Dedicated in memory of Poly Orchestra Director and Digital Media Teacher, Bob Habereder
GOLDEN BELL AWARD

In December 2022, RUSD Arts was awarded the prestigious Golden Bell Award for the Honors Musical and Honors Arts Experience Programs. The Golden Bell Award, presented by the California School Board Association, promotes excellence in education by recognizing outstanding programs in school districts throughout California.

The RUSD Honors Musical and Arts Experience provides extensive training to prepare students to perform in a fully-produced professional-level musical, and guides students through the preparation of a digital portfolio for future arts college and career auditions. With world-class mentorship and job shadowing, student actors, dancers, singers, musicians, composers, and theater technicians engage in an extraordinary learning environment to prepare for a future in the arts.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS GRANT

In January 2023, RUSD Arts was recognized on a national level by receiving a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. This research grant will allow us to study the impact of a unique music partnership program between RUSD and the Riverside Arts Academy. Closely aligned with our in-school music program, the partnership program provides intensive musical mentoring, offering enrolled elementary students over four hours of music instruction weekly. The first NEA grant awarded in RUSD’s history, this prestigious recognition will aim to quantify the impact of music education on students’ math and reading scores, among many other metrics.
A YEAR OF EXCELLENCE
BY ANNEMARIE GUZY, RUSD ARTS SPECIALIST

June 9, 2023

The 2022-23 school year was a year of excellence in the arts, filled with awards and recognition, expansion and growth. It started with a wave of support from the RUSD Board of Education, true champions of the arts, who allocated an additional $1.5 million in one-time and ongoing funding for arts programs to support the now state-recognized RUSD District Arts Plan.

This increase enabled the growth of the instrumental strings program in the Ramona cluster by providing violin instruction to 4th graders and starting a pipeline that can lead into the Ramona orchestra and mariachi programs in the future. We repaired and replaced broken instruments for the elementary music program so that most students can borrow an instrument at no cost. Additionally, we increased support to long-standing festivals such as the Middle School Choir Festival, High School Masterwork Festival, and Chalk Day, as large-scale collaborations such as these are the experiences our students will remember for decades.

With explosive growth comes intensive planning, and teachers and community partners came forward to help enable the success of these programs while longer-term supports were put in place. These next steps in the RUSD Arts plan re-established RUSD as a powerhouse in arts education in the region, and provided creative expression and academic rigor to thousands of students.

In the fall, we were thrilled to receive the Golden Bell Award for the Honors Musical and Arts Experience, two programs that promote college and career trajectories in the arts for some of our most passionate performing arts students. The Honors Musical program resumed this year after a three year pause, with talented students as the cast and crew in Chicago: Teen Edition at the Fox.
RUSD Arts then celebrated, along with the statewide arts community, the passage of Proposition 28, a dedicated line of supplemental support for **more arts to more students**. Prop. 28, now referred to as “Arts and Music in Schools,” will allow RUSD to build on its impressive baseline of arts offerings and **turbocharge the RUSD Arts Plan into its next major milestones.**

It seemed that wins begat further wins, and in January we were acknowledged by the [National Endowment for the Arts](https://www.nea.gov) as a recipient of a research grant to study the impact of our unique partnership program with the Riverside Arts Academy. Students enrolled in the program receive a minimum of four hours of music instruction weekly. This grant will enable external researchers to evaluate how students perform in key academic and behavioral metrics during the 2023-24 school year.

The wins kept on coming: in winter, we expanded the district’s Arts team, with perhaps the best addition imaginable: the formidable Mrs. Kathy Allavie, former RUSD Board member, longstanding arts advocate, and immensely respected arts champion in our city. Mrs. Allavie joined the team as a volunteer to assist teachers, and help with visual arts programs and district-wide art shows. Two incredible team members joined in January rounding out the team: Molly Brooke Becker, Certificated Site Support for TK-12 Arts, and Alejandra Garcia, Arts Administrative Assistant. The creation of this team placed the Arts department in a strong position to **execute the dizzying array of spring programs, foster extensive community partnerships, and ensure thousands of students had access to some of the best arts programs in the region.**

It is now clear that **excellence in the arts is the expectation.** If ever any evidence was needed that RUSD Arts had reached this point, the 2022-23 school year provided this proof, signed, sealed and delivered. With a baseline of excellence established, and with more funding to come, RUSD will experience a **true renaissance in creative, expressive, student-centered education.** We are poised, ready, and proven leaders in our region, and we are ready for the next stage in arts education for our students and our community.

Sincerely,

Annemarie Guzy, MM
RUSD Arts Specialist
ARTS THRIVE
BASELINE DISTRICT ARTS PROGRAMS, BY THE NUMBERS

1. **District-Wide Arts Events**
   - Total # of district-wide arts events: 470

2. **Elementary Music**
   - Total # of students enrolled in elementary music grades 4-6: 5,995

3. **Arts Plan Budget**
   - Local Control Accountability Plan funding to support district-wide arts programs: ~$4 million

4. **Secondary Arts Students**
   - Total # of middle and high school students enrolled in arts classes: 10,999

5. **Art-to-Go Classes**
   - Total # of classes provided by the Riverside Art Museum’s Art-to-Go program: 4,000
ARTS THRIVE
BASELINE DISTRICT ARTS PROGRAMS, BY THE NUMBERS

DISTRICT-WIDE ARTS PROJECTS
Total # district-wide arts projects
71

ELEMENTARY STRINGS SITES
Total # of elementary sites offering strings instruction
7

HONORS MUSICAL AND ARTS EXPERIENCE
Total % of students in the Honors Musical and Arts Experience planning arts college and career pathways
66%

RIVERSIDE ARTS ACADEMY
Total # of music mentoring hours provided by the Riverside Arts Academy
1,959

COMMUNITY PARTNERS
Total # of community arts partners
164
DISTRICT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

District-wide collaboration and community partnerships help engage more students in high-quality arts programs. Here is a brief overview of some of these ongoing district-wide programs.

1 ELEMENTARY MUSIC
The elementary music program rose to a record high enrollment of 5,995 4th-6th grade students.

2 PORTRAIT PROJECT
To honor Board Member Kathy Allavie’s seventeen years of service, high school students create a district-wide portrait.

3 BAND EXTRAVAGANZA
Middle and high schools showcase their bands and color guards at this annual district-wide event.

4 ART-TO-GO
The Riverside Art Museum’s Art-to-Go program offers six high-quality arts-integrated lessons taught by museum teaching artists to TK through 6th grade classrooms.

5 MUSIC COMPOSITION WORKSHOPS
UCR Arts and RUSD Arts collaborate to provide music composition workshops with Dr. Jordan Nelson from the Colburn Conservatory.

6 ARTS TEACHER COACHING
Arts teachers engage in one-on-one training with professional artists and arts educators, including Darren Villegas, to improve teaching and learning.
DISTRIBUTED PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

7 HONORS ARTS EXPERIENCE
Musical theater students receive individualized instruction to prepare audition pieces.

8 NEW ELEMENTARY STRINGS SITES
The Elementary Strings Program expands to three new sites: Jackson, Jefferson, and Mountain View.

9 ELEMENTARY CHALK FESTIVAL
Elementary students from 20 elementary sites create chalk art on their campuses and share it in a district virtual festival.

10 CINEMA CULTURAS WORKSHOPS
Cinema Culturas offers workshops in English and Spanish to elementary students to develop language, music, film, and visual storytelling techniques.

11 HIGH SCHOOL ART SHOW
High school visual art students feature their best art pieces at the second annual district-wide High School Art Show.

12 CHORAL MASTERWORK
Middle and high school choirs perform at this district-wide choral festival, under the direction of guest conductor Desiree La Vertu from Occidental College.
DISTRICT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

13 ARTS TEACHER TRAININGS
Arts teachers develop their skills in a series of professional development workshops with professional artists, including guitarist Bob Scarano.

14 THEATRE FEST
200 theater students from across the district compete in theatrical categories for a panel of judges.

15 MASTERCLASSES
Students participate in a series of masterclasses with professional artists, including one on auditioning with professional actor Greg Nabours.

16 MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL CHALK DAY
Over 300 students bring their chalk art designs to downtown Riverside for the annual Chalk Day, in partnership with the City of Riverside.

17 LIVE TECH
In partnership with the Fox Foundation, Live Nation, and the RUSD Career and Technical Education Department, students participate in hands-on job training from stage crew at the Fox Performing Arts Center.

18 MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL HONOR BANDS
Students, selected for their high level of performance, perform in middle and high school honor bands under the direction of Kevin Mayse from Riverside City College and STEM Academy band director Chris Watts.
19 **HONORS MUSICAL**
The award-winning Honors Musical performs *Chicago: Teen Edition* at the Fox Performing Arts Center.

20 **NEW ARTS COURSES**
The board adopts two new high school Arts and Career and Technical Education courses, Jewelry and Metal Arts 1 and 2.

21 **BAND AND ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL**
Middle and high school bands and orchestras perform for a panel of judges.

22 **MIDDLE SCHOOL ART SHOW**
Middle school students showcase their artwork at the Riverside Art Museum, with Chemawa student Daisy Olivarez winning Best of Show.

23 **EMPOWER YOU EDUTAINMENT**
Empower You Edutainment offers workshops to students in grades 3-12, culminating in a virtual production.

24 **RIVERSIDE ARTS ACADEMY**
The Riverside Arts Academy provides intensive music mentoring to support the RUSD in-school music program.
"The arts help me be bolder."
Jordyn, 9th grade, North High School

"I have been able to grow my creativity and be more responsible. The arts make me feel special because I help make a big project amazing."
Abigail, 11th grade, Ramona High School

"The arts make me feel creative and that I can think outside of the box."
Lilliana, 9th grade, King High School

"The arts help me learn that confidence matters."
Joshua, 11th grade, Arlington High School

"The arts help me to develop skills that I can use and apply in the real world."
Theodore, 9th grade, Poly High School

"In middle school we are always trying to help students find a way to connect. It is so lovely to see how live performance can bring a community together."
Megan Brown-Gomez, teacher, Gage Middle School
"Each day as an arts teacher, I see the positive impact learning to play the piano has on my students. The students gain the ability to focus, push pass difficulties, and see patterns and small details."

Ronda Barnes, teacher, Ramona High School

"The arts help me express myself when my feelings are too big for words."

Reese, 11th grade, Riverside Virtual School

"The arts helped me find out what I want to do as a career."

Gaby, 10th grade, North High School

"The arts help me have motivation and passion. I feel powerful when the lights come on that stage."

Maritza, 11th grade, Arlington High School

"Dance makes me feel great because I can talk about my culture and learn different dance cultures of my classmates."

Jannet, 9th grade, Poly High School

"The arts make me feel brave and happy to work with other people."

Wynne, 9th grade, North High School
RUSD is a model for arts programs in California. Here are a few examples of the accolades and awards received this year.

**EDUCATOR RECOGNITION**

Miller Middle School band teacher Susan Olsen is awarded Middle School Educator of the Year at the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association conference and Outstanding Educator by the PTA.

**TARGET GRANT**

The RUSD Foundation together with RUSD Arts receives a $5,000 grant from Target to purchase 16 new instruments for the band program at Madison Elementary.

**NATIONAL ART EXHIBIT**

Four ceramics students from Arlington, North, and Ramona exhibit their work in the national Annual High School Ceramics Exhibition at the American Museum of Ceramic Art.

**ARTS GRANTS**

Arts programs receive numerous Riverside Educational Enrichment Foundation grants totaling over $78,000 to support projects including elementary music, festivals, and district-wide programs.

**CAREERS IN THE ARTS**

Many successful students will go on to prestigious universities to study arts. Among these are Twila Fraser-Hewlett who will attend NYU Tisch School of the Arts to study theater and Pierre Schwabe who will attend the UCLA Technical Theatre Program.
RECOGNITION & AWARDS

STATEWIDE FILM CONTEST

Ramona High School students, under the direction of teacher Dacy Nottingham, receive third place and three Honorable Mention awards for their films in the statewide Directing Change Program and Film Contest.

FINE ARTS SPECTACULAR

Eight Riverside Virtual School students are selected as finalists in the Riverside County of Education Fine Arts Spectacular.

UCR ARTS EXHIBIT

Seven students from Miller Middle School, Poly High School, and Riverside Virtual School, showcase their work at the Storytelling Through Photography: Inland Empire Students Inspired by Christina Fernandez exhibit at the California Museum of Photography.

WATER DISTRICT ART SHOW

Miller Middle School 8th student Areej Alansari wins the Riverside Western Municipal Water District Art Showcase.

SUPPORT MUSIC MERIT AWARD

Ramona High School wins the National Association of Music Merchants 2023 Support Music Merit Award for outstanding support of music education.
RECOGNITION & AWARDS

JRAY THEATER AWARDS
Ramona High School students perform at the John Raitt Awards for Youth competition and two students receive scholarships.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR
Band teacher Christopher Watts earns Riverside STEM Academy’s “Teacher of the Year” award.

TEEN POET LAUREATE
Three RUSD students are selected as finalists in the Riverside County Office of Education Teen Poet Laureate Competition. Arlington High School junior Alissar Nahhas is selected as second runner-up.

LUCIE ARNAZ AWARDS
Poly High School wins Best Ensemble. Poly student Nicholas Flores is a finalist for Best Actor and Kayla McCarty from Ramona wins the LucieA Best Actress Award.

MAYOR’S ART CONTEST
Students from King, Ramona, and Riverside Virtual School earn top prizes in the 2023 Mayor's Art and Poetry Contest.
RECOGNITION & AWARDS

CHORAL FESTIVAL

Four choirs from North and Ramona High Schools receive Superior Ratings at the Southern California Vocal Association Choral Festival.

USA DANCE NATIONALS

The Arlington Dance Team wins a national title in Medium Lyrical and Small Lyrical at the Anaheim Convention Center.

YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS FESTIVAL

Poly High School student Xuan-Anh Ly Biggs wins the Palm Springs Young Playwrights Festival and has her play staged by professional actors at the Palm Springs Cultural Center.

WINTER GUARD CHAMPS

The North High School Blue Star Regiment Winter Guard earned a silver medal at the Winter Guard Association of Southern California Championship team competition.
ARTS CALENDAR

This calendar includes highlights from some of the many events that featured RUSD arts students and district-wide arts programs.

AUG

2 THEATER TEACHERS COLLABORATE
Secondary theater teachers meet to brainstorm district theater programs and plan events for the year.

8 NEW ARTS FUNDING IMPLEMENTATION
Implementation begins for the board-approved $1.5 million in additional one-time and ongoing arts funding from the Local Control Accountability Plan.

24 SOPRANO AND ALTO VOCAL DAY
Students from five high schools come together to celebrate and train soprano and alto voices.

31 TENOR AND BASS VOCAL DAY
Students from five high schools come together to celebrate and train tenor and bass voices.

SEP

8 HONORS MUSICAL REHEARSALS BEGIN
Auditioned students from across the district begin rehearsals for the Honors Musical: Chicago: Teen Edition.

28 GOLDEN BELL VALIDATION VISIT
A California School Board Association official visits the Honors Musical Program prior to making a final decision about statewide Golden Bell Awards.
ARTS CALENDAR

OCT

6  BOARD PERFORMANCE
Students from the Miller Middle School Advanced Band, under the direction of Susan Olsen, perform at the School Board meeting.

10  STRINGS PROGRAM EXPANDS
The elementary strings program expands to include fourth grade students at Jackson, Jefferson, and Mountain View Elementary Schools.

21  RIVERSIDE ARTS ACADEMY PERFORMANCE FIELD TRIP
Over 680 elementary students attend the RAA matinee gala performance at the Fox Performing Arts Center, featuring RUSD students alongside student and professional musicians from regional university and college partners.

21  RIVERSIDE ARTS ACADEMY 10TH ANNIVERSARY GALA
Eighty students from twelve RUSD schools perform in RAA's Youth Orchestra, Mariachi and Riverside Children's Choir ensembles at the Fox Performing Arts Center.

21 & 22  GHOSTWALK PERFORMANCES
Theater and dance students from King, North, and Poly High Schools perform at Riverside's Ghostwalk.

26  BAND EXTRAVAGANZA
Middle and high school bands and color guards showcase their ensembles in this annual district-wide event, with guest performers from the Riverside City College Marching Band.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>MASTERCLASS WITH GREG NABOURS</strong></td>
<td>Professional composer/lyricist and music director Greg Nabours delivers a workshop on the practical aspects of the audition process for the Honors Musical students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>ELEMENTARY MUSIC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY</strong></td>
<td>Elementary music teachers participate in a workshop with Dr. Katherine Hickey to support the general music program.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>LESTER OAKS TOURNAMENT</strong></td>
<td>RUSD bands compete in the annual Lester Oaks Tournament at Ramona High School.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>MASTERCLASS WITH YAEGEL WELCH</strong></td>
<td>Professional actor Yaegel T. Welch steps away from performances at the Pantages Theater to inspire Honors Musical students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td><strong>CINEMA CULTURAS FILM FESTIVAL</strong></td>
<td>RUSD students showcase short films, stories, and compositions in the Cinema Culturas International Storytelling and Film Competition at the UCR Arts Culver Center. Additionally, Music Project students premiere their performance with film/Netflix composer Dan Zlotnik.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td><strong>CITY OF RIVERSIDE VETERANS DAY CEREMONY</strong></td>
<td>At the invitation of the Mayor's Office, the STEM Academy Band performs in honor of Veterans Day at City Hall's rededication of the Military Wall of Honor, under the direction of Chris Watts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ARTS CALENDAR

17 BOARD PERFORMANCE
North High School Chamber Singers perform at the School Board meeting under the direction of Janie Hilland.

17 PORTRAIT PROJECT
Art students and teachers from Arlington, King, North, Poly, and Ramona High Schools collaborate to design and create a portrait to honor Mrs. Kathy Allavie and her seventeen years as an arts advocate on the school board.

1 GOLDEN BELL AWARD
The Honors Musical and Arts Experience receives a prestigious California School Boards Association Golden Bell Award.

6-14 ELEMENTARY MUSIC CLUSTER CONCERTS
Elementary music students perform, often alongside middle and high school students, in winter cluster concerts at multiple school sites.

8 RIVERSIDE ARTS ACADEMY MILITARY SALUTE
RUSD students perform as part of the RAA Military Salute in Downtown Riverside to honor a local military family.

9 RIVERSIDE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION TEEN POET LAUREATE
Arlington junior Alissar Nahhas, North junior Bibinaz Nami, and Poly junior Antonio Buan are recognized in the RCOE Teen Poet Laureate awards.
ARTS CALENDAR

13 & 17 RIVERSIDE ARTS ACADEMY WINTER CONCERTS
RUSD students perform in the RAA winter concerts at the Cesar Chavez Community Center.

14 NUESTRA NAVIDAD
RUSD students perform as part of the RAA Mariachi Juvenil de Riverside for community members and dignitaries at the Latino Network's Nuestra Navidad.

4 PROFESSIONAL MUSICIAN WORKSHOP
Honors Musical orchestra students participate in workshops with Riverside Philharmonic professional trumpet player David Etterbeek, professional violinist Alexander Knecht, and CSUSB professional saxophone player Edgar Melendez.

8-19 PROFESSIONAL PIANO WORKSHOPS
Professional musician Chris Wade performs alongside Honors Musical orchestra students.

10 NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS GRANT
RUSD wins a National Endowment for the Arts grant to research outcomes for students co-enrolled in the RUSD and Riverside Arts Academy music programs.
10 MASTERCLASS WITH ALIX KOREY
Broadway actress Alix Korey delivers a workshop for the Honors Musical students, sharing her experiences in the Broadway cast of Chicago.

18 LIVE TECH AT THE FOX
In partnership with the Fox Foundation, Live Nation, and the RUSD Career and Technical Education Department, 31 students from King High School participate in hands-on job training in lighting, sound, and staging with the crew at the Fox Performing Arts Center.

18&19 PROFESSIONAL MUSICIAN WORKSHOPS
Honors Musical orchestra students prepare for the upcoming show in two workshops with professional banjo player Emily Barrett, CSUSB professional pianist Alastair Edmonstone, professional trumpet player David Etterbeek, professional violinist Alexander Knecht, CSUSB professional saxophone player Edgar Melendez, and professional pianist Chris Wade.

20 HONORS MUSICAL: CHICAGO TEEN EDITION - STUDENT PERFORMANCE
1,455 high school students attend the student performance of Chicago: Teen Edition at the Fox Performing Arts Center.

20 HONORS MUSICAL: CHICAGO TEEN EDITION - COMMUNITY PERFORMANCE
Selected high school students from across the district perform as the cast, crew, and orchestra in the Honors Musical at the Fox Performing Arts Center.
ARTS CALENDAR

**JAN**

**23**  **RIVERSIDE COUNTY OF EDUCATION PROPOSITION 28 BOOTCAMP**
RUSD administrators attend this county-wide convening to discuss planning and implementation for Proposition 28.

**27**  **MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR FESTIVAL**
Middle schools showcase their top choirs at the Middle School Choir Festival, then join the High School Masterwork ensemble under the direction of Occidental College conductor Desiree La Vertu, and professional musicians.

**FEB**

**3**  **MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR BAND**
Select middle school band students perform as part of an elite middle school ensemble, under the direction of Chris Watts.

**3**  **HIGH SCHOOL HONOR BAND**
Selected high school students rehearse and perform under the direction of Riverside City College conductor Kevin Mayse.

**11**  **THEATRE FEST**
200 high school theater students compete in theatrical categories for a panel of judges.
AR T S CA L E N DA R

MAR

3 FINE ARTS SPECTACULAR
Eight Riverside Virtual School students are selected as finalists in the Riverside County Office of Education Fine Arts Spectacular, with Noah Wilson and April Conley receiving special distinctions.

7 & 8 LIVE TECH AT THE FOX
In partnership with the Fox Foundation, Live Nation, and the RUSD Career and Technical Education Department, 101 students from North, Poly, and Ramona High Schools participate in hands-on job training in lighting, sound, and staging with the stage crew at the Fox Performing Arts Center.

13 RIVERSIDE EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT FOUNDATION BEST EVENT EVER
Elementary, middle, and high school student ensembles perform at the Riverside Educational Enrichment Foundation’s Best Event Ever at the Fox Performing Arts Center.

15 & 16 BAND AND ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL
Elementary, middle, and high school bands and orchestras perform at this annual festival at the Riverside City College Coil School for the Arts.

16 SCHOOL BOARD PERFORMANCE
Students of the Honors Musical, under the direction of Michelle Grotness, perform at the school board meeting.
ARTS CALENDAR

**MAR**

27  **PROPOSITION 28 ELEMENTARY MEETING**
Elementary teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community partners meet at the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art and Culture to plan the implementation of Proposition 28 funds at the elementary level.

30  **PROPOSITION 28 SECONDARY MEETING**
Secondary teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community partners collaborate at the UCR Arts Culver Center to provide input on the implementation of Proposition 28 funds for secondary arts programs.

**APR**

3  **DANCE TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY**
Secondary dance teachers attend a workshop with professional dancer Cyrian Reed of the University of California Irvine to discuss aspects of building robust dance programs.

5  **MUSIC TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY**
Music teachers participate in a hands-on choral conducting workshop with Dr. Jacob Sustaita, Assistant Conductor of the Pacific Symphony, and collaborate on alignment across grade levels.

8 - 21  **HIGH SCHOOL ART SHOW**
High school students from every school in the district showcase art work in the second annual High School Art Show.
ARTS CALENDAR

10 PROPOSITION 28 ELEMENTARY MEETING
Elementary teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community partners meet at the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art and Culture to provide additional input for planning elementary arts programs with Proposition 28 funds.

11-14 EMPOWER YOU EDUTAINMENT WORKSHOPS
Empower You Edutainment provides workshops at Beatty, Mountain View, and Twain Elementary Schools.

13 PIANO TEACHERS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY
Piano teachers participate in a workshop with Dr. Sonya Schumann of San Diego State University, to enhance beginning through advanced piano instruction, and collaborate on piano techniques.

13 PROPOSITION 28 SECONDARY MEETING
Secondary teachers, administrators, parents, students and community partners convene at the UCR Arts Culver Center to provide additional feedback on how to implement Proposition 28 funds for secondary arts programs.

17 HONORS ARTS EXPERIENCE PERFORMANCE
Students from the Honors Arts Experience programs in Composition and Vocal Performance, led by Dr. Jordan Nelson, Spenser Kalnin, and Patricia Scarborough, perform at the UCR Arts Culver Center.
ARTS CALENDAR

APR

17 & 18 CREATE CA ARTS AND CULTURE SUMMIT
Arts advocates, policy makers, educators, and others from across the state convene in Sacramento to prioritize arts, culture, and creativity as crucial drivers for California’s economic health and community vitality.

17 - MAY 8 VIRTUAL CHALK FESTIVAL
Students at 20 elementary school sites participate in the Elementary Chalk Festival by creating chalk art on the theme of "music" at their schools and sharing their work in a virtual showcase.

18 - MAY 4 ELEMENTARY MUSIC SPRING PERFORMANCES
Elementary music students perform in concerts, often alongside middle and high school ensembles, at multiple school sites.

19 VISUAL ARTS TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY
Visual arts teachers join together for a workshop with muralist Darren Villegas and Riverside County Office of Education Arts Administrator Louisa Higgins.

21 GUITAR TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY
Middle school guitar teachers develop teaching strategies with professional guitarist Bob Scarano from the University of California Riverside.
ARTS CALENDAR

**APR**

21 & 22 **COUNTRY HONOR BAND CONCERT**
Select RUSD high school students participate in county-wide Honor Band rehearsals and a performance at the Riverside City College Coil Center for the Arts with guest conductor Dr. Gregory X. Whitmore.

28 **CHALK DAY**
Over 300 secondary students create artwork in downtown Riverside with student teams from Central, King, Poly, and Riverside STEM Academy taking top prizes.

28 & 29 **RIVERSIDE ARTS ACADEMY SPRING PERFORMANCES**
RUSD students perform in the RAA Spring Performances at the Cesar Chavez Community Center.

**MAY**

3 **BROADWAY MASTERCLASS**
In partnership with the Fox Riverside Foundation and the American Theatre Guild, two performers from the professional production of *Anastasia* at the Fox Performing Arts Center coach approximately 50 students from North, Poly, Ramona, and Riverside Virtual High Schools.

4 **MIDDLE SCHOOL ART SHOW**
Each middle school showcases visual arts students at the 8th Annual Middle School Art Show, a collaboration between RUSD and the Riverside Arts Museum.
ARTS CALENDAR

MAY

6 COUNTY HONOR CHOIR

Select RUSD high school choir students participate in county-wide Honor Choir workshops and a performance, with guest director Dr. Kellori Dower.

8 THEATER TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Theater teachers join together for a workshop with Frank Mihelich, Artistic Director of New Threads Theatre Company, and Riverside County Office of Education Arts Administrator Louisa Higgins.

8-15 CINEMA CULTURAS WORKSHOPS

Cinema Culturas offers "Creativity Lab: Tell Your Story Through Words, Music and Film" workshops to elementary students using visual storytelling techniques to create short films in Spanish and English.

11 CHOIR TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Choir teachers hone their conducting techniques in workshops with Dr. Christopher Peterson, California State University Fullerton, and Jeanette McMahon and Caran Holland, both from the Santa Ana Unified School District.

22 MAYOR'S ART & POETRY AWARDS

RUSD students participate in this citywide contest, and students from King, Ramona, and Riverside Virtual School take prizes in visual art and poetry.
MAY

22 PROPOSITION 28 LAUNCH
RUSD Arts Specialist Annemarie Guzy attends the State's Proposition 28 Launch Event with State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, Proposition 28 author Austin Beutner, celebrity Jason Alexander, and other arts leaders from across the state at the Music Center in downtown Los Angeles.

JUN

1-30 ARTS TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Arts teachers participate in individualized professional development to focus on artistry and arts education best practices. One-on-one coaching sessions include training in dance fundamentals, strings pedagogy, band conducting techniques, marching band style, strengthening the reflection and critique aspects of arts lesson planning, mural techniques, and theatrical production skills.

4 LUCIE ARNAZ AWARDS
Students from North, Poly, and Ramona high school theater programs compete in the categories "Outstanding Musical", "Outstanding Choreography", and "Outstanding Ensemble" in this annual competition for Inland Empire high school theater. Ramona student Kayla McCarty wins the LucieA Best Actress award and moves on to compete in the Jimmy Awards® in New York City.

5 A TREE WITHOUT ROOTS
Empower You Edutainment presents a virtual performance showcasing students from across the district at the Civil Rights Institute Inland Southern California.
JUN

6 STUDENT MURALISTS
RUSD high school students and teachers collaborate with artist Tysen Knight to paint a mural on the Riverside County Office of Education building in downtown Riverside.

9 NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS MEETING
RUSD Arts Specialist is invited to join a select group of National Endowment of the Arts grantees in Southern California for a special meeting with NEA Research and Analysis Director Dr. Sunil Iyengar and world-renowned opera singer Renée Fleming.

19 STRINGS PEDAGOGY WORKSHOP
Strings teachers join Dr. Lucy Lewis from California State University San Bernardino in a workshop to develop strings teaching techniques.

27 THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL THEATRE AWARDS® (THE JIMMY AWARDS®)
Ramona sophomore Kayla McCarty is one of only 96 high school students from across the country selected to participate in a week-long workshop at the Juilliard School in New York with Broadway professionals and a Broadway stage debut at the Minskoff Theatre.
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

RUSD Arts is proud to be an active part of the City of Arts and Innovation. Partnerships with community arts organizations, college and university arts faculty, and professional artists, elevate our arts programs and extend access to more students. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of all our community partners, including:

AMERICAN THEATRE GUILD
CALIFORNIA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY, MUSIC
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO, MUSIC
CHEECH MARIN CENTER FOR CHICANO ART & CULTURE
CINEMA CULTURAS
CITY OF RIVERSIDE, ARTS & CULTURE
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RIVERSIDE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ARTS & CULTURE DAY
RIVERSIDE CITY COLLEGE, MUSIC
RIVERSIDE CITY COLLEGE, VISUAL ARTS
RIVERSIDE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION, ARTS
RIVERSIDE EDUCATIONAL ENRICHMENT FOUNDATION
RIVERSIDE FILM FESTIVAL
RIVERSIDE FOX FOUNDATION
RIVERSIDE PHILHARMONIC
RIVERSIDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION
UCR ARTS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE
1. Ms. Malaver-Almeida’s 3rd grade class at Magnolia Elementary share their chalk art “Music is a Language.”

2. Students in Ms. Carrillo’s 5th grade class at Beatty Elementary have fun with their piece “Music through my Headphones.”


4. “Geometric Music” by 11th grade students from Poly High School.

5. Members of the Chalk Day Team take a quick picture after students collect supplies and begin working on their chalk art.
GALLERY

Arts teachers spend a day collaborating and developing their craft in a series of professional development days.

1. Theater teachers work with actor and director Frank Mihelich.
2. Dance teacher Callie Neal studies with professional dancer Cyrian Reed.
3. Instrumental music teachers develop conducting techniques with Dr. Jacob Sustaita of the Pacific Symphony.
4. Guitar teachers learn guitar techniques with professional guitarist Bob Scarano.
5. Choir teachers rehearse with Dr. Christopher Peterson, professor at California State Fullerton.
7. Piano teachers learn teaching strategies with Dr. Sonya Schumann from San Diego State University.
GALLERY

The Golden Bell award winning program Honors Musical Chicago: Teen Edition opens to a packed house at the Fox Performing Arts Center.


2. North student Emma Jackson performs as Roxie Hart.

3. Poly student Bryce Broadhurst entertains as Billy Flynn.

4. Poly student Xuan-Anh Ly Biggs dances the Cell Block Tango.

5. Members of the cast razzle dazzle the packed house.
GALLERY

Additional photos from our district and community events.

1. Students smile on the red carpet at the Cinema Culturas Film Festival.

2. Artwork by Central Middle School student Quinlan Gunty, one of the winners of the Middle School Art Show at the Riverside Art Museum.

3. Chris Watts leads the STEM Academy Band in a Veterans Day performance.

4. The Riverside Arts Academy's Riverside Children's Choir performs at the Culver Center.

5. Annemarie Guzy leads a planning session at a Proposition 28 Secondary Working Group meeting.

1. Honors Musical students take part in a masterclass with Broadway actress Alix Korey.

2. RUSD students paint murals at the Riverside County Office of Education.

3. Ramona student Kayla McCarty wins Best Actress at the Lucie Arnaz Awards.

4. Bryant, Magnolia, and Pachappa students perform in the Central Winter Cluster Concert.

5. Riverside Virtual School student Noah Wilson and teacher Lisette Bourne receive awards at the Riverside County Fine Arts Spectacular.

6. Riverside Virtual School student Andrea Gomez receives an award for her work in the “Storytelling Through Photography” exhibit at the Culver Center of the Arts.
RUSD ARTS LEADERSHIP & TEACHERS

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Dr. Angelo Farooq, President
Mr. Dale Kinnear, Vice President
Mr. Tom Hunt, Clerk
Dr. Noemi Hernandez Alexander, Member
Mr. Brent Lee, Member

DISTRICT
Ms. Renee Hill, District Superintendent
Dr. Daniel Sosa, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Jennifer De Anda, Director of Elementary
Dr. Jamie Angulo, Director of Secondary
Dr. Steve Kong, Director of Curriculum and Assessment

RUSD ARTS
Annemarie Guzy, Arts Specialist
Alejandra Garcia, Arts Administrative Assistant
Molly Brooke Becker, Certificated Site Support: Arts
Kathy Allavie, Arts Team Volunteer

ELEMENTARY MUSIC
Brian Beukelman, Band, General Music
Michael Collins, Band, General Music
Krystin Cowan, Band, Strings, General Music
Erron Garrett, Band, General Music
Shane Hughes (long-term sub), Band, General Music
Jennifer Jackson, Band, General Music
Andrew Jones, Band, General Music
Spenser Kalnin, Band, Strings, General Music
Simon Morris, Band, Strings, General Music
Dan Nguyen, Band, General Music
Stephanie Rittenhouse, Band, General Music
Janet Terry (long-term sub), Band, General Music
Everardo Trujillo, Band, Strings, General Music
Chris Watts, Band, General Music
Gail Watts, Band, Strings, General Music

CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL
Alexandrea Girard, Visual Art
Christopher MarkerMorse, Theater
Julie Olson, Piano, Guitar, Band
Elizabeth Wickham, Choir

CHEMAWA MIDDLE SCHOOL
Stevan Moreno, Visual Art
Timothy Rizzi, Band

EARHART MIDDLE SCHOOL
Warren Baker, Visual Art
Melissa Wilson, Band, Guitar, Choir

GAGE MIDDLE SCHOOL
James Bozek, Visual Art
Megan Brown-Gomez, Theater
Aaron Guzman, Piano, Band, Orchestra
Elizabeth Wickham, Choir

MILLER MIDDLE SCHOOL
Amanda Bates, Visual Art
Susan Olsen, Band
Elizabeth Wickham, Choir

SIERRA MIDDLE SCHOOL
Jessica Pradetto, Piano, Band
Sarah Cherry, Visual Art

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS MIDDLE SCHOOL
Holly Caouette, Visual Art
Pamela Jones, Band, Guitar, Choir

RIVERSIDE STEM ACADEMY
Apryl West, Theater
Chris Watts, Band
ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
Lisa Battin, Dance
Chelsea Bishop, Theater
Gary Drysol, Technical Theater
Diego Jauregui, Visual Art
Fernando Muñoz, Choir
April Patrick, Band
Molly Puzo, Ceramics
Crystal Schreck, Media Art
Jennifer Thomas, Visual Art
Selena Wilson, Visual Art and Ceramics

POLY HIGH SCHOOL
Sara Beckman, Visual Art
Hugo Bocanegra, Visual Art
John Enyeart, Media Tech
Noal Garrett, Visual Art
Arwen Hernandez, Band
Sidney Llera, Media Art
Christopher MarkerMorse, Theater
Callie Neal, Dance
Jennifer Nguyen, Music Technology
Kristen Walton, Choir
Andrea Williams, Ceramics

KING HIGH SCHOOL
Sarah Amarin-Cruz, Visual Art
Jennifer Brinkle, Dance
Christopher Eldred, Band
Melissa Fralin, Visual Art
Jamal Gerren, Media Art
Joyce Hatzidakis, Visual Art
Rebekah Knauer, Choir
Sean Roll, Ceramics
Jordon Smith, Technical Theater
Katherine Williams, Theater

RAMONA HIGH SCHOOL
Sean Banister, Visual Art
Ronda Barnes, Piano
Dacy Nottingham, Video Production
Brian Gallagher, Band, Mariachi
Zachary Lewis (long-term sub), Visual Arts
Melissa Manzo Townsend, Dance
Jessica McCarty, Theater
Brett Mosher, Ceramics
Jennifer Phillips, Choir
Arthold Williams, Ceramics, Visual Art

NORTH HIGH SCHOOL
Anna Hightower, Theater
Janie Hilland, Choir
Peter Jackson, Band
Adam Maron, Ceramics
Skylar Nolen, Visual Art
Christine Schive, Dance

RIVERSIDE VIRTUAL SCHOOL
Renee Brandenburg, Visual Art
Lisette Bourne, Visual Art
Jasmin Mueting, Dance
Leesa Rankins, Theater
RUSD ARTS LEADERSHIP & TEACHERS

SPECIAL PROJECTS
Kristen Bristow - Elementary Music
John Enyeart - Video Editing
Brian Gallagher - Districtwide Instrumental Music Festivals
Michelle Grotness - Honors Musical
Joyce Hatzidakis - Chalk Day
Anna Hightower - Honors Musical
Janie Hilland - Masterwork, Honors Musical
Spenser Kalnin - Honors Arts Experience, Composition Workshops
Rebekah Knauer - Masterwork
Adam Maron - High School Art Show
Brett Mosher - High School Art Show
Fernando Muñoz - Masterwork
Dacy Nottingham - Video Editing
Jennifer Phillips - Masterwork
Patricia Scarborough - Honors Arts Experience
Janet Terry - Elementary Music
Kristin Walton - Masterwork

Special thanks to the many RUSD departments and individuals who assist in supporting our arts programs, especially:

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Susan Kelly, Budget Technician II
Heather Kerr, Administrative Secretary II
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Eli Muñoz, Head Custodian
Liam Ogawa, Media Production Technician
Ivan Santiago De La Rosa, Digital Copy Operator

Special recognition to Gregory Thomas, who retired after 24 years of service as an arts teacher at RUSD
Alejandra Garcia, Arts Administrative Assistant, joined the Arts team in January 2023. The first week on the job, she assisted with the Honors Musical and has since provided assistance with over 30 district-wide projects. Within the first six weeks, she also procured 28 contracts and more than 60 purchase requisitions for 574 new instruments, 248 chalk kits, and other supplies. Alejandra has a degree in journalism and brings her expertise in graphic design to the Arts Team.

Molly Brooke Becker serves as the Arts Team Certificated Site Support: TK-12 Arts. Since joining the team in January, Molly has supported 85 arts teachers, fostered relationships with 63 community partners, planned 7 professional development days for teachers, and supported 262 arts events and programs. Prior to this role, Molly shared her love of the natural world as a science educator for elementary through adult students.

Annemarie Guzy is the Visual and Performing Arts Specialist, responsible for planning and implementing the RUSD Arts Plan. During the 2022-23 school year, she oversaw 470 district-wide events and 71 projects, managed 164 community partnerships, and supported arts education for 31,539 students. Annemarie brings her experience at the Baltimore, City of Birmingham, and the Seattle Symphonies. She is also a classically trained pianist with a Master of Music from the New England Conservatory.

Kathy Allavie joined the RUSD Arts Team as a volunteer to focus on Visual Arts. In 2023 alone she coordinated the 77-piece High School Art Show, the 500-piece Middle School Art Show, and RUSD’s participation in the Mayor’s Art and Poetry Contest. She also made it possible for over 300 secondary students to create public art in downtown Riverside for Chalk Day. Prior to this role, Kathy served as an RUSD Board Member for 17 years and is a celebrated arts activist in the Riverside community.
ARTWORK CREDITS

Cover, Pages 16-30: Daisy Olivarez, Chemawa Middle School, 8th grade. *Untitled*. Middle School Art Show. April 2023.


Table of Contents: Sophia Burr, 10th grade; Alyssa Lee, 10th grade; and Sarah Tuska, 10th grade; King High School. *French Horn with Flowers*. Chalk Day. April 2023.


Page 3: Neha Koganti, 10th grade; Aubrey Olsen, 10th grade; and Kelcey Tamayor, 10th grade; King High School. Whitney Houston. Chalk Day. April 2023.


Page 13: Tommi Abueg, 12th grade; Michael Lopez, 12th grade; Darla Salazar, 12th grade; Alan Sampel, 12th grade; and teacher Dacy Nottingham, Ramona High School. *Silenced*. Directing Change Program and Film Contest. May 2023.


ARTWORK CREDITS

Page 13: Areej Alansari, 8th grade, Miller Middle School. Water is Life. Western Municipal Water District "Water is Life" art contest. March 2023.


Page 35: Quinlan Gunty, 8th grade, Central Middle School. Untitled. Middle School Art Show. April 2023.
