

**Los Nietos School District
Community Arts Team
*Arts for All Plan 2011-2014***



"ALL CHILDREN WILL LEARN"

Los Nietos School District Board of Trustees

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A Well-Rounded Arts Education

The arts are fundamental to a well-rounded education for all students. When students are offered arts education continuously throughout their school years and are given the opportunity to build their knowledge and refine their skills, they carry those skills from the school to the workplace to society at large.

Funding limitations have profoundly affected arts education in all school districts and LNSD is no exception. Over the last several years, as financial constraints have caused the District to cut funding for arts education, District and community leaders have scrambled to fill the gaps, with the essential help of the schools' PTO's.

New funding from the State (AB 1811 and SB 1131) became a powerful catalyst for developing an arts plan, but these funds aren't enough to ensure that all children will receive a quality arts education through their school years. The truth is that time and funding limitations will always affect the arts, but by developing a thoughtful plan, we hope to maximize all available resources in the District by focusing on common goals, agreeing to specific strategies and demanding accountability.

The following plan, the result of six months' work on the part of a community arts team, attempts to lay out a road map for arts education and arts integration in the District for the next two to three years. Although new state funding in the arts motivated this work, the plan goes beyond this single funding source. Driven by a spirit of collaboration, it calls for the District to reassert its commitment to visual and performing arts by making the arts an important part of each student's academic career. The Arts Pathways, a document that shows opportunities for students to access, specialize in, and explore a variety of arts experiences, will serve as a guide for students, parents, teachers and community partners.

Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA). The California Education Code states, "Arts includes the four disciplines of dance, drama and theatre, music and visual arts as set forth in the state's adopted curriculum framework...and may also include community support for the various other arts forms including folk art, film, video, the writing of plays, poetry and scripts." The District recognizes the importance of media arts in our society by considering it as a separate, fifth component of arts education, rather than as a part of visual arts.

The VAPA Framework for California Public Schools defines a balanced, comprehensive arts program as one in which the arts are studied as discrete disciplines related to each other and, when appropriate, to other subject areas in the curriculum. According to the VAPA content Standards for California Public Schools, students are expected to master the standards of an arts discipline in the following strands: artistic perception, creative expression, historical and cultural context, aesthetic valuing and connections, relationships and applications.

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) includes arts in its definition of core academic subjects, thereby bestowing on the arts equal status with other academic subjects.

The National Standards for Arts Education defines art in the most inclusive terms possible: "We recognize that art is expressed in various styles, reflects different historical circumstances, and draws on a multitude of social and cultural resources. We use the terms arts discipline and art form to refer to Dance, Music, Theatre, and the Visual Arts, recognizing that each of these encompasses a wide variety of forms and sub-disciplines."

Arts for All

Research shows that students who partake in arts education improve in all other areas of the curriculum. With this in mind, the Los Nietos School District supports an integrated visual and performing arts program for all students. The Los Nietos School District is incorporating the *Arts for All* grant into their celebration of 150 years of educational service. The Los Angeles *Arts for All* Organization is providing a grant for training in a strategic planning process to bring together important stakeholders from within the community that will support the district in devising an arts education plan for all LNSD students.

Strengths

The Los Nietos Community of educators, parents, and local businesspersons embraced the vision of an arts program for the students in the Los Nietos School District. More than 20 volunteers from throughout the community, including Los Nietos School District teachers, staff, parents, businesses, non-profit organizations and a local college enthusiastically gave their time to serve on the Community Arts Team (CAT) to create a dream for the children of Los Nietos for the next 150 years.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Mary McNeil and Principal Amber Lee-Ruiz, who were trained as the Co-Chairpersons, led the planning process. Coach Aja Howell, who was provided through the grant from the LA County Board of Supervisors program “Arts for All”, supported the Community Arts Team in the strategic planning process. The Community Arts Team for the Los Nietos School District built a strategic plan that includes their vision and challenges to implementing arts education to create a more integrated arts education offering for all students.

Arts for All Plan Overview

If all things were possible, what would the integration of Arts Education look like at Los Nietos School District?

Parent and Community Involvement	Public Representation of the Arts	Partnerships and Collaboration	All Children Access to Arts Enrichment	Integrated Arts Curriculum	Student Engagement and Achievement	Professional Development and Support In the Arts	Expanded Resources
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What are the blocks and barriers to achieving our vision?

School and Community Focus on Arts Education	Vision Buy-In	Minimal Supplies, Inadequate Facilities, and Limited Funding	No Funding Allocation for Arts Professionals	Empowering Teachers and Providing Instruction to Support Teaching of the Arts	Undeveloped Relationships with Community and Access to Arts Professionals	Program Coordinator/Spe cialists	Lack of time
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Strategic Directions for the coming 5 years...

Embedding the Arts into the Los Nietos Educational Experience	Empowering Our School Community Through Training and Implementation	Investing in Arts Education as a Priority	Anchoring Arts Education through Centralized Coordination
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Year 1 Activities and Goals: July 2012 – June 2013

5 Year Goal/ Chair	Trimester 1 9/6/12-11/30/12 - Planning -	Trimester 2 12/3/12-3/8/13 - Implementation -	Trimester 3 3/11/13-6/19-13 - Product -	Goal	Measure
Embedding the Arts into the Los Nietos Educational Experience Octavio	Surround kids with art, murals, music, and color Principal needs to be interested in the Arts* Locate local dance/art/drama groups (\$)	Students to be engaged in art*	District wide art fair	Each student will have access/opportunity to participates in two areas of art	<i>Exposure to an Art Experience</i> <i>Creating an Art Culture</i>
Empowering Our School Community Through Training and Implementation Fijan and Marla	Locate established art/dance/drama programs (ex. Meet the Masters)	Art lessons for teachers	Integrate art into core curriculum The Arts is part of the school rotational climate	Basic art curriculum established to include at least one new program and training per site that provide lessons; feedback will shape core curriculum	<i>Building Confidence Through Training and Professional Development for Parents and Teachers</i> <i>Implementing Arts Instruction</i>
Investing in Arts Education as a Priority Kathy	School Board policy that supports the Arts as a priority (DONE!) PTC or Art grants to provide guest artist assemblies (NOW)		(Identify and) Respond to needs: a) people, b) places, c) things, d) funding	Have at least 2 guest artists visit each school during the year, funding provided by PTC or art grants	<i>Securing and Designating Adequate Funding and Resources</i>
Anchoring Arts Education through Centralized Coordination Fulton	Develop an Art Team at each school* Adjunct duty 1-2 teachers per school			Each site has an Arts education program established and able to be reproduced	<i>Establishing a Foundation for Leadership</i>

CAT Team List with Affiliations

Community Arts Team Co-Chairs

Role/Affiliation	Name and Title
District Representative	Dr. Mary McNeil, Assistant Superintendent
Principle, Elementary School	Amber Lee-Ruiz, Principal

Community Arts Team Members

Role/Affiliation	Name and Title
Business Leader	Amy Boladian, Owner of SoCal Advertising and Marketing
Community Organization	Deborah Arroyo, Director of Boys and Girls Club, Whittier
Classified Representative	Cristina Varela, Community Liaison, LNSD
Community Representative	Theresa Cazares, Manager, Los Nietos Library
Community Representative	Christina Cuevas, Coordinator, Salvation Army
Student Representative	David Newman, LNMS
Community Organizer	Rachel Orzoff, Asst. Director, Community Partnerships, Whittier College
Principal, Elementary School	Octavio Perez, Rancho
Principal, Middle School	Jacqueline Cardenas, Los Nietos MS
Principal, Elementary School	Marla Duncan, Nelson School
School Site Council	Maria Gamboa, DELAC
Parent, Middle School	Veronica Newman, LNMS
Teacher, Elementary School	Don Fulton, Nelson
Teacher, Elementary School	Miranda Faay, Aeolian
Teacher, Elementary School	Charlyn Fijan, Aeolian
Teacher, Elementary School	Kathy Tahmizian, Rancho
Teacher, Elementary School	Phyllis Martinez, Aeolian
Counselor, Middle School	Cyndy Tortorolo, Counselor LNMS
Teacher, Middle School	Art Urista, LNMS
Teacher, High School	Evan Mooney, Choir Teacher, LNMS/Pioneer HS
District Representative	Jonathan Vasquez, Superintendent LNSD