



March 14, 2023

Nevada County Board of Supervisors

## Youth Art Month: Young at Art Arts Education in Nevada County Schools

Scott W. Lay, Nevada County Superintendent of Schools



For at least the last 10 years, there has been a greater emphasis on the arts in education. In light of the past few years, the state of California has recently passed legislation, Proposition 28, which guarantees an annual funding stream for music and arts education. In 2023, this funding comes to roughly \$941 million, or 1% of the state's general fund.

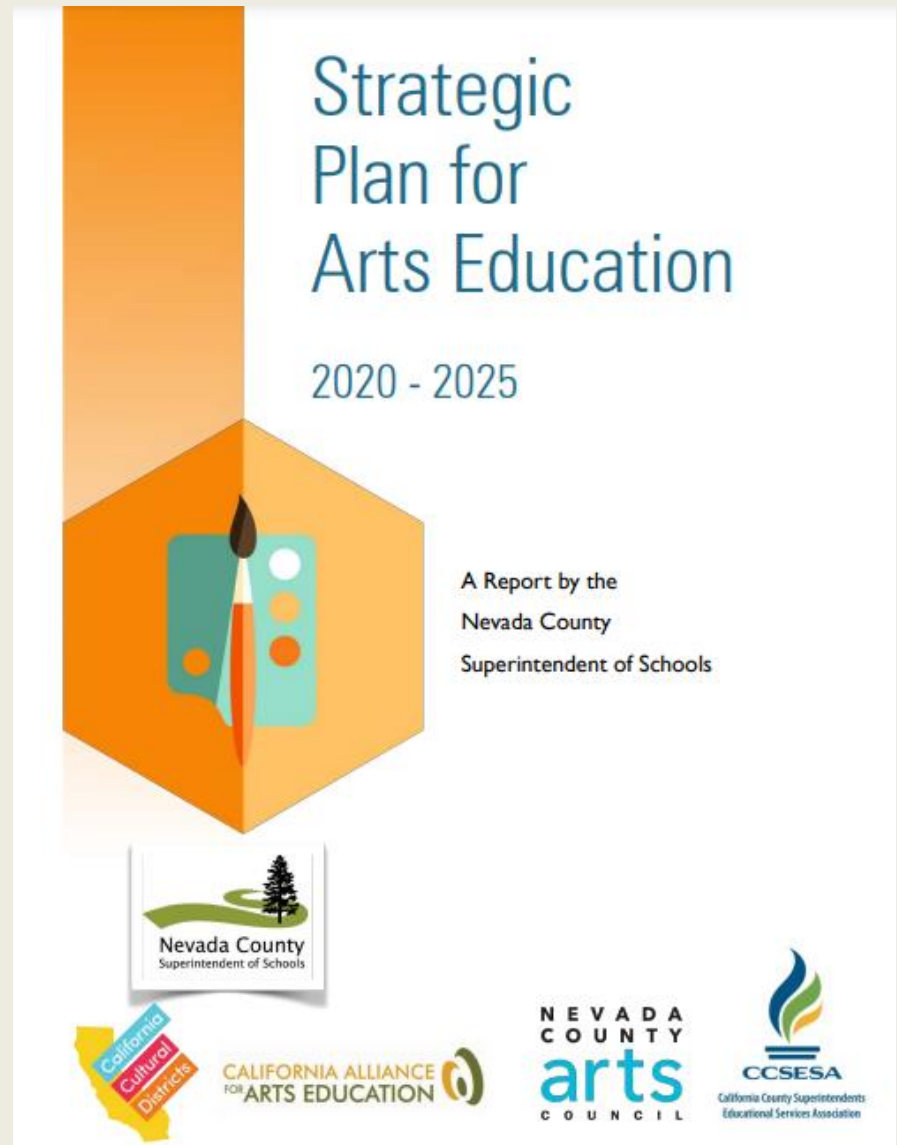
Another source of revenue for schools is the 2022 Budget Act's one time Arts, Music, & Instructional Materials (AMIM) Discretionary Block Grant. Although there was a \$1.2 billion reduction from the AMIM Discretionary Block Grant (going from \$3.5 billion to \$2.3 billion), the opportunities for enhanced arts education will increase considerably. With this increased funding and the rollout of the 2019 Visual and Performing Arts Standards (the "what" to teach) and the 2020 Arts Framework (the "how" to teach), educators have robust guidelines to follow and resources to tap into, that will enrich students' educational experience.

## Documents That Guide Arts Education in California:

- The California Preschool Learning Foundations Volume 2 (preschool)
- The 2019 California Arts Standards (transitional kindergarten through grade twelve)
- The 2020 Arts Framework (transitional kindergarten through grade twelve)
- California Career Technical Education Model Curriculum Standards for Arts Media and Entertainment (grades eight through twelve may include courses aligned to these standards)

## NCSoS' Strategic Arts Plan:

- Nevada County is engaged in a local Strategic Arts Plan for implementing more Arts Education into our schools.







There is proven recognition that the arts in education teaches lifelong skills beyond mastering how to sing, dance, design, act or paint.

- The arts enhance problem-solving and critical thinking skills, and foster imagination, innovation, & creativity.
- The arts produce a fun and creative atmosphere.
- The arts help better prepare students for college and the workforce by giving them the necessary skills of innovation, creativity and imagination to be successful and competitive in today's global market.

In fact, employers deem creativity as the most desirable quality in candidates they seek.



Arts education exposes children to a variety of cultures while enriching their learning experience and teaching them how to be empathetic, tolerant and open to working with others, all necessary skills to prepare students for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and a multicultural, multi-ethnic society.



Exposing our students to *classical music* daily in the classroom not only provides an opportunity to learn about music and the story behind the composer and song, but it calms and centers students to help them be better prepared for all learning activities. Mindfulness and self-regulation are the newest and most effective cognitive practices classrooms often use.





## School and Community Benefits:

The arts facilitate a student's learning in all subject areas. The Arts are integrated across subject areas in the Common Core State Standards and beyond.

A comprehensive arts education curriculum nurtures a collaborative school culture, building a sense of community within a school and creates ties to surrounding communities and cultures of the world.

A well-rounded arts education has proven to increase student attendance, create connections to curriculum, and build positive behavior, creating a stronger learning environment.



In the past, some school districts have had to make cuts regarding the arts. However, the need to engage students in creative ways has turned the attention to the arts. With the increased funding statewide, the time is ripe.

As always, finding community partnerships to help support the arts in the schools is necessary and welcomed. Nevada County has incredible partnerships with art organizations and community agencies.





**“Full STEAM ahead” for the Spring 2023 annual  
Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics fair.**

\*Digital Media Video is a new category in which the winner is elevated to the statewide California Student Digital Media Festival.



## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

### Nevada County Arts Council

#### **Music in the Mountains:**

Take 5 Classical Music Listening Program  
Carnegie Link Up Recorders Program

#### **InConcert Sierra:**

Music Live

Educational Concerts for elementary students/scholarships  
Peers Performing 4 Peers  
Young Composers Project

#### **The Center for the Arts:**

Meeting Mozart

#### **Nevada County Government:**

Young at Art Student Art Exhibit

#### **Art Docent Program**

#### **Nevada County Library:**

Nevada County Reads

#### **Sierra College**

Local Artists supporting schools



Latino Family Festival Fall 2022





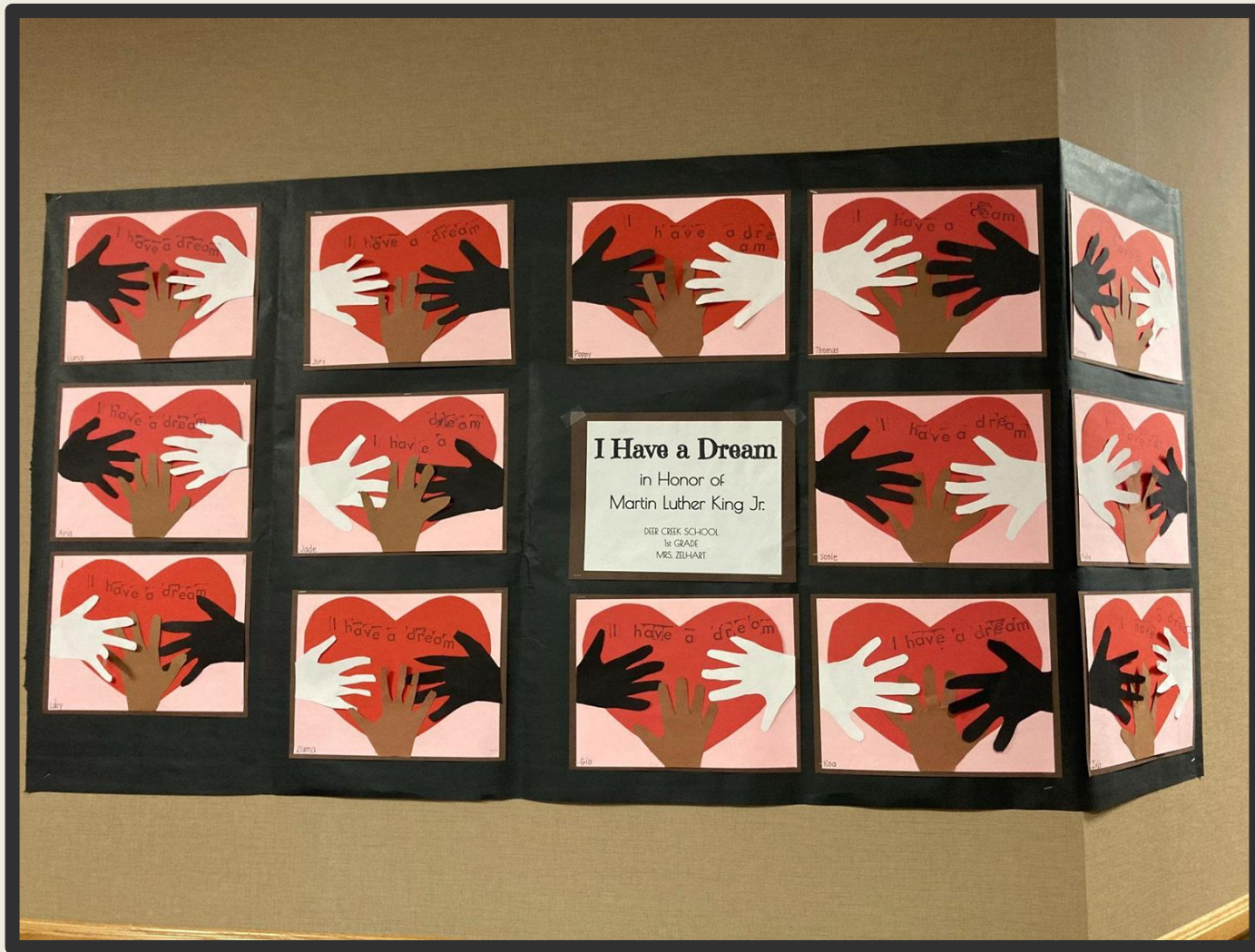


Music in the Mountains' Link Up recorder concert with Carnegie Hall.



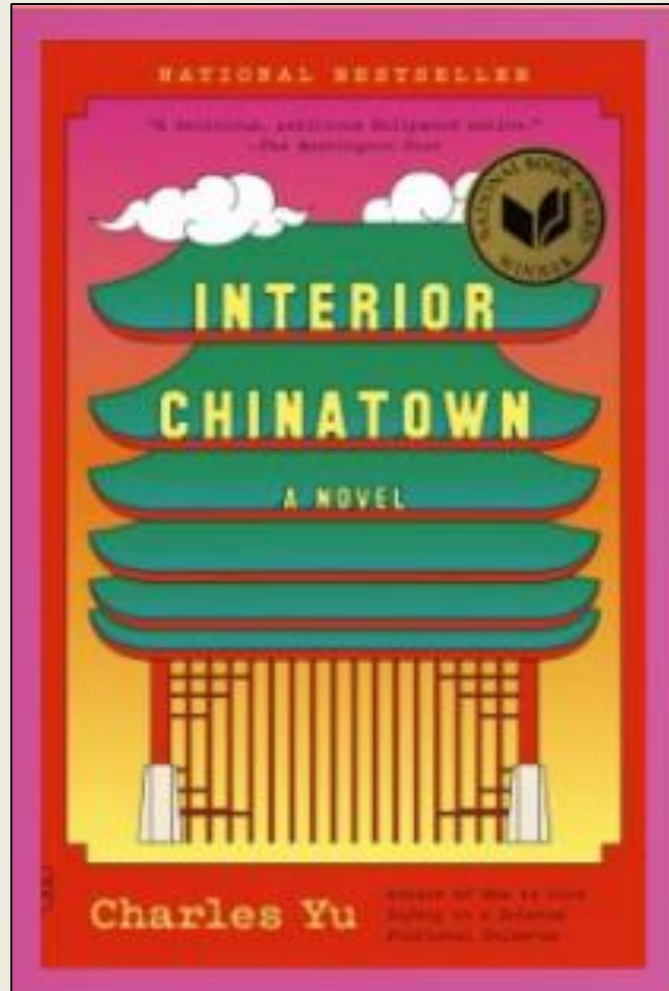
InConcert Sierra's county-wide 3<sup>rd</sup> grade live Music concert, Spring 2022.





In March every year, in celebration of National Arts Month, the largest youth art exhibit in Nevada County happens: YOUNG AT ART.





Interior Chinatown, A Novel, by Charles Yu  
2023 Nevada County Reads Selection



The Art Docent Program provides visual arts lessons and projects where students learn an artist's history & techniques for grades TK through eighth.



Thank you for your support of arts education partnerships to benefit the schools and students in our community!



"Art washes from the soul the dust of everyday life "  
-Pablo Picasso