

MONO COUNTY

STRATEGIC

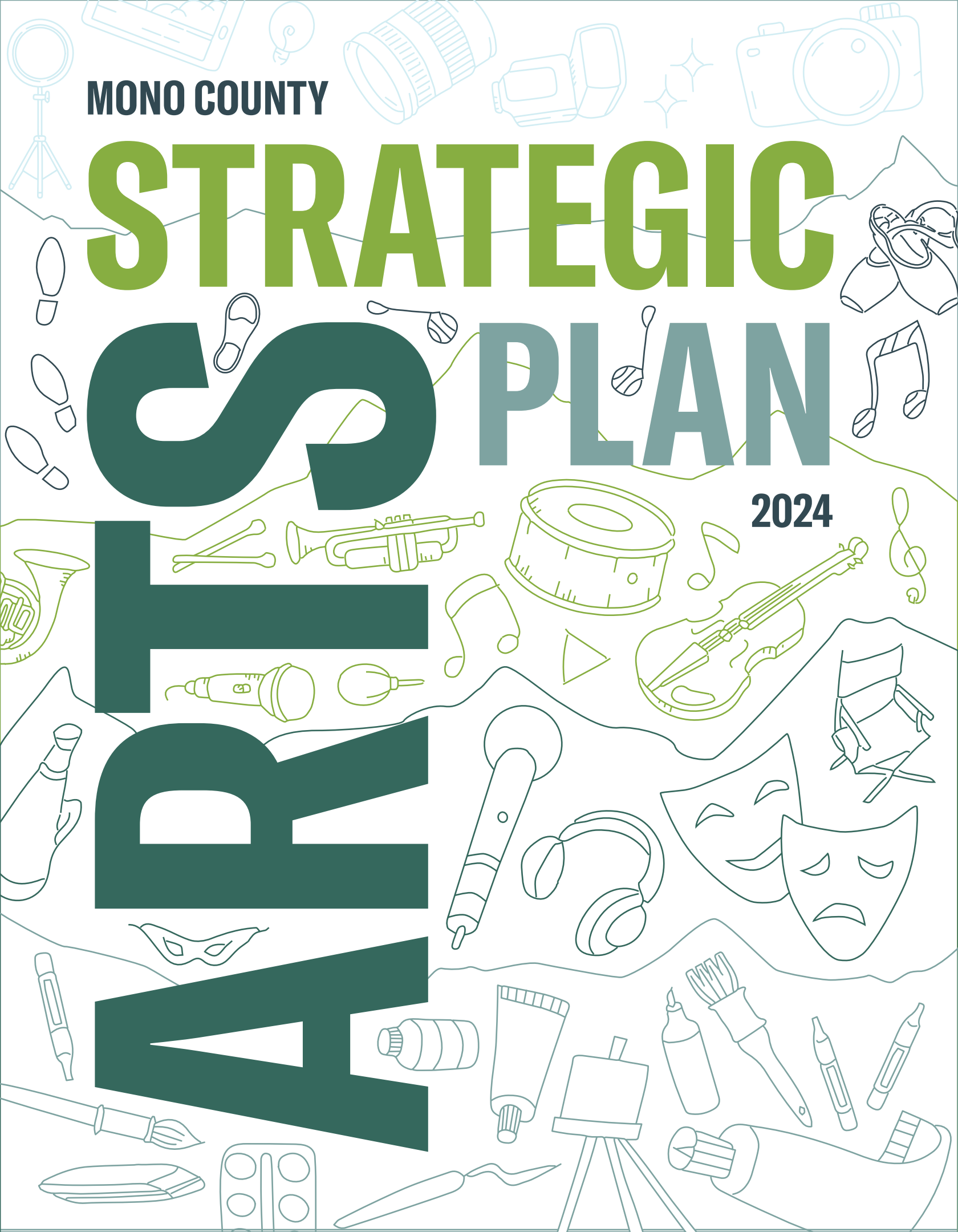
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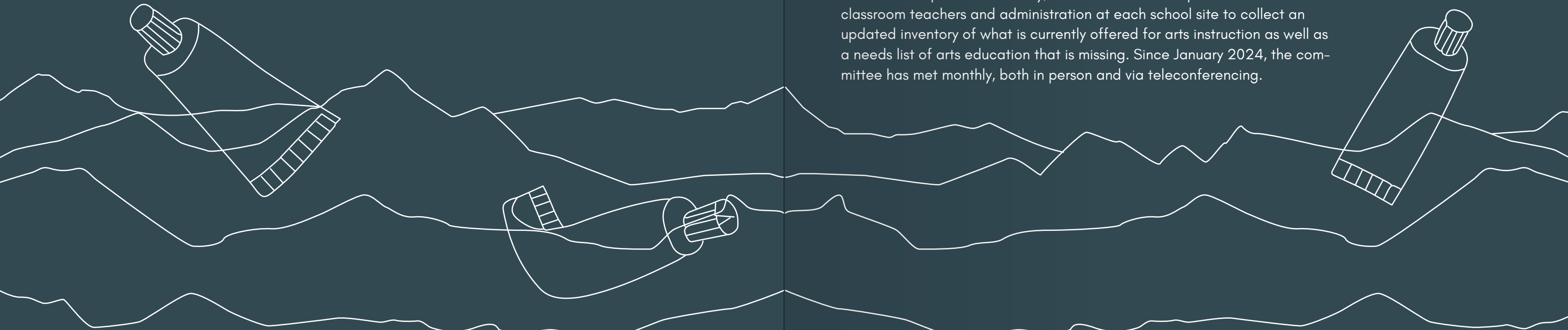
EXECUTIVE STATEMENT

The Mono County Office of Education (MCOE) Strategic Arts Plan was first written in 2018. MCOE then brought it to the Eastern Sierra Unified School District (ESUSD) and Mammoth Unified School District (MUSD) for adoption.

In the Fall of 2023, MCOE and Mono Arts Council (MAC) representatives called a summit to update and/or rewrite the current plan for the next cycle. This document will serve as a plan and roadmap as Mono County continues to promote, develop, and expand arts education and integration for the next 5-year cycle; so that, we can ensure that all students are given the greatest opportunity that can be provided through the appropriate resources.

Under the leadership of Dr. Stacey Adler, Superintendent of Schools MCOE, Alonso Escobar, MAC Arts Advocacy and Policy Director, Kristin Reese, MAC Executive Director, and Shana Stapp, MCOE Adult Education Coordinator, a community-wide convention was first called for September 6th, 2023. A diverse group of educational partners (including many educators, librarians, parents, school and library administrators, artists, and Bridgeport Indian Colony citizens) from Mono County attended the convention, and with dedicated and thoughtful work, they came together to provide the first insights on a plan revision.

This arts plan could not have been revised without the purposeful and heartfelt work that focused on the availability of arts for all Mono County students. Following the first meeting, a steering committee was brought together to consolidate information, simplify, and begin the initial drafting of a new arts plan. Additionally, Mono Arts Council representatives met with classroom teachers and administration at each school site to collect an updated inventory of what is currently offered for arts instruction as well as a needs list of arts education that is missing. Since January 2024, the committee has met monthly, both in person and via teleconferencing.



MCOE MESSAGE

It is the hope and intention of the Mono County Office of Education that arts education has a robust presence in all schools throughout the county. Arts education offers students another way to connect to school, alongside academics and sports. Furthermore, arts education encourages students to express themselves in a positive, creative manner adding another pathway for Social Emotional Learning to take place.

MAC MESSAGE

Mono Arts Council has been a partner of Mono County school districts for over 20 years. Arts Education is a main focus of our nonprofit. We not only advocate for our students' right to arts education through Arts Now Mono County, but also work with each district to fill gaps in arts education when funding is limited.

ARTS PLANNING TEAM

We are thankful for the pivotal role that all members of this arts planning team played on this final document. Everyone had thoughtful and engaging roles that ensured the success of this plan and ultimately the success of our students throughout the county.

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Superintendent of Schools,
MCOE

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MAC, Art Educator

Rebecca Clayton

ESUSD Educator, MAC
Board Member

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MCOE Library, Youth
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Mammoth Lakes Repertory
Theater (MLRT)

Dana Ellis

MUSD Art Teacher, Artist

Alonso Escobar

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Melissa Larsen

ESUSD Parent/LVES PTO
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MUSD Parent, MES PTO
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MCOE Library, Artist, Arts
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Melle North

The People's Mural Project,
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Heather O'Leary

MUSD Art Educator

Debbie Painter

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Christopher Platt

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Superintendent, MUSD

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Madeline Roy

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Shana Stapp

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Heidi Torix

Superintendent, ESUSD

INTRODUCTION

Mono County is situated between the crest of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the California and Nevada border. Its estimated population of 13,000 is sprawled throughout 3,030 square miles of land area (approximately 2 million acres of land) that is 94% publicly owned.

The county offers a rural, geographically remote setting with some of the most spectacular landscapes in California, including hundreds of lakes, meadows, rivers, sage-covered high desert, and it is surrounded by Jeffrey and Lodgepole pine forests.

Mammoth Lakes is the only incorporated location in the county and holds its governmental center. Mammoth Lakes is home to Mammoth Mountain Ski Area which fuels much of the economy; in addition, the surrounding towns also serve as gateways to Yosemite National Park as well as beacons for a variety of outdoor recreation activities. Many residents have chosen this remote part of California for the beauty and relaxation that it offers.

Mono County reveres its youth and supports and encourages them as they develop into valued members of society. Mono County Office of Education works with two school districts (ESUSD and MUSD) to operate 11 sites. Mono County has at least 1,712 enrolled students (22-23, CDE) with an ebb and flow throughout competitive winter months. The students in the county participate in a variety of recreational activities, and rigorous coursework, all while living in rural communities with harsh climates. Our students persevere regardless and are annually accepted into 2- and 4-year colleges and trade schools, while many pursue other passions. For example, Mono County is home to Olympians, renowned artists, authors, and more. Our students are taught to engage with their education as well as their passions. They are encouraged and supported in this with appropriate resources provided by their respective districts.

ARTS EDUCATION IN MONO COUNTY

MCOE MISSION STATEMENT

Mono County Office of Education is committed to serving students, schools, and communities by providing and supporting exemplary educational programs in a professional and fiscally-sound manner in order to foster healthy and productive individuals.

ESUSD MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission at Eastern Sierra Unified is to ensure that each student receives an educational experience that will prepare them for their future. Students will reach their potential through rigorous and supportive academics, safe learning environments, individualized technology, and extra-curricular opportunities. We are dedicated to a shared partnership with our students, staff, families, and local communities.

MUSD MISSION STATEMENT

Mammoth Unified School District is committed to supporting students' individual needs and preparing them for the future by instilling them with confidence. Our school district encourages all students to push themselves to achieve and develop socially, emotionally, physically and academically. The parents and staff are very involved in our students' learning, recognizing their challenges and successes, while nurturing their individual talents and celebrating their diversity.

MAC MISSION STATEMENT

Mono Arts Council fosters a lasting culture of creativity by collaborating with artists through education, advocacy, and programs.

ARTS EDUCATION IN MONO COUNTY CONT.

Mono County Office of Education along with Eastern Sierra Unified School District and Mammoth Unified School District task themselves with ensuring that each and every student is successfully challenged and developed through a variety of rigorous instruction, valuable programs, and incredible educators. Our districts understand the importance and value of arts education for all students. Each district, working alongside the Mono Arts Council, works to provide great opportunities for all students to grow through arts education and integration.

With the passing of Proposition 28 in California in 2022, ensuring that funds are allocated to districts, it is even more appropriate to continue developing and building our art programs. MUSD shines greatly through its robust music program that continues to grow, STEAM in MES, the rebuilding of an art program at MMS, and a strong in-seat art program and partnership with Cerro Coso Community College (CCCC) at MHS. In ESUSD, staff provide emerging scholars many opportunities to learn using arts integration. They have also partnered with Missoula Theater program, CCCC, and Chamber Music Unbound and welcome other partners to

help build a tremendous support and dedication from MAC staff and programs. Create with the Greats (formerly Meet the Masters) is a county-wide workshop program that is an interdisciplinary art that teaches art history and allows students from each district to realize individual art projects

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lesson. ESUSD also partners with MAC for a K-8 music program at each elementary school site. Through these partnership programs, all districts can provide a variety of art programs to all enrolled students. MAC supports all school sites throughout the county, alongside programs run by MLRT and Chamber Music Unbound.

While the county has strong programs, it lacks many traditional programs and opportunities due to its remoteness. Both districts envision appropriate and systemic arts integration, and Professional Development for their staff. ESUSD seeks substantial resources, programs, and events that could further develop its students in all art media (ranging from culinary arts to photography). MUSD envisions systemic arts education training or programs beginning in TK, which is essential for fostering a more creative curriculum and nurturing students who can grow into stronger scholars and adults.

STRATEGIC ARTS EDUCATION PLAN VISION

Every student across Mono County is provided access to the arts that is inclusive and equitable, and connects to the community through systemic, diverse, and accessible arts programs for grades TK-14 that include both integrated and discrete arts instruction.



STRATEGIC DIRECTION

This plan is organized around three Strategic Directions to support arts education in Mono County over the next 3-5 years. These are best practices developed out of a vision that every student has the right to a complete education that includes the arts. It is also grounded in the belief that a robust arts education system relies on a strong commitment of funding, and a delivery system that includes credentialed arts Educators, classroom Educators, teaching artists, and arts organizations. We believe that the arts are valuable in their own right, and that they can provide strategic opportunities to serve the developmental as well as social and emotional needs of all students. We further believe that the arts prepare our students for college and career pathways and affords them access to the creative economy of California.

DIRECTION NO. 1

Content Continue to expand, and where needed, establish a systemic approach for arts education that can deliver curriculum, programs, and professional development to support the arts and arts integration for all students

1. Curriculum and Instruction:

Continue to expand, and where needed, establish a California State adopted standards-aligned system for Arts Education for TK-14 that reflects the individual Mono County communities.

2. Professional Development:

Develop and implement county-wide PD so school staff understand appropriate arts education as well as its role in building diverse scholars.

3. Arts Integration:

Align arts education programs and integration to support curriculum

4. Administrative Support for Scheduling:

Work with school administration and District leadership, so they can understand the importance of and implement arts programs in Mono County schools.

5. Inclusion and Equity:

Intersectional programs that promote inclusiveness and are equitable to the community.

DIRECTION NO. 2

Infrastructure: Build capacity for the arts through partnerships, relationships and shared spaces that include community and school engagement.

1. Facilities:

Ensure arts are represented in all facilities throughout Mono County.

2. Staffing and Opportunities:

Continue growth and support of jobs in the arts to ensure access for all students.

3. Partnerships:

Grow partnerships that serve the artistic needs of all students in Mono County.

DIRECTION NO. 3

Explore appropriate use of current and future arts funding and build advocacy for long-term arts support.

1. Funding:

Appropriately use continued state funds while also advocating for new funding.

2. Increased Communication:

Develop channels and inter-district communication to better promote county-wide arts programs.

3. Making the Case for the Value of Arts Education:

Build from the resurgent state-wide support of arts education.

DIRECTION NO. 1

Content: Continue to expand, and where needed, establish a systemic approach for arts education that can deliver curriculum, programs, and professional development to support the arts and arts integration for all students.

GOALS	STRATEGIC ACTIONS
<p>Goals 1.1 Curriculum and Instruction Continue to expand, and where needed, establish a California State adopted standards-aligned system for Arts Education for TK-14 that reflects the individual Mono County</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a county shared Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Coordinator position Research and align with CA Arts standards Ongoing community outreach to understand the needs of Mono County communities.
<p>Goals 1.2 Professional Development Develop and implement county-wide PD so school staff understand appropriate arts education as well as its role in building diverse scholars</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a schedule of arts integration and arts educators PD opportunities inside and outside the county.
<p>Goals 1.3 Administrative Support Work with school administration and District leadership, so they can understand the importance of and implement arts programs in Mono County schools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular meetings with school arts staff to discuss needs and goals. Regular meetings between County and District Superintendents and Mono Arts Council to discuss needs and goals and collaborative opportunities.
<p>Goals 1.4 Inclusion and Equity Intersectional programs that promote inclusiveness and are equitable to all students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum will be aligned with state standards and expectations. All art programs will be inclusive with a focus on access for traditionally under-represented groups.

DIRECTION NO. 2

Infrastructure: Build capacity for the arts through partnerships, relationships and shared spaces that include community and school engagement

GOALS	STRATEGIC ACTIONS
<p>Goals 2.1 Facilities Ensure arts are represented in all educational facilities throughout Mono County</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow space and opportunities for student/community artists to create public art in educational spaces. Evidence of student art displayed in both educational and community spaces
<p>Goals 2.2 Staffing and Opportunities Continued growth and support of jobs in the arts to ensure access for all students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop opportunities for credentialed VAPA instructors. Support local artists seeking pathways for either credential programs or work as teaching artists.
<p>Goals 2.3 Partnerships Grow partnerships that serve the artistic needs of all students in Mono County.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate traditional/non-traditional partnerships to enhance art programs. Continue to invest in, and enhance current arts partnerships. Continue to seek out additional lasting and sustainable partnerships to enhance current art programs.

DIRECTION NO. 3

Explore appropriate use of continued and new funding and build advocacy for long-term arts support.

GOALS	STRATEGIC ACTIONS
<p>Goals 3.1 Funding Appropriately use continuing state funds while also advocating for new funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify, collect, and report measurable outcomes from funding. • MCOE will continue to share grant opportunities and lobby for continued arts funding.
<p>Goals 3.2 Increased Communication Sustainability Develop channels and inter-district communication to better promote county-wide arts programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued open collaboration and communication between districts and arts partners to share resources, ideas, and best practices. • Facilitate regular meetings among districts, arts partners, and community organizations.
<p>Goals 3.3 Making the case for the Value of Arts Education Build from the resurgent state-wide support of arts education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share and celebrate success stories, data, and opportunities to promote arts. • Work with local media to promote art programs. • Promote rotating exhibits in Mono County government and commercial buildings, libraries, and art spaces. • Pass a proclamation at all county boards to promote both Arts Education (March) and Arts Advocacy (April) Month.



