



ARTS EDUCATION PRESS ADVISORY

EVENT: Launch of 50th ARTS NOW COUMMUNITY – A New Arts Education Partnership in Windsor Unified School District

The Art Now Community will constitute the formation of a private-public partnership advocating for arts education in Windsor schools.

Launch will be a gathering of parents, teachers, students, school leaders, business leaders, arts organizations and elected officials to build support for arts education as an essential component of a quality education. Attendees are invited to solicit their thinking and invite them to join a strategic planning process that will launch in the coming months.

WHO: Windsor Unified School District
The California Alliance for Arts Education

WHEN: April 19, 2017, 7:45 – 9:30 a.m.

WHERE: Windsor High School Library, 8695 Windsor Road, Windsor California 95492

WHAT: Windsor residents place a high value on arts education. Local leaders are launching an Arts Now Community to connect, coordinate and build upon the existing arts education programs in the Windsor Unified School District offerings.

SPEAKERS:

Windsor Unified School District Superintendent Steve Jorgenson
Windsor Unified School District Trustee Bill Adams
Windsor Arts Now Community Coordinator Joella Olsen
California Alliance for Arts Education Field Manager Robin Hampton,
Windsor Arts Nueva Director Allison Frezel

“All students deserve access to arts education that brings visual and performing arts to every child in every grade at every school. We are proud of our arts programs, students and teachers, and we look forward to building on this success with the help of our community”

Windsor Unified School District Superintendent Steve Jorgenson

BACKGROUND: The passage of the Local Control Funding Formula in 2013 quickly and dramatically changed the way local schools set priorities and are funded. This presents an important opportunity for local communities to prioritize arts education.

Categorical funding, including funds earmarked for arts education, has been almost entirely eliminated. Now, school boards, in partnership with their local community, are empowered to set

new, locally driven priorities aimed at improving outcomes for students who are often underserved in public schools.

Responding to this opportunity, the **California Alliance for Arts Education** launched the Arts Now Communities program to provide districts and counties with sound strategies for sustaining and growing arts education in local schools. Since its launch, the program has grown to include communities from Humboldt to Escondido who are building coalitions, spotlighting the value of the arts and implementing policy that leads to increased access to the arts. Windsor is the fiftieth community to join the program.

CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE FOR ARTS EDUCATION: a statewide organization that advocates for high quality arts education for all students by providing policy expertise and by mobilizing a statewide network of advocates and allied partners. The Alliance is in its fifth decade of working to build a brighter future for our state by making the arts a core part of every child's education. A statewide leader and convener, the Alliance galvanizes California's educators and other experts in arts and culture to increase access to quality arts education and improve the quality of arts education. www.artsed411.org

The **California Alliance for Arts Education's Arts Now California** campaign spotlights opportunities for schools, districts, and counties around the state to establish and advance creative education. The campaign celebrates districts taking a leadership role in prioritizing arts education and encourages other districts to prioritize arts education. Recent Summits in San Diego, Humboldt and Napa have provided guidance, expertise, and inspiration to those working in the field.

This event is not open to the public. Press interested in attending the event should contact: Sibyl O'Malley 213.713.6885, sibyl@artsed411.org