



Arts in Education Action Forum: Catalyzing Change Across Schools and Systems of Care



**The California Endowment
Redwood Room
1000 N. Alameda St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012**

January 30, 2019

AGENDA

Wednesday January 30, 2019

10:00 am **Check-in & Refreshments**

10:15 am **Welcome**

10:20 am **Introduction to Arts Education in LA County**

10:35 am **Panel: Catalyzing Change Through Arts Education**

Moderator: Alex M. Johnson, *Program Director, The California Wellness Foundation
Board Member, LA County Office of Education*

Panelists:

Lilian Maldonado French, *Superintendent, Mountain View School District*

Carolyn Kaneko, *Mental Health Program Manager I*

LA County Department of Mental Health

Dave Mitchell, *Deputy Director, LA County Probation Department*

Kristin Sakoda, *Executive Director, LA County Arts Commission*

Shannon C. Wilkins, *Project Director for Visual and Performing Arts*

LA County Office of Education

Denise Grande, *Director of Arts Education, LA County Arts Commission*

11:50 am **Next Steps**

All materials and information for this meeting may be found under the resources section of the SCG event page.

PROGRAM AND SERIES OVERVIEW

Series Overview

A quality arts education equips students with the skills they need to succeed in school, career and life; especially in LA County where one in eight jobs is generated by the creative industries. Yet, not all 1.5 million students attending public schools in LA County have access to high quality arts education. Grantmakers have an important role to play in addressing this critical issue. This is why the public-private Arts Education Collective Funders Council partners with Southern California Grantmakers to host semi-annual convenings on arts education that dive into pressing issues, provide opportunities to connect with other funders and explore ways to provide all students a quality education that embraces the arts.

Program Overview

Today we'll hear from a dynamic panel of Arts Education Collective stakeholders who represent school districts, and County agencies including the Arts Commission, the Office of Education, and Departments of Mental Health and Probation. Each will share insights on why they are supporting this work, discuss progress to date, and describe successful models of how the arts are playing a role in positive youth development.

To amplify the power the arts have to engage and empower all youth, the Arts Ed Collective is partnering with County agencies to support youth development across systems of care, while also optimizing efforts to build school district capacity to deliver arts instruction. This program examines how these efforts are pointing toward the future of this collective impact work. Participants will be encouraged to consider connections between their own priorities and arts education work, and there will be time for Q&A and conversation following the panel.

Opportunities to Engage

- Follow the CREATE CA statewide movement for arts education: <https://www.createca.org/>
- Attend *Moving Beyond Scarcity - Achieving a Brighter Future for Arts Education in Los Angeles* at The Wallis on Wednesday, February 20 <http://thewallis.org/CenterStage>
- Use the Arts Ed Profile to advocate for equitable arts instruction in schools <https://www.lacountyartsedcollective.org/arts-ed-profile>
- Attend an LA County Regional Plan for Arts Education community forum (April-June 2019) <https://www.lacountyartsedcollective.org/events>
- Meet with an Arts Ed Collective Funders Council member to learn more [See page 7](#)

PARTNER ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

About Southern California Grantmakers

Southern California Grantmakers (SCG) is a regional association for philanthropists and grantmakers working to make a difference in our communities and around the world. Our members include family, private, public, independent, community and corporate foundations and corporate giving programs, individuals, and government agencies.

We believe that a strong and informed giving community is essential to improving the quality of life for all Southern Californians. At SCG, we understand the region's philanthropic community, we know our local nonprofits and civic partners, and we recognize the key issues you face. SCG connects grantmakers across Southern California through sector-wide conferences, trainings, networking opportunities and funder convenings—providing space for collaboration and coordinated action on critical issues. We support and advance effective grantmaking in eight Southern California counties: Los Angeles, Orange, Kern, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura.



About the Arts Ed Collective

The [LA County Arts Ed Collective](#) was established in 2002 by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to align efforts across the region so that all 1.5 million public school students receive a quality, well-rounded education that includes the arts. To achieve this objective, the Arts Ed Collective supports and connects school districts, arts organizations, policy makers, funders, and other key stakeholders who are working to advance arts education. This effort is implemented as a partnership between the Los Angeles County Office of Education and the Los Angeles County Arts Commission (LACAC).



PARTICIPANT BIOS



Alex M. Johnson

**Program Director, The California Wellness Foundation
Board Member, LA County Office of Education**

Alex M. Johnson is a program director at The California Wellness Foundation, where he manages grantmaking related to preventing violence. His responsibilities include reviewing letters of interest, requesting and evaluating grant proposals, conducting site visits, making funding recommendations and monitoring active grants.

Prior to joining Cal Wellness in June 2018, Johnson was managing director for Californians for Safety and Justice in Los Angeles. While at CSJ, Johnson led efforts calling for an end to over-incarceration and a renewed focus on safety priorities rooted in prevention and health. Prior to his role at CSJ, he was executive director of Children's Defense Fund-California, where he led statewide advocacy, policy, program and organizing efforts to ensure access to quality affordable health coverage and care for children and low-income families, reform the juvenile justice system, promote educational equity, end child poverty, and improve outcomes for children of color. He is a current member, and past president, of the Los Angeles County Board of Education. Alex was a founding board member of the Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network (AIYN).



Lilian Maldonado French

Superintendent, Mountain View School District

Ms. Maldonado French is the Superintendent of the Mountain View School District. She has 25 plus years of experience in public education. Prior to taking the lead in Mountain View, Ms. Maldonado French spent six years with the Los Nietos School District in Whittier, serving two years as Director of Instructional Services, Assessment and Special Projects and the last four years as Superintendent. Her expertise is in addressing the needs of English Learners, providing specialized training for principals and teachers, and maintaining effective and positive employer-employee relationships through consensus building and collaboration.



Carolyn Kaneko

**Mental Health Clinical Program Manager I
LA County Department of Mental Health**

Carolyn Libao Kaneko is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LAC-DMH). She received her Bachelor's Degree from University of California, Riverside and her Masters in Social Work from University of Southern California. Carolyn has worked extensively with ethnically diverse and underserved children, adolescents and families as both a clinician and supervisor. At the Service Area level, she was responsible for the administration of intensive mental health programs for children and adults within LAC. As a Clinic Administrator III, she managed the largest Adult Behavioral Health Clinic in Ventura County. In her current role as Program Manager with the Prevention Services Division - Family and Community Partnership Unit, Carolyn is responsible for implementation, oversight, and management of Prevention and Early Intervention Programs for those 0 to 15 years of age with the goal of improved outcomes. Additionally, she is responsible for Anti-Stigma and Suicide Prevention for Los Angeles County and is a champion for Birth to Five Workforce Development, through expansion of a series of core trainings to increase knowledge of child development, improve parent-child attachment, and deliver intervention for improved child outcomes. Carolyn also oversees projects with Los Angeles County Office of Education, Parks and Recreation and the Public Libraries. Her strong administrative, clinical, and training background provide a strong backdrop to her current efforts to engage and build community awareness and ensure strong supports for the workforce in LAC-DMH, while providing cutting edge treatment to children and their families.



Dave Mitchell

Deputy Director, LA County Probation Department

Dave Mitchell is a 34-year veteran of the Los Angeles County Probation Department. His experience includes extensive executive management knowledge in planning, directing, administrating, coordinating and evaluating various operations and programs within Los Angeles County Probation.

Dave is currently the Deputy Director for the Residential Treatment Services Bureau (RTSB) which consists of 10 camps and the Dorothy Kirby Center. Dave is currently working on several initiatives. One critical initiative is the expansion of the LA Model at the newly remodeled Campus Kilpatrick.

Campus Kilpatrick utilizes a small-group treatment model that is youth-centered and embodies a culture of care rather than a culture of control.

Additional prior experience includes, Bureau Chief of Placement Services Bureau, where Dave led the Department in the implementation of the Capped Allocation Demonstration Program (Waiver) and was successful in implementing several new Waiver initiatives that assisted the Department in reducing their reliance on congregate care by 40 percent during his tenure. He also previously served as the Bureau Chief of RTSB where he introduced evidenced based small group interventions to the RTSB program.

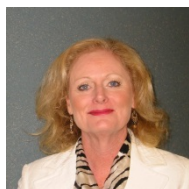


Kristin Sakoda

Executive Director, LA County Arts Commission

Kristin Sakoda is Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission providing leadership for Arts Commission strategies in arts and culture countywide. Ms. Sakoda most recently served as Deputy Commissioner & General Counsel of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) where she advanced a wide range of strategic, programmatic, legislative, and policy initiatives. During her tenure she was instrumental in diversity and inclusion, capital projects at cultural facilities, public art, creative aging and affordable workspace for artists. She served as chief legal officer of DCLA and chief executive officer of the city's Theater Subdistrict Council awarding grants to cultivate diversity and inclusion on Broadway and beyond.

Ms. Sakoda is also a creative professional and lifelong arts practitioner whose work continues to be informed by her professional career in dance, music, theater and songwriting. She has appeared on stages across the U.S. and internationally including with the Urban Bush Women dance company and in hit musicals Rent (National Tour) and Mamma Mia! (Broadway). Ms. Sakoda holds a J.D. from NYU School of Law, where she received the Jack J. Katz Memorial Award for Excellence in Entertainment Law, and a B.A. from Stanford University in American Studies with a specialization in Race and Ethnicity and a secondary major in Feminist Studies.



Shannon C. Wilkins

**Project Director for Visual and Performing Arts
LA County Office of Education**

Shannon Wilkins is the Project Director for Visual and Performing Arts and the Educational Leadership Program training administrators in all aspects of educational leadership for the Los Angeles County Office of Education. She also serves at the Los Angeles representative to the statewide Curriculum and Instruction Steering Committee. She holds Bachelor of Fine Arts from UCLA, a Master of Arts in Educational Administration and recently completed postgraduate work at Harvard Graduate School of Education, Project Zero program. Shannon is a member of

California State Superintendent's *Arts Education Task Force* charged with writing a *Blueprint for Creative Schools* and has authored numerous art education articles and professional development.



Denise Grande

Director of Arts Education, LA County Arts Commission

Denise Grande oversees the Los Angeles County Arts Education Collective, developing strategies for bringing about systemic change in school districts in Los Angeles County to implement quality K-12 arts education. She represents the Arts Ed Collective locally, statewide and nationally, and spearheads regional efforts to advance arts education for LA County's 1.5 million students. Prior to the Arts Commission, Denise was Director of Programs and Strategic Partnership for the Metropolitan Opera Guild at Lincoln Center in New York. During her 20 years at The Music Center - Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County she played a leadership role in program design,

implementation, research and evaluation. Denise received her BA from UCLA in dance and was a Coro Fellow through the California Arts Council's Arts Leadership Fellow Program.

FUNDERS COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Arts Ed Collective Funders Council is working closely with SCG to facilitate conversations and provide information about the important role of the arts in supporting quality public education.

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Executive Director
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Director of Community Affairs
Warner Bros.

To learn more about the Arts Ed Collective, please contact Tom McKenzie:
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