



85 S. Grand Ave., Pasadena, CA 91105 P: 626-578-9315 F: 626-578-9894 www.artsed411.org

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Caitlin Lainoff

September 4, 2019

caitlin@artsed411.org

“SOMETHING IS HAPPENING IN CHULA VISTA” FOCUSES ON STUDENTS’ SUCCESS THROUGH THE IMPACT OF ARTS EDUCATION

The **California Alliance for Arts Education** is pleased to announce the release of its new film, **“Something Is Happening in Chula Vista”**. The fifteen-minute film provides a window into the impact of arts education in aspects of students’ lives that go beyond test scores—where they are learning the skills they will need in order to be successful in school and in life.

A statewide leader and convener, the Alliance galvanizes California’s educators and other experts in arts and culture to increase equitable access to quality arts education. Joe Landon, Executive Director said, “When we saw the impact of the district’s investment in arts education, we knew we wanted to share this story with California’s elected officials, school district administrators, teachers and parents. It only made sense that we share the story through an expression of art – in this case, a film.”

Located in San Diego County along California’s border with Mexico, **Chula Vista Elementary School District** is the largest elementary school district in California, with nearly 30,000 students. One third of its students are English Language Learners and half of its students participate in the free and reduced lunch program.

In 2015, led by Superintendent Dr. Francisco Escobedo, its school board voted to invest \$15 million in arts education, and hired hiring over 80 credentialed arts teachers to do the job. “Increased attendance. Increased test scores. Increased parent participation. Increased joy and happiness in the eyes of our students. These are all increases that come when school districts like ours across the state and country increase investment in visual and performing arts instruction,” said Superintendent Escobedo.

The film traces research currently being conducted by MUSE Research in partnership with the California Alliance for Arts Education, studying the impact of arts education on students’ creativity, social emotional learning and overall student engagement in and out of school. It documents the lives of students engaged in arts learning and captures the perspectives of those closest to students, including the superintendent, principal, teachers, and parents. “Something Is Happening in Chula Vista” captures the impact of the district’s major investment in arts education as a strategy to improve student outcomes and address the needs of its student population.

“Something Is Happening in Chula Vista” will be premiering at the upcoming Arts Now Leadership Institute in Goleta, California. The film is also available to the public at no cost by going to the California Alliance for Arts Education website at www.artsed411.org.

For further information contact:

Caitlin Lainoff

Program and Communications Associate

California Alliance for Arts Education

Phone number 626.578.9315 (ext. 105)