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For Immediate Release

The VAPA Foundation Announces 2020 VAPA Enhancement Program Recipients Nineteen SDUSD Teacher Receive Funding for Visual & Performing Arts

January 19, 2021/San Diego: Nineteen San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) teachers will receive awards to underwrite Visual And Performing Arts (VAPA) -related activities and purchases funded by the VAPA Foundation's 2020-2021 VAPA Enhancement Program. The VAPA Enhancement Program or VEP, enables any San Diego Unified teacher to apply for funds to enhance the quality of and access to arts education in the classroom or school. The VAPA Foundation funds arts enhancements not covered by a school's budget.

The VAPA Enhancement Program will fund artist residencies in dance, theatre, and music arts. Funding for arts equipment includes MIDI keyboards, ukuleles, and clarinets. Each successful applicant linked the request to ongoing curriculum goals. Requests for funding ranged from \$400 to \$2,500.

For example, Mission Bay High School teacher Jean-Paul Balmat received a \$2,500 award to purchase USB microphones that will allow students to produce quality solo recordings and "virtual ensemble" performances. His students will learn fundamental skills including microphone placement, audio input setup, acoustic problems, and utilize sound engineering apps like GarageBand or Audacity. Workshops over zoom will connect these students into the professional world of audio engineering with a focus on current music industry needs, while giving these students the opportunity to create original music they can share with their community.

Michael Camacho, Executive Director of the VAPA Foundation, is "excited to see applications with greater emphasis in meeting California Arts Standards for students and the unique partnerships with local arts and culture organizations including Guitars in the Classroom, Arts for Learning, The Rosin Box Project, Ballet Folklorico en Aztlan, San Diego Creative Arts Project, and Transcendence."

"Students spanning elementary, middle and high school throughout the district will directly benefit from VEP projects with additional impact expected to school communities through culminating student performances, art exhibitions and participation in state and national festivals. Plus, there is reach that extends to future years with the purchase of new equipment", added Camacho.

This year, the VAPA Foundation has awarded a total of more than \$26,000 and nearly \$100,000 in VEP awards since its inception in 2017. This funding was made possible in part by a sponsorship from UC San Diego. In addition, donors from the community have recognized the link in-depth arts learning has on gains in school attendance, graduation rates, college readiness, civic pride and cultural awareness.

About the VAPA Foundation:

The VAPA Foundation believes that all students benefit from an education rich in the arts – from field trips to museums and theaters, to bringing professional artists into the classroom, to training teachers in their craft or best practices for arts integration. The VAPA Foundation is committed to connecting students and teachers to resources beyond the scope of a school budget and to recognizing student achievement in the visual and performing arts via recognitions, concerts and collaborations. For more information about the VAPA Foundation visit vapafoundation.org or call (619) 256-2700.

2020-21 VAPA Enhancement Program Recipients

FIRST	LAST	SCHOOL	SHORT DESCRIPTION
Dana	Archer	Jefferson Elementary	The Rosin Box Project's "The Ballet Machine"
Jean-Paul	Balmat	Mission Bay High	USB microphones for audio recordings
Jason	Berman	Millennial Tech Middle	School of Motion – Character animation bootcamp
Bridget	Carpenter	Ocean Beach Elementary	The Rosin Box Project's "The Ballet Machine"
Karla	Contreras	Bell Middle	Ballet Folklorico en Aztlan after-school program
Nathan	Elias-Kocivar	Roosevelt Middle	MIDI keyboards for music productions
Antonette	Harris	Dingeman Elementary	Guitars in the Classroom residency
Lisa	Husted	Carson Elementary	Arts for Learning San Diego residency
Ryan	Kissell	Sequoia Elementary	Guitars in the Classroom residency
Geneva	McCoy	Morse Senior High	Transcendance residency
Geneva	McElwaine-Leto	De Portola Middle	Student scripts, licensing and royalties
Mark	Nadeau	VAPA Elementary Music	27 10" Remo drum pads and stands
Amy	Popp	Carson Elementary	Arts for Learning San Diego residency
Meera	Ramanathan	Zamorano Elementary	Visual art guest speakers
Garner	Saguil	Dingeman Elementary	Guitars in the Classroom residency
Barbara	Toombs	Farb Middle	San Diego Creative Arts Project residency
Cynthia	Trunzo	Pacific View Leadership	The Rosin Box Project's "The Ballet Machine"
Honseng	Tu	Wangenheim Middle	Clarinets for the school's music program
Summer	Williams	CPMA Middle	Arts for Learning San Diego residency

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