

Executive  
Editor:  
Carlos Davalos  
427-3000, 220  
carlos  
@thestarnews.com

# KIDS STUFF

## National Arts Conference to spotlight Chula Vista, San Diego schools

The Chula Vista Elementary School District will be among the featured districts at the inaugural Arts Education Learning Exchange presented by the California Alliance for Arts Education in San Diego March 17-18.

The conference of arts educators and arts organizations will bring a national focus to CVESD and the San Diego Unified School District. Schools in each district will be featured as a model of excellence in site visitations for conference attendees.

"School leaders recognize that instruction needs to be about more than preparation for standardized tests," said Dalouge Smith, president and chief executive officer of the San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory. "They know arts education is an essential part of a well-rounded curriculum. Chula Vista is setting the example for California and the country on how to equitably restore arts education across an entire school system using the new California Local Control Funding Formula."

In June 2015, CVESD's Board of Education committed \$15 million over three years to hire teachers in the Visual and Performing Arts.

The district designed a framework that uses sequential arts instruction for every student to free classroom teachers for collaboration and planning time. The arts push is part of the District's Local Control and Accountability Plan for the 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-

18 school years.

This decision was the culmination of a five-year collaboration with the youth symphony designed to rebuild access to music and arts education after a 15-year absence in the district. What started in 2010 as the Community Opus Project after-school music program for 65 third-grade students evolved into one of the largest and most rapid restorations of arts education in the nation, with over 70 VAPA teachers hired since June.

Community Opus drew its inspiration from the El Sistema

movement in music education and social change that began in Venezuela's most impoverished neighborhoods and grew into a national youth orchestra program.

The program promotes social change by inspiring young people — and their families — through music education. A pre-conference workshop is scheduled for March 16 about El Sistema, where attendees can view Community Opus's spring camp in action and interact with teaching artists, parents and students.

SDYS assisted CVESD with

rebuilding its arts education infrastructure as well as managing cultural changes associated with returning arts education to campuses. Smith noted the program builds more than music education

"It is about music and opportunity," he said, adding that renowned classical conductor Gustavo Dudamel grew up in the El Sistema program and is now director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic. "Music in the neighborhood can have a powerful effect not only on musical development, but on the learning of children and the bringing together of community."

CVESD Superintendent Francisco Escobedo, Ed.D., said that restoration of the arts in district schools can be replicated throughout California and positively impact learning outcomes.

"As part of our initiative to infuse 21st century skills into our learning outcomes, the arts are a perfect medium to enhance collaboration, creativity and critical-thinking skills throughout our system," Escobedo said.

The Chula Vista Elementary School District serves nearly 30,000 students at 45 schools.



### Registration for 2016-17 Begins March 1

The Chula Vista Elementary School District is committed to making your child's education a fun, engaging and successful experience!

*Registration begins March 1*

Packets available at a student's home school starting February 18.

Parents must register at their home school. This includes Transitional Kindergarten as well.

Children turning 5 by September 1, 2016, will attend Kindergarten.

Children turning 5 between September 2 and December 2, 2016, will attend Transitional Kindergarten.



[WWW.CVESD.ORG](http://WWW.CVESD.ORG)