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For Immediate Release

VAPA Foundation Announces 2022/23 VAPA Enhancement Program Recipients

Thirty-eight SDUSD Teachers Received Funding for Visual & Performing Arts

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San Diego, CA – The VAPA Foundation, whose mission is to increase access to and enhance the quality of arts education in the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD), recently announced thirty-eight teachers will receive awards to support for visual and performing arts programs not covered by school budget. 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.

This year, the VAPA Foundation granted a total of \$63,000 and nearly \$190,000 in VEP awards since its inception in 2017. This funding was made possible in part by a sponsorship from UC San Diego and the California Art Council. As the organization has grown, VAPA Foundation was able to increase the amount of money awarded to teachers this year.

“Our organization literally exists to provide this exact support to arts teachers who struggle for supplies to conduct their creative school programs,” stated Jon Bailey, president of the VAPA Foundation board of directors. “After a couple of tough years for schoolkids dealing with pandemic interruptions, we’re very happy to have increased our donation budget to allow an expanded number of grants in 2022. These teachers have a tremendous positive impact on our students, and we are honored to support their successful arts programs.”

2022 Grant Recipients

Name	School	Arts Discipline
Adrienne Asdal	Dingeman ES	Music
Annette Barcelona	SDSCPA	Dance

Phillip Barham	Ericson ES	Dance
Victoria Barham	Doyle ES	Dance
Teresa Behnke	Hardy ES	Visual Art
Jason Berman	Millennial Tech MS	Media Arts
Brian Black	Crawford HS	Visual Art
Anne Brady	Scripps Ranch HS	Visual Art
Seanha Choi	SDSCPA	Visual Art
Terri Clark	Henry HS	Dance
Nathan Elias Kocivar	Roosevelt MS	Music
Wyatt Ellison	VAPA	Music
Kathrine Engan	Innovation MS	Music
Tammy Evans	Salk ES	Visual Art
Monica George-Halling	Garfield ES	Dance
Sarah Hillard	Millennial Tech MS	Visual Art
Tyler Johnson	Madison HS	Music
Karen Koehler	Silvergate ES	Music
Daniel Kriley	Mira Mesa HS	Theatre
LeAnn Leyden	Hearst ES	Visual Art
Suzanne Long	Correia MS	Visual Art
Ryan McCann	Wegeforth ES	Dance
Carrie Miller	Knox MS	Dance
Heather Mollica	Cadman ES	Dance
Krista Nelson	Madison HS	Dance
Kris Nieder	Longfellow K-8	Visual Art
Eric Nielson	Mt. Everest	Music
Dee Parrish	Mission Bay HS	Visual Art
Meera Ramanathan	Zamorano ES	Visual Art
Richard Rogalski	Henry ES	Visual Art
Jessi Rogawski	San Diego HS	Visual Art
Abraham Shklar	Henry HS	Visual Art
Samantha Sibbet	Benchley Weinberger ES	Visual Art
Travis Smith	Morse HS	Visual Art
Erin Summers	Alcott ES	Arts
Marielena Teng	Challenger MS	Music, Theatre
Noah Wilke	VAPA	Music, Visual Arts

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The VAPA Foundation is a local San Diego nonprofit whose mission is to increase access to and enhance the quality of arts education in the San Diego Unified School District. The VAPA Foundation believes that an education infused with the arts transforms the lives of young people. By using data, VAPA targets its programs to schools that demonstrate the most need. VAPA often collaborates with local artists and organizations to bridge the gap between them and SDUSD through its programs. They have served 105,793 students and supported 260 teachers. For more information about the VEP program please visit: <https://vapafoundation.org/vep-funding/> or <https://vapafoundation.org/>