

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Napa County Alliance for Arts Education Assessment Framework

*The Napa County Alliance for Arts Education exists to strengthen community support for the arts as essential to a comprehensive education for every child in Napa County public schools with the goal of developing a Countywide Plan to advocate, network, and support arts education in Napa County.*

In December of 2013, more than 50 Napa County educators, arts organizations, nonprofits, and community leaders met at an early morning breakfast to garner support for arts education in Napa County schools launching the Napa County Alliance for Arts Education.

A Leadership Team was created to focus on identifying priority strategic goals. The process, with goals at each stage, will identify assets and strengths and gaps and needs of arts education countywide. The necessity for assessment rose as precedence in moving forward for impactful advocacy and planning of arts education. A Steering Committee was tasked with developing guidelines and drafting the framework for assessment (Phase 1 Research).

The framework and preliminary research (Phase 1 Assessment) has been the catalyst for pertinent research. The formation of four subcommittees for each assessment area developed methodology with comprehensive surveys within the established timeline. Furthermore, subcommittees, with the support of the Steering Committee, have researched, assimilate, and reported to the LT in February 2015, with Task Teams formed for more in-depth research of data.

Four areas identified for assessment in Napa County:

- 1) *Napa County School Districts* – survey the culture of arts education and offerings and curriculum within each of the five school districts and at individual schools
- 2) *Art Community Stakeholders* - inquiry an overview of missions, current scope of work, and roles in support and understanding of school curriculum
- 3) *Community* – gain an understanding of who the local non-arts affiliated residents, businesses, and neighborhood groups are and their perspective of arts education in schools
- 4) *Funders of Arts and Education* – research the mission and goals of local arts funders and identify successes as well as their challenges

Compiled data along with recommendations for the infrastructure of a Countywide Arts Plan is now being assimilated for Phase 2 of the Assessment. Phase 2 will be presented to arts stakeholders and the Napa community in the spring of 2015.

*NCAAE Arts Education definition is the engagement with an arts discipline as a body of knowledge and skills to be sequentially acquired and applied by a student.*

## **TAKING STEPS TOWARD A UNIFIED STRATEGIC PLAN**

*In response to common strengths and obstacles, the Leadership team prioritized developing a 360° assessment of Napa County's assets as its first action step. The findings of this report will determine strategies to support and enhance arts in education.*

### **STEP 1. 360 Degree Assessment** (Lead by ACNV in partnership with Leadership Team)

*The arts in education assessment will identify the environment relevant to:*

- a. Stakeholders
- b. Resources (arts non-profits, teaching artists, existing school programs, and funding)
- c. Needs (based on arts education standards, demographics, student culture/interests, and capacity)

### **STEP 2. Communication**

- a. Communicate to stakeholders the findings of the assessment and collect feedback

### **STEP 3. Strategy** (to transform and position the arts)

- a. Working with stakeholders, the leadership team will develop common strategic goals and standards to be adopted by all participating organizations

## **NCAAE PROJECT TIMELINE**

- *December 2013:* Breakfast convening 50 Napa County educators, arts organizations, nonprofits and community leaders – Outcome: launch of Napa County Alliance for Arts Education
- *January 2014:* Leadership Team meets identifying common strengths and obstacles to inform goals of NCAAE – Outcome: Steering Committee established to oversee 360° Assessment
- *February/March 2014:* Framework created for Assessment by Steering Committee
- *April 2014:* Review of Phase 1 Assessment with Leadership Team
- *October 2014:* Steering Committee with Subcommittees report data from research to Leadership Team
- *February 2015:* Further pertinent research presented to Leadership Team with recommendations for Phase 2 of the Assessment
- *Early Spring 2015:* Steering Committee to develop Phase 2 Assessment with recommendations for the infrastructure needed for the Countywide Arts Plan and present to Leadership Team
- *Late Spring 2015:* Presentation of Phase 2 with recommendations to arts stakeholders and Napa community
- *Fall 2015:* Begin work on Countywide Arts Plan

<b>Leadership Team</b>	<b>Steering Committee</b>	<b>Subcommittees/Task Teams</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oversees project approach, design, and resources</li> <li>Provides expertise and reviews findings</li> <li>Members participate within their expertise on subcommittees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manages and monitors communications and project progress</li> <li>Creates and Reviews documents making recommendations to Leadership Team</li> <li>Creates overall survey to be used for research of assessment areas</li> <li>Assists with assimilation and reporting of subcommittee findings</li> <li>Keeps the project on track with timeline and budget</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide deeper research on existing conditions by creating optimal methodology for each assessment area</li> <li>Develops addendums to survey to be used for assessment area</li> <li>Assimilates and report findings to Leadership Team</li> <li>Principal members serve on the Leadership Team</li> </ul>

- The Leadership Team is a cross section of community members, including Napa County educators, and arts organizations, non-profits and community leaders. Leaders commit to the life of the project and actively participate by attending meetings, overseeing the project, and with serving on subcommittees.
- The Steering Committee develops and monitors the planning process, provides recommendations to the Leadership Team, and assists Subcommittees with objectives.
- The Subcommittees and Task Teams include Leadership Team members along with community stakeholders and provide research, input, and reports on each section of the assessment.

**Leadership Team Members:**

Kristin Anderson, Laila Aghaie, Azalea Aguilar, Debbie Alter-Starr, Liz Amendola, Debi Cali, Nick Cann, Chris Cappeto, Olivia Everett, Emily Freiman, Bill Gantt, Christine Golik, Jamie Graff, Robin Hampton, Jon Hannaford, Shelly Hannan, Susan Key, Miki Hsu Leavey, Peg Maddocks, Barry Martin, Mark Morrison, Terence Mulligan, Barbara Nemko, Frances Ortiz-Chavez, Pam Perkins, James Raymond, Mike Riendeau, Maren Rocca-Hunt, Jan Sabo, Suzanne Shiff, Jennifer Stewart, Lisa Sullivan, Shelly Surh, Patrick Sweeney, Jessica Thomason, Cindy Toews, Seana Wagner

**Steering Team Members:**

Olivia Everett, President & CEO, Arts Council Napa Valley  
 Robin Hampton, Coordinator, Napa County Alliance for Arts Education  
 Suzanne Shiff, Executive Director, Non-profit Coalition of Napa Valley  
 Laila Aghaie, Education & Outreach Director, Napa Valley Performing Arts Center  
 Debi Cali, President, NOTES for Education

## NCAAE ASSESSMENT CORE VALUES

**Community** - Create a truly inclusive, community- driven process that prioritizes the strengths, needs and concerns of Napa County residents

**Commitment** - Build long-term support and investment among community partners to ensure sustainability of arts education in all Napa County Schools

**Collaboration** - Foster partnerships and coordinate existing plans to meet and support effectively the evolving needs of the schools and to avoid duplication of services

**Equity** - Value diverse cultures, concepts and beliefs while continually striving to achieve equity for all students at all grade levels

**Visibility** — Raise awareness and deepen the public’s understanding of the value the arts and creativity in a child’s education within the community

**Action** — Take meaningful action to expand and improve arts education offerings to each student in all of Napa County through a Countywide Plan

## NCAAE ASSESSMENT GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**Systems Thinking** — Build and promote an appreciation for the dynamic interrelationship of all the components of local schools and arts organizations, supporters and funders

**Dialogue** —Ensure respect for diverse voices and perspectives during the collaborative process

**Data** — Inform each step of the process

**Partnerships** — Optimize performance through shared resources and responsibility to form the foundation for building the arts in our schools

**Strategic Thinking** — Foster a proactive response to the issues and opportunities facing the system

**Celebration of Successes** —Ensure that contributions are recognized and sustain excitement for the process

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