



Media Contacts:

Toni Robin

tr@trprsandiego.com 858.483.3918

Sibyl O'Malley

California Alliance for Arts Education

sibyl@artsed411.org 213.713.6885

Your Voice. Your Vision. Your School.
STUDENT VOICES CAMPAIGN LETS STUDENTS SPEAK
20 Students Selected as Finalists from 7 California Counties

What if you could create change by making a video? That was the question proposed to school students (grades 7-12) across California in the recent 3rd annual STUDENT VOICES CAMPAIGN, presented by the California Alliance for Arts Education. The campaign empowered students to make videos that communicate what matters to them and share them with their local school board. Hundreds of students representing 7 California counties participated by submitting their vision ranging from the need for arts education, updated computers, and bathrooms for trans and non-binary gendered students.

SAMPLE STUDENT SUBMISSION and SCHOOL BOARD RESPONSE

"This is a video that shows why we need gender-neutral restrooms at our schools for trans and non-binary students in our district. There are many trans and non-binary students in our district who do not feel comfortable in gendered restrooms. This means many of these students don't go to the restroom during school even when they need to." Student, Lincoln High School, San Jose Unified School District

"Your case is compelling and I am impressed that you took the time to create a persuasive and professional video to make your case. I am going to look into our district's current restroom policy and see if we need to update it. I agree that every student should feel safe at school and the only concern should be learning. I will follow up with your group in a day or two so we can review together what exists and what should be." School Board Member, Susan Ellenberg, San Jose Unified School District

Submissions were selected as finalist by an esteemed panel of judges including Game of Thrones director, Jack Bender, TV Actor Jason Ritter, California Arts Council member, Louise McGuinness as well as students from Oakland and Los Angeles.

Watch Message: Trans, Non-binary Bathrooms:

<http://studentvoicescampaign.org/post/142531608810/trans-and-non-binary-message-lincoln-high-school>

Student Voices Summit & Screening

The awards will be presented in a special ceremony held in San Francisco, **Saturday, April 30, 12:30 pm - 5:00 pm**. For information on attending the **Student Voices Summit & Screening**, San Francisco Art Institute, 800 Chestnut Street, (*Screening of Student Videos at 4 pm*), please contact Sibyl O'Malley, California Alliance for Arts Education, sibyl@artsed411.org, 626.578.9315 ext.102

<http://studentvoicescampaign.org/Summit%20&%20Screening>

MEDIA ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

Students were asked to answer in two minutes or less:

- *What is your vision for your school?*
- *What ignites your creativity, imagination and passion?*
- *What can your school do to inspire change?*

Student Voices Campaign Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Opz6XeolxOY>

Student Voices Campaign <http://studentvoicescampaign.org/>

"We have created a contemporary platform using new technology to provide students with a voice as districts across California determine priorities and budget allocations under the new Local Control Funding Formula," explained California Alliance for Arts Education Executive Director Joe Landon.

With support from the California Arts Council, the Alliance produced a Teacher's Guide, which equipped teachers with tools to teach the campaign as a project-based curriculum lesson, allowing students to explore real-world challenges and practice civic engagement, creative communication and leadership.

"Students can play an important role in their district's planning process, but only if they have the goals, information and inspiration needed to participate. The California Arts Council is proud to support this media-arts outreach project to California youth that encourages their civic engagement in the LCFF," said Craig Watson, Director, California Arts Council

With the passage of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), every school district in the State is required to gather input from students, parents and community members in their annual planning process. Often students are the least engaged and heard group in this process. Using California Social Studies Standards and National Core Media Arts Standards, the Alliance campaign offers a creative way for students to be engaged and participate in this process.

Opportunities for interviews:

- **Participating Teachers and Students in Orange County**
- **Craig Watson and Christopher Coppola, California Arts Council**
- **Sibyl O'Malley, Director of Communications & Community Engagement, California Alliance for Arts Education**

>NOTE TO MEDIA. A complete press kit is available for download with list of finalists including their schools, home towns, quote sheet and sample videos.

In the third year of the Student Voices Campaign, the California Alliance for Arts Education is pleased to partner with some of the state's most influential arts and education leaders, including Adobe Project 1234, Alameda County Office of Education, Arts for LA, the California Arts Council, Bay Area Video Coalition, the California State Summer School Arts Foundation, Center Theatre Group, Get Lit Words Ignite, Clarence E. Heller Foundation, Walter and Elise Haas Fund, Inner-City Arts, Oakland School for the Arts, San Francisco Art Institute, Sony Pictures Entertainment, San Francisco District PTA, and Venice Arts.

The California Alliance for Arts Education

The mission of California Alliance for Arts Education is to advocate for visual and performing arts education for preschool through post-secondary students in California public schools. A statewide leader and convener, the Alliance galvanizes key organizations and experts in arts and culture to advocate for quality arts education for all students. www.artsed411.org

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Student Voices Summit Details

On Saturday, **April 30th**, the California Alliance for Arts Education will host the first annual **Student Voices Summit & Screening** at the San Francisco Art Institute, with California Poetry Out Loud State Champion **Chigozie Maduchukwu** as Master of Ceremonies.

The Summit will bring together students from all over California for an afternoon of student-led advocacy workshops, master classes with celebrated artists **Christopher Coppola**, **Isa Borgeson**, and **Delroy Lindo**, and the chance to see student videos on the big screen. With support from the California Arts Council, this free event is open to all California public

school students in grades 7-12.

Space is limited and registration is required. [Register here](#). If you, your school or organization are interested in bringing a group of students to the event, please [email](#).

FILMMAKING

Christopher Coppola is a film director, producer and digital entrepreneur. He has directed eight feature films and a number of television shows, and also launched a digital film festival which has been taken to multiple cities in the U.S. and Europe.

SPOKEN WORD

Isa Borgeson is the community curator of Project 1234, an Adobe Corporate Responsibility initiative that empowers youth to use art and digital media as tools for positive change in the world. She is a poet who has competed nationally at both college and adult levels, and has won the global *Spoken Word for the World* competition.

PERFORMANCE

Delroy Lindo is an actor and theatre director. He has been nominated for a Tony and Screen Actors Guild Awards. He is known for a number of television and movie roles ranging from on-screen to voice work, including *Law and Order*, *The Simpsons*, *Gone in Sixty Seconds*, *Malcolm X*, and Disney Pixar's *Up*.

CINEMATOGROPHY

Hiro Narita is a cinematographer for television and film. He is best known for his work on *Honey*, *I Shrunk the Kids*, *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country*, *James and Giant Peach*. His work has been honored by the Cable Ace Awards, Los Angeles Film Critics Association Awards and National Society of Film Critics Awards, USA.

QUOTE SHEET

"This film was a response to the San Bernardino shooting this past December and the controversy of gun limitations. I thought about what magic power that real people have to fight back against all of this violence and conflict, and what I came up with was art. I think that is the most important part of arts education ... it teaches kids to do what they love while changing the world for the better."

Student: William Lancaster, student filmmaker, 'The Magic Power.'

<http://studentvoicescampaign.org/post/142531141610/the-magic-power-los-angeles-county-high-school>

"In California, students are guaranteed a voice in planning and budgeting for their school district. The Local Control Funding Formula, or LCFF, requires that districts consult with students, parents, teachers and community members each spring to create an official plan for the coming years. Our Student Voices Campaign is a creative way for young people to make their voices heard in their school district."

California Alliance for Arts Education / Student Voices Campaign: Sibyl O'Malley

"Students, parents and the local community are key parts of the LCFF input process. Those who support utilizing arts education investment to address local education goals and needs can have a role in the decision-making process on the local level, but only if they have the goals and information needed to participate. The California Arts Council is proud to support this media-arts outreach project to California youth that encourages civic engagement in the LCFF"

California Arts Council: Craig Watson, Director

"The Student Voices Campaign is revolutionary. As educators, we talk a lot about student voices, but this project really does by sending student videos directly to the school board members tasked with planning and budgeting for the district."

Teacher: Dain Olsen, Media Arts Teacher, Belmont High School, Los Angeles Unified School District

"I began this project thinking "how am I going to teach my students about video?" and it turns out they know more than I do about filming and editing! The entire class enjoyed following the process from idea to premiere. Even the videos that were left unfinished taught valuable lessons in planning and teamwork. An added plus was seeing students realize and define how important Arts education has been in their lives."

Teacher: Autumn Browne, Brookhurst JHS Drama

Autumn Browne
Brookhurst JHS Drama

"Many years ago in our school, there used to be a band. Whenever the band would perform it would always pump up the students of our school and definitely helped lift the spirits of our students as well. We believe that bringing back the band would benefit our students in an academic and social aspect. Band has the ability to bring people together and provide a positive and free-spirited vibe which our students lack. Without the positive energy, our students aren't united neither are they enthusiastic about school. This is why we believe having a band is essential in our school."

Student: Kristal Torres, Director, 'Music at Belmont'

<http://studentvoicescampaign.org/post/142530849185/music-in-belmont-belmont-high-school-kristal>,
Belmont High School, Los Angeles Unified School District

"I know that TV and Video production has inspired me and many of my classmates to pursue this as a

career. We live in Fontana, California, which is a working class community. There aren't many artistic outlets, which is why I'm glad that we have this opportunity to learn to be creative with film and video. Our district and principals support the program because they see the value in it, just the way we do."

Student: Basher Shaker, Director of 'TV Production Inspires Me'

<http://studentvoicescampaign.org/post/142531679030/tv-inspires-me-a-b-miller-high-school-basher> A.B.

Miller High School, Fontana Unified School District, San Bernardino