



Join local support efforts to keep arts education in public schools

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We applaud Superintendent Jim Earheart's decision to fund arts and music programs at Salinas Union High School, and acknowledge the vital support provided by the Salinas Union High School District Foundation.

Arts education classes not only help keep at-risk students in school, but research shows they increase academic performance and develop what President Obama describes as "21st century skills like problem-solving and critical thinking, entrepreneurship and creativity."

Evidence of these skills can be seen on Main Street in Salinas. Working with leaders from Artistas Unidos-Artists United, young artists redesigned newspaper boxes that had been chronically tagged. The newly painted boxes stand as examples of the ownership and creative problem-solving the arts instill in young people.

These skills were also seen at the Salinas Youth Arts Festival over the weekend. The whole community benefits from arts education programs and must support them.

Statewide, funding for arts education is disappearing. That's why, over a year ago, advocates in Salinas began working with the California Alliance for Arts Education to sustain support for arts education in public schools. Parents, teachers, business leaders and arts organizations have come together to communicate the value of an education. We invite you to join us.

Laurie Schell, director

California Alliance for Arts Education