

Hewlett Foundation funds arts strategic plan

Grant will support access to arts and creation of ongoing advocacy network

September 2017

In July, TCOE was awarded a two-year, \$60,000 grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to create a countywide strategic arts education plan. Kate Stover, TCOE's Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) staff development and curriculum specialist, reports that a small planning team will work with the California Alliance for Arts Education to identify strengths and limitations in existing arts programs. The planning team will seek feedback from teachers, parents, community members, business owners, and other stakeholders. The goal of this project is to ensure that the students, families, and communities of Tulare County have equitable access to the arts.

“We know that one in every six jobs in California is in the creative industries,” said Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak. “We also know that CEOs across the nation rank creativity as the number one job skill they seek in candidates. Through the arts, students learn collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking skills, as well as the self-expression, empathy, and global awareness they need to be successful in the career of their choice.”

A group of community members will begin the work to create the strategic plan and an ongoing arts advocacy network at a kick-off breakfast on October 6 in the TCOE Redwood Conference Center. “The strategic plan will be a supporting framework enabling Tulare County school districts to grow their arts programs,” said Ms. Stover. “We know challenges exist, but we are committed to working with districts to overcome the hurdles, making Tulare County a leader in arts education in California and ensuring students have access to robust arts programs.”

For more information on the strategic arts education plan, contact Kate Stover at (559) 741-0809.