



Spotlight: California Alliance for Arts Education's Student Voices

The SAANBox is proud to feature SAAN member [California Alliance for Arts Education](#)'s program, "Student Voices" in this issue's Spotlight.

Each year, the [California Alliance for Arts Education](#) invites students to take part in a video advocacy campaign that offers a real-world opportunity to author content, communicate creatively and practice civic engagement. California's Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) guarantees students a voice in planning and budgeting for their school district. Through the Alliance's Student Voices Campaign, middle and high school students capture their vision for their school in 2-minute videos and share them with their local school board.



Last year with support from the California Arts Council, the Alliance created a Teacher's Guide, so that the campaign can be used as project-based learning for grades 7-12 in arts and non-arts classrooms. They also launched the Student Leadership Lab to identify, document and share examples of effective student leadership training and student-led advocacy.

This year was a high water mark for the Campaign, with students acting as social media ambassadors, advocacy workshop leaders, and impacting their district's annual planning and budgeting process. Students in Delano successfully lobbied their school to expand its arts program and are now serving on the hiring committee for new arts teachers. San Jose students educated their community about issues facing transgender youth and secured two gender neutral bathrooms for their high school.

To watch student videos and learn more about the campaign visit <http://studentvoicescampaign.org/> or contact [Sibyl O'Malley](#) who oversees the program for the Alliance.



Photo credit: Chris Duffey