today!

Arts Education Statewide Group

Don't miss the opportunity to help build the [Arts Education Statewide Group](#) on the California Educators Together platform. In the summer issue of the Arts Education Newsletter, we will include a link to a Google Form for you to submit your favorite, free resource.

Are you interested in helping to vet resources for the Arts Education Statewide Group in August, 2021? If so, fill out this [Google Form](#).

Please contact Diane Crum at dcrum@cde.ca.gov with questions.

2021 California Exemplary Arts Education Award

Thank you to those of you who applied for the 2021 [California Exemplary Arts Education Award](#), especially during the pandemic. It was a pleasure to see how so many of you created innovative spaces for your students to continue learning. Congratulations to the 33 schools that have been recommended to receive a 2021 Exemplary Arts Education Award. Once approved by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI), the awards will be announced publicly. Thank you again for your commitment to the arts and for providing such incredible opportunities for students during these challenging times.

COVID-19

Several CDE web pages support local educational agencies during the COVID-19 response:

- [Coronavirus Response and School Reopening Guidance](#)
- [Distance Learning](#)
- [Quality Professional Learning from a Distance](#)
- [Social and Emotional Support in Distance Learning](#)
- [Help for Students in Crisis](#)
- [Supporting Resilience in Schools](#)

The SSPI sends out a weekly COVID-19 update. To subscribe, please send a blank email to join-covid19-update@mlist.cde.ca.gov.

WHY ART?

In each edition of the Arts Education Newsletter, we will feature a Why Art? card from [ART=OPPORTUNITY](#) so that together we can spread the word about how the arts make a difference!



Reason #1: Art leads to civic engagement and lifelong arts participation.

Need more information? [Click here](#) for research that supports this.

Download your own [ART=OPPORTUNITY cards](#) for free!

PARTNER UPDATES

Create CA

In May 2021, Create CA will highlight the importance of arts education, social-emotional learning, and creating a joyful in-person school re-entry. They invite you to showcase the power arts education has in this moment and the future by sharing five social media posts focused on how arts education helps students' mental health and social-emotional well-being, with proposed language for you to share on your organization's social media accounts. You can download the [Social Media Toolkit](#) and share using the hashtags #CreativityIsNotOptional and #ArtsEdRebuilds, and encourage your community to do the same. For more information, contact CREATE CA at info@createca.org.

The California Arts Project (TCAP)

Until conditions change, all of TCAP's professional learning opportunities, including district-based and statewide programs, are being offered through online platforms. TCAP's *From a Distance* programs provide support for teachers in teaching the arts in hybrid, face-to-face, and distance learning formats, and offer professional learning communities for schools and districts working to improve or expand their arts programs. TCAP programs may bridge to face-to-face professional learning when conditions allow. Consider the following opportunities available now!

- In support of arts educators and administrators, TCAP's regional and statewide communities of practice and networks continue to convene online throughout 2020–2021. Discipline-specific and mixed-discipline networks engage educators in professional conversations relating to the successes and challenges of distance teaching, standards, the new [California Arts Education Framework](#), and sharing resources and approaches. The use of online breakout rooms allows for discipline-specific, grade-level, or other configurations focused on specific needs. To find your regional network, email reach.tcap@gmail.com.
- The *Summer of Studios* will be held, if possible, on campuses across the state this summer. These TCAP programs center on a discipline-specific emphasis on the [California Arts Standards](#)' artistic process of *Creating*. Participants will use their learning and reflections to create classroom inquiries related to the California Arts Standards. Add your name to TCAP's *Summer of Studios* [interest list](#)!

The [TCAP](#) website provides current information on TCAP's open professional learning opportunities, contact information, and resources. Check back often, as the website continues to be updated and grow. Follow TCAP on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) and email reach.tcap@gmail.com at any time!

RESOURCES

Creativity at the Core

Creativity at the Core is a statewide program that includes professional learning arts modules, developed by Regional Arts Leads and partner arts organizations across California. These modules are sponsored by the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) Arts Initiative through generous funding from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Stuart Foundation. Download the learning modules on the [CCSESA Creativity at the Core](#) web page. Be sure to check out the newest module: [Module 22: California Arts Standards for California Schools: Resources for Learning and Implementation](#).

California Music Educators Association (CMEA)

The CMEA has created a professional development series called Shelter in Place (SiP) and Share to support music educators in the digital learning environment. View these one-hour webinars on the [CMEA website](#).

Riverside County Office of Education (COE) Visual and Performing Arts

[The Riverside COE Visual and Performing Arts team](#) has created a bank of [Arts Lesson Plans](#) in the Visual Arts, Media Arts, Theater, Music, and Dance, which are standards-based, simple, and readily accessible for school or home use (during COVID-19 school closures). Each lesson series focuses on one arts standard from pre-kindergarten through grade five, and is user-friendly for families with multiple elementary-aged students at home.

Professional Learning Opportunities Database

Over the last three months, more than 1,000 California educators have searched for professional learning opportunities with the California Department of Education's searchable online Professional Learning Opportunities database.

Search for online opportunities or promote your professional learning events at <https://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/te/ce/prodev07intro.asp>



UPCOMING EVENTS

Join [@PCrooks_VAPA](#), [@VAPAJeannine](#), [@aaronbryan](#), and other arts education experts from across the state for the #CaArtsEdChat, a Twitter Chat held every Wednesday from 4:00–4:30 p.m. This team is growing a statewide virtual professional learning community for educators, artists, and others passionate about arts education. Join them as they discuss topics such as: the newly-adopted [California Arts Education Framework](#), integrating the arts and technology, arts and anti-racism, and much more! New to Twitter, or just want to learn more about the Twitter Chat or see the questions in advance? Visit the San Diego COE [CaArtsEdChat web page!](#)

Call for [2021 Fall Conference Workshop Sessions](#) for the California Arts Education Association (CAEA) [Fall State Conference](#), to be held in-person from November 4–7, 2021, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Anaheim. The session proposal application window will be open from May 15–July 15, 2021. Applicants will be notified before the end of July. For questions, contact Dustin Garnet at dustin.garnet@calstatela.edu.



The [Arts Education Partnership](#) (AEP) and [Education Commission of the States](#) invite you to [submit a proposal](#) to share your work during a session at the AEP Virtual Gathering on September 14–15, 2021. Deadline to submit a proposal is May 21, 2021.

TCAP's [Black Theatre Webinar Series](#) continues on May 11, 2021, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. TCAP's Black Theatre Initiative provides free resources for teachers to support the broadening of the scope of theatrical traditions studied in educational settings and the implementation of the California Theatre Standards. The webinars are free, but you do need to register.

TCAP's [Latin Music Webinars](#) explore culturally authentic stylistic nuances and the impact of Latin Music. The webinars are free, but you do need to register. The next webinar will be held on May 20, 2021, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The National Arts Education Association (NAEA) is offering a webinar [Visual Note Taking: Using Words and Pictures in the Arts Education Classroom and Beyond](#) on June 23, 2021, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time. The course is free for NAEA members and \$49 for non-members. Visual note taking is a fun and easy way to transform the way you see—and capture—the world around you! This technique combines words and pictures together into more visually rich notes. Those who practice visual note taking end up looking more closely at the world, listening more carefully, and retaining more of what they see and hear than with writing words alone

Join thousands of Thespians from around the globe for the ultimate summer celebration of school theatre! The [Virtual International Thespian Festival](#) will be held from June 22–25, 2021. It brings

together the best performances, top teaching artists, and premier colleges and universities for a community-centered experience like no other. [Registration](#) is open now.

Save the Date for the 2021 California Educational Theatre Association (CETA) Conference, scheduled for October 8–10, 2021, at the Westin South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa. Watch the [CETA web page](#) for more details.

Registration is now open for the [National Dance Education Organization's \(NDEO\) Virtual Conference](#) from October 7–10, 2021. This year's theme is *Telling Our Stories: The Essentiality of Dance Education in Changing Times*, and will highlight the need to advocate for the dance field in these financially and socially difficult times. Participants will gather to explore stories of the power of dance education, how to tell those stories, who tells them, and how those stories have been shaped and changed over the last year. Registration closes on September 30, 2021.

The NDEO [Online Professional Development](#) Institute for Dance teachers is now open for registration. Grab your spot today! Courses sell out.

ARTIST'S CORNER



Submitted by: Michael Despars, Fullerton Union High School Academy of the Arts, Theatre Arts Teacher, California Educational Theatre Association, President.

The past year has been incredibly difficult for so many of our visual and performing arts students. Our theatres have been shut down and many of our programs are existing in a new virtual space that never really captures the essence of how or what we might do in person. As an artist, I am always looking for ways to solve theatrical problems. As an educator, I am always looking for ways to capture and engage my students in activities that go beyond the classroom and that need is even more important during this current climate. In this moment of virtual learning I needed a project that had depth and breadth while at the same time fulfilling their artistic needs.

At the beginning of this school year I was helping to run sessions in my capacity as the President of the California Educational Theatre Association to support educators throughout the state during online and hybrid learning. We shared numerous best practices and project ideas that would work within the perimeters of the current climate. One of the conversations we had with educators included an idea for a project where high school students adapted short stories written by elementary school students and performed them. I realized that this may be the way to engage those young theatre artists who have already lost so much and give them an opportunity to serve their community through their art. I approached my friend Pam Keller who teaches a kindergarten through grade two

elementary combo class at Orangethorpe Elementary and asked her what her students were writing because I wanted to take that writing, give it to my theatre production class, and have them create theatre for young audiences. Mrs. Keller was excited about this opportunity.

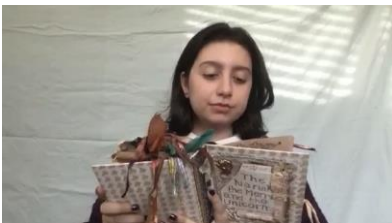
In October, my students received 15 essays from Pam Keller's class. I was able to break my students into groups of four and they read through all of the stories and selected one that they wanted to work on. In the end we produced nine pieces of theatre. Students worked in Zoom to not only adapt but also learn how to produce in the digital world.



Puppets used for “The Narwhal, the Mermaid, and the Unicorn.” One student voiced and controlled each character. Adam Nguyen voiced the Narwhal, Lily McWatters voiced the Mermaid, and Nolan Shirk voiced the Unicorn.

My students worked for five weeks on their plays. In December, during our final days, we Zoomed with Mrs. Keller's class and shared with them the work they helped us to create and we set up a live stream performance night in January so that we could share the work with the public.

This project was the first time in a few months where my students were excited to work on something in this online format. They had a goal and they did not want to disappoint the young writers. In the midst of a world that felt like it was falling apart, we had this moment of connection, creation, collaboration, and most of all escapism. The overall project was such a success that the Fullerton School District wants to expand it to include other classes next year. Our goal for our return is to continue this project and tie it into a theatre experience for the elementary students.



Sophia Galvan reads from her hand-decorated storybook, “The Narwhal, the Mermaid, and the Unicorn.”

If you would like to contribute to the Artist's Corner for our Summer Arts Education Newsletter, email Diane Crum at dcrum@cde.ca.gov.

Subscribe to the Arts Education newsletter! Send a blank email to: join-arts-education@mlist.cde.ca.gov. Forward to a friend!