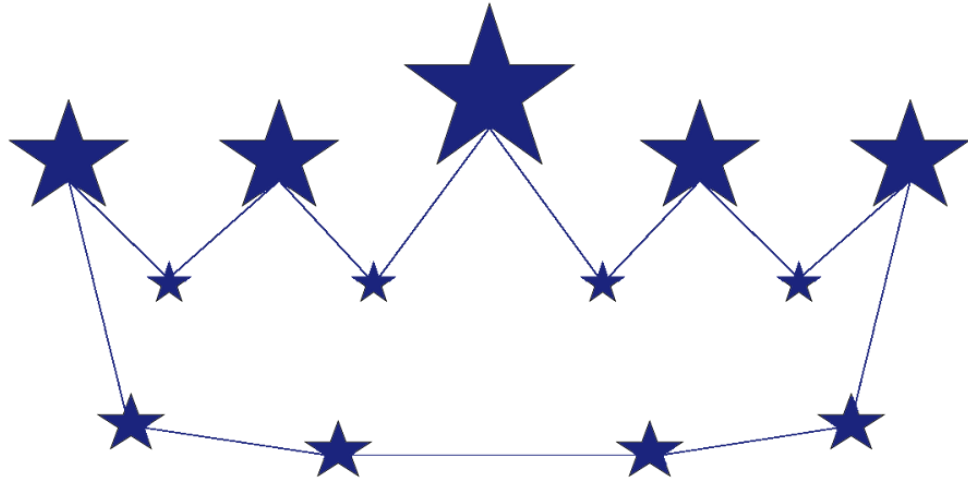




A Constellation of Creativity

Kings County Office of Education's Strategic Arts Plan

2025-2030



“Education in the Arts is an integral part of the curriculum for students in Kings County. From our preschools to our adult programs, artistic engagement impacts students’ broader course of study by providing avenues for individual expression and opportunities for deep interpretation. Art, in all its forms, is one of the most human experiences we can have. It is the embodiment of experiences we all want for every student. Whether it is the product of mindful consideration or wild imagination, it is a window to a widened appreciation of our world. What an exciting responsibility it is to foster such appreciation in our students.”

*-Todd Barlow
Kings County Superintendent of Schools*



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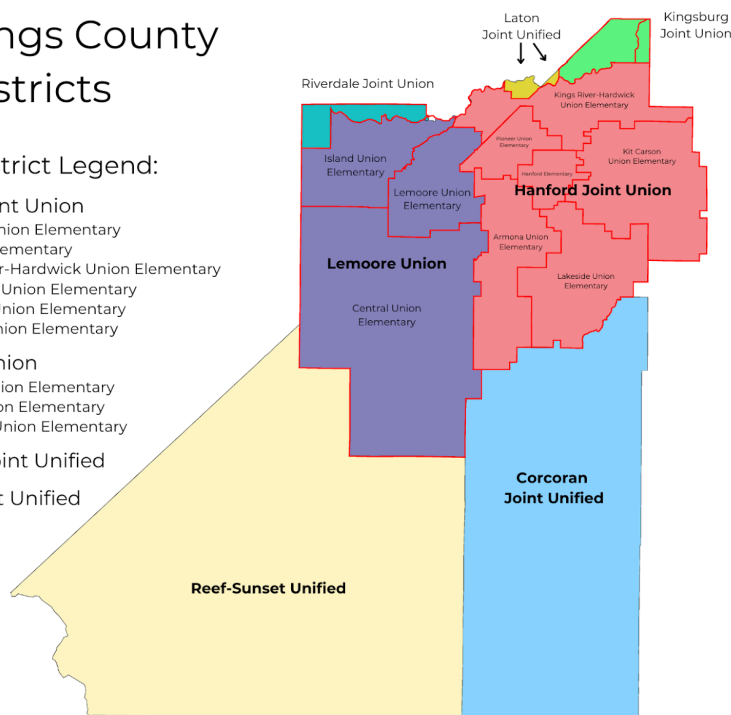
Introduction

Located in the heart of California's Central Valley, Kings County serves as an educational resource for approximately 30,000 students. 74% of that total student body identifies as Hispanic, 17% identify as White, 5% African American/Black, and 2.8 % American Indian. Encompassing thirteen school districts, the community prides itself on the inclusive and diverse nature of its makeup: from housing the U.S. Navy's largest master jet base just down the road from the home of the Tachi Yokut Tribe, to ranking in the top ten agriculture communities in the state, Kings County prides itself on the unique nature of its land and people. With rich cultural diversity comes opportunity for self-expression through various arts, something the Strategic Arts Planning Committee hopes to fuel from a glimmer to a radiant light within schools in the county. The purpose of this plan is to constellate how those stars will align to bring the picture of arts education's future into clarity over the next five years.

Map of Kings County School Districts

High School District Legend:

- Hanford Joint Union
 - Armona Union Elementary
 - Hanford Elementary
 - Kings River-Hardwick Union Elementary
 - Kit Carson Union Elementary
 - Lakeside Union Elementary
 - Pioneer Union Elementary
- Lemoore Union
 - Central Union Elementary
 - Island Union Elementary
 - Lemoore Union Elementary
- Corcoran Joint Unified
- Reef-Sunset Unified



Illuminating the Future: A Five-Year Strategic Arts Plan for Kings County

Kings County is home to a diverse constellation of students, educators, and communities, all interconnected like stars in the night sky. Serving approximately 30,000 students across thirteen school districts, our county reflects a rich cultural tapestry.

Kings County's landscape is equally diverse, from the proud heritage of the Tachi Yokut Tribe to the towering presence of the U.S. Navy's largest master jet base, all set against the vast fields that make this region one of California's top ten agricultural producers. This unique blend of history, industry, and culture creates endless opportunities for self-expression through the arts—opportunities that this Strategic Arts Plan seeks to ignite and expand.

Over the next five years, we aim to transform a glimmer of artistic potential into a radiant beacon within our schools. This plan serves as our guiding map, aligning the individual stars of talent, resources, and vision into a constellation of creativity that will shape the future of arts education in Kings County.

“Creativity and appreciation for the arts is important for all students to have a well-rounded education, exposing them to new ideas and perspectives. Arts education boosts school attendance, academic achievement, and college attendance rates; improves school climate; and promotes higher self-esteem and social-emotional development.”

*-Tony Thurmond
California State Superintendent of Public Instruction*



California *Education Code* and Arts Education

Education Code Section 51210

The adopted course of study for grades 1 to 6, inclusive, shall include instruction, beginning in grade 1 and continuing through grade 6, in the following areas of study...(e) Visual and performing arts, including instruction in the subjects of dance, music, theater, and visual arts, aimed at the development of aesthetic appreciation and the skills of creative expression.

Education Code Section 51220

The adopted course of study for grades 7 to 12, inclusive, shall offer courses in the following areas of study:...(g) Visual and performing arts, including dance, music, theater, and visual arts, with emphasis upon development of aesthetic appreciation and the skills of creative expression.

The Five Arts Disciplines

Discipline	Description
Dance	Dance is the expression of ideas and emotions through purposeful movement and performance, using the body as an instrument of communication and storytelling.
Media Arts	Media Arts involves creating, producing, and responding to digital and multimedia content, blending technology with artistic intention.
Music	Music is the art of organizing sound to express ideas and emotions, encompassing performance, composition, and critical response.
Theatre	Theatre is the live enactment of stories, ideas, and experiences through acting, directing, and designing, fostering empathy and reflection.
Visual Arts	Visual Arts is the creation and interpretation of images and objects through various mediums to explore and communicate personal and cultural meaning.



Strategic Directions and Core Values

Strategic Direction 1 – Empowering and Enriching Students Through the Arts

Core Value 1 – Equity and Access for All: *We believe all students, regardless of their background, abilities, or location deserve a standards-based arts education*

Core Value 2 – Representation of All: *We believe all students deserve to see themselves and their diverse identities honored in and through the arts*

Core Value 3 – Well-Being for All: *We believe the arts support and benefit students' mental and physical health as well as social-emotional growth*

Strategic Direction 2 – Cultivating a Lifelong Appreciation of the Arts

Core Value 4 – College, Career, and Lifelong Learning: *We believe artistic literacy and creative expression prepare students for college, careers, and life beyond the classroom*

Core Value 5 – Community Collaboration: *We believe cross-sector partnerships with local artists, organizations, and industries enhance and improve student engagement*

Strategic Direction 3 – Strengthening the Structure of Arts Education

Core Value 6 – Educator Evolution: *We believe educators can transform student learning through integration and advancements in arts education*

Core Value 7 – Sustainable Support: *We believe increased channels of communication with districts and sites will strengthen arts education programming*

Strategic Direction 4 – Shifting Mindsets Around the Arts

Core Value 8 – Cultural and Historical Exploration Through the Arts: *We believe the arts are a vessel for acknowledging and honoring the diversity of Kings County*

Core Value 9 – Advocacy and Awareness: *We believe awareness of the impact of arts education empowers families and communities*



Strategic Direction 1: Empowering and Enriching Students Through the Arts

Core Value 1 – Equity and Access for All – We believe all students, regardless of their background, abilities, or location deserve a standards-based arts education

Goal 1a: Guide schools and districts toward ensuring all PK-12 students receive a comprehensive high-quality arts education

Action Steps:

- Conduct a countywide audit to assess current arts education programs and identify gaps
- Consult with schools and districts on how to leverage funding and resources for the arts
- Support districts in developing Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) goals that prioritize arts education

Goal 1b: Address arts inclusivity for all student populations, including unduplicated pupils and at-risk students

Action Steps:

- Create and facilitate countywide student art competitions encompassing the five arts disciplines
- Collaborate with other County Office departments and programs to ensure arts opportunities are equitable and accessible
- Develop multilingual promotional materials to reach diverse student populations and community groups



Core Value 2 – Representation of All – We believe all students deserve to see themselves and their diverse identities honored in and through the arts

Goal 2a: Amplify student voice, creativity, and innovation within arts education

Action Steps:

- Encourage schools to develop student-curated arts showcases
- Develop inclusive and representative arts programming

Core Value 3 – Well-Being for All – We believe the arts support and benefit students' mental and physical health as well as social-emotional growth

Goal 3a: Educate on the significance and impact of the arts on balancing students' equilibrium and well-being

Action Steps:

- Support and facilitation of SEL at sites in and through the arts
- Assist in identifying benefits and connections between integrated arts education and student growth



Strategic Direction 2: Cultivating a Lifelong Appreciation of the Arts

Core Value 4 – College, Careers, and Lifelong Learning – We believe artistic literacy and creative expression prepare students for college, careers, and life beyond the classroom

Goal 4a: Increase awareness of arts career pathways among students and school communities

Action Steps:

- Host an annual Student Arts Industry Expo that includes hands-on workshops in all five arts disciplines
- Collaborate with colleges and trade schools to showcase arts-related degrees and programs
- Establish a Career in the Arts speaker series that features professionals from various industries
- Launch countywide campaign highlighting students success stories in the arts through social media, newsletters, and class visits

Goal 4b: Prepare students for arts careers with resources and support

Action Steps:

- Create a digital resource hub that highlights arts career pathways, job outlooks, required skills, scholarship and grant information, and college Arts programs
- Advocate for school-to-career pipelines in arts industries by informing students of potential employment opportunities
- Provide training and professional development for school counselors on arts-related careers and college programs
- Offer work-based learning opportunities where students can learn from professional artists and industry experts (both in-person and virtual)



Core Value 5 – Community Collaboration – We believe cross-sector partnerships with local artists, organizations, and industries enhance and improve student engagement

Goal 5a: Strengthen student and community engagement through events and performances

Action Steps:

- Organize countywide competitions to encourage artistic excellence and celebrate student achievements
- Collaborate with local businesses and venues to display student artwork and host performances
- Host a Family Arts Festival featuring interactive workshops and celebrations of the arts disciplines
- Use social media to amplify stories that connect arts education to broader community interests

Goal 5b: Expand arts education communication beyond the arts community

Action Steps:

- Evolve the countywide arts education newsletter to share updates with all community partners, not just arts organizations
- Partner with local media outlets to highlight arts programs, student achievements, and upcoming events
- Create a communication page promoting all upcoming arts events among the schools



Strategic Direction 3: Strengthening the Structure of Arts Education

Core Value 6 – Educator Evolution – We believe educators can transform student learning through integration and advancements in arts education

Goal 6a: Offer professional development opportunities for educators to enhance understanding and create connections with one another

Action Steps:

- Create an Arts Education Network to support educators and administrators on best practices for standards-based arts education
- Hold Communities of Practice around inclusion of all learners, including unduplicated pupils and at-risk students
- Collaborate with other county office departments and programs to lead professional development opportunities

Goal 6b: Support educators with implementation of the California Arts Standards for Public Schools (2019)

Action Steps:

- Facilitate professional development opportunities that focus on discrete and integrated standards-based arts instruction
- Develop standards-based cross-curricular arts integration lesson plans
- Partner with districts to pilot and showcase successful standards-based classroom models



Core Value 7 – Sustainable Support – We believe increased channels of communication with districts and sites will strengthen arts education programming

Goal 7a: Provide ongoing site and district support to advance high-quality arts teaching and learning

Action Steps:

- Establish a full-time arts education consultant to support districts and coordinate countywide arts events
- Support and coach local educators and district leaders on arts education best practices through ongoing conversations such as quarterly check-ins
- Provide administrators with data-driven reports showing the academic and social benefits of arts education
- Participate in county, regional, and statewide arts educational convenings to build internal capacity to support local districts

Goal 7b: Advocate for district budget allocations that ensure sustained arts funding

Action Steps:

- Provide guidance on how to leverage state and federal arts funding, such as Prop 28 funds
- Assist districts with identifying grants by creating a database housed in the Arts Education Digital Resource Hub



Strategic Direction 4: Shifting Mindsets Around the Arts

Core Value 8 – Cultural and Historical Representation Through the Arts – We believe the arts are a vessel for acknowledging and honoring the diversity of Kings County

Goal 8a: Develop and lead a culturally representative family arts festival that honors the diversity and historical narratives through inclusive and engaging artistic experiences

Action Steps:

- Establish an ongoing relationship with the Kings Arts Center and Kings Arts Council to properly support and represent the county's diversity
- Gather feedback and input from community members to ensure all cultures are acknowledged and all stories are authentically represented and heard
- Host a Family Arts Festival showcasing student performances, visual arts, and interactive workshops

Core Value 9 – Advocacy and Awareness – We believe increasing awareness of the impact of arts education empowers families and communities

Goal 9a: Use storytelling to honor the importance and impact of arts education

Action Steps:

- Develop arts leadership programs where secondary students advocate for the importance of arts education
- Spotlight current and former student success stories through social media, newsletters, and class visits
- Highlight and share family and student stories to celebrate the impact of arts education



Goal 9b: Connect and partner with families to expand and nurture arts education

Action Steps:

- Provide resources to increase families' understanding of arts education
- Offer complimentary family arts engagement workshops and events to encourage creative experiences at home

Goal 9c: Increase community advocacy and awareness of arts education's impact

Action Steps:

- Establish Kings County Arts Now community in partnership with local arts organizations, businesses, and nonprofits
- Partner with Arts Now community to develop local arts opportunities for student engagement such as murals, competitions, and Art Hop



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