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Arts Now Napa Summit

Leaders and students come together in day-long, statewide discussion about effective ways to increase arts education in public schools

September 2, 2016 - Napa, Calif. - What if all children had the opportunity to participate in the visual and performing arts as part of their education? How would we achieve that goal? These questions, and many more, will be explored next week at a statewide gathering where arts educators and arts education stakeholders will convene to discuss how to make the arts a central part of students' learning. The **California Alliance for Arts Education** has partnered with **Arts Council Napa Valley** to host the [Arts Now Napa Summit](#) on Friday, September 9th at the Napa Valley Unified School District (NVUSD). The summit focuses on progressive strategies and resources for arts education advocates including the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), Title I and Arts Plans.

Turning to the students themselves, the summit features students as keynote speakers, performers and tour guides. Students will lead attendees on classroom site visits to illuminate Napa's arts programs and offer their own perspectives on how access to the arts has enriched their education.

The Alliance chose to hold this event in Napa after the small rural community worked for four years, pooling the time and resources of over 50 volunteers (parents, teachers, local businesses) to commission a first-ever five-year master plan for arts education. Funded by **Festival Napa Valley** and passed unanimously by the **Napa Valley Unified School District** (NVUSD) Board of Education in June 2016, this new system, called the NVUSD Arts Education Master Plan, will give unprecedented opportunity, access and equity to every student in pre-K through high school in the NVUSD.

*"We are extremely pleased to partner with the California Alliance for Arts Education to host the Arts Now Napa Summit," remarks **Olivia Everett**, CEO of **Arts Council Napa Valley**. "We're proud of the accomplishments we have built together with our community, and look forward to the opportunity to share our story with the arts education community from around the state of*

California. Great things can happen when people work together, motivated by a shared vision for a brighter future for all our children.”

On the importance of student access to arts education, Executive Director of the **California Alliance for Arts Education**, Joe Landon says, *“Our goal is to establish the expectation that every district is responsible for providing their students with a high quality, comprehensive education that includes a robust arts program, complete with instruction by credentialed arts teachers as well as arts integration strategies being implemented across the curriculum. Our campaign celebrates districts who are taking a leadership role in prioritizing arts education and encourages other districts to prioritize arts education.”*

Since 2010, the California Alliance has supported local coalitions like the Arts Council Napa Valley Education Alliance through its Local Advocacy Network, which provides policy expertise, strategic coaching and communications tools to support.

High school students **Jori Herman** and **Xóchitl Morales** will give the keynote address about the role of student voice in districts arts education planning and advocacy. Jori is a senior at Napa High School and a contributor to the district’s Arts Education Master Plan. Xóchitl, a junior from Delano California, advocated successfully for expanded arts programs at her school using her award-winning Student Voices Campaign video, *A Student Named Art*.

Following the Summit, guests will gather at the Hess Collection & Winery where they will enjoy student performances and an awards presentation honoring local arts heros. **Assemblyman Dodd** will be presenting an award to Festival Napa Valley for their partnership and grant which made the AEMP possible:

“It’s an honor to have Napa County recognized as a leader in advancing education of the arts,” said Assemblymember Dodd. *“This summit will showcase how Napa County educators and advocates are fostering a new generation of students committed to artistic expression.”*

The Arts Now Napa Summit is sponsored by the Adobe Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Stuart Foundation.

When: Friday, September 9, 2016

What: One-day summit with Friday evening celebration

Where: Napa Unified School District, 2425 Jefferson St.

Registration Information: www.artsnownapa.eventbrite.com

RSVP for celebration: www.napacelebration.eventbrite.com

Conference Contact: artsnowca@artsed411.org



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