

Celebrate arts education at Encinitas festival



By **Michelle Breier** 6 A.M. MARCH 21, 2014

ENCINITAS — The City of Encinitas Arts Division and the [San Dieguito Academy Foundation](#) are celebrating arts education with the third annual Encinitas Arts Festival on Sunday.

The festival — free and open to the public — will be held from noon to 4 p.m. at the San Dieguito Academy Performing Arts Center, 800 Santa Fe Drive.

This year's theme is "Passport to the Arts," and a vast range of dance, theater and music performances from students and professionals on three stages are scheduled. The lineup includes a showcase of high school and college bands, Dragon Knights Stilt Theatre, North Coast Symphony Strings, Patricia Rincon Dance Collective, San Dieguito Academy Concert Band, Ocean Knoll Dolphin Sounds Chorus and Encinitas Ballet.

The festival also includes hands-on art workshops, artist booths, student art exhibits, chalk art, and food trucks.

The festival highlights arts education in Encinitas public and private schools, which receives support from the Encinitas Alliance for Arts Education, an affiliate of the grass-roots California Alliance for Arts Education.

"Research shows that the arts are vital to student success," Encinitas Union School District Superintendent Tim Baird said. "Arts education is linked to higher test scores across all subjects, as well as lower dropout rates. They foster creativity and imagination, hallmarks of careers in the 21st century. Beyond the classroom, the arts are shown to nurture collaboration and civic engagement in young people."

Encinitas alliance coordinator Francine Filsinger said the festival gives community members the opportunity to see how arts education benefits students.

"Encinitas is a city filled with art, artists and more than 70 arts organizations," city arts administrator Jim Gilliam said. "An arts festival is an important way to showcase the creative community and celebrate students' artistic achievement."

The festival is funded in part by a grant from the city and by the Mizel Family Foundation. Additional partners include the Encinitas Theatre Consortium, San Dieguito Union High School District, Encinitas Union School District, Cardiff School District, MiraCosta College District, and California Alliance for Arts Education.

The city also has a partnership with the foundation for use of the arts center. “The festival was designed in 2012 with the arts center in mind,” Gilliam said. “Presenting the arts in this state-of-the-art venue benefits the performers, artists and community.” For the full festival schedule, go to encinitasca.gov/festival.

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