

2023-24 Arts in Schools

Arredondo Elementary School - This grant will support the music program at Arredondo by incorporating choir microphones, stands, and head mics for the choir performances of over 400 Kindergarten through 5th grade students. These supplies enhance the overall sound quality and projection of performances and ensure every voice is heard clearly and distinctly.

Broadmor Elementary School- The music clinician Karen Koger will provide an orchestra residency through grant funds to introduce and invite 5th grade students into the practice of composing orchestral music. This residency will give students information about a musical career in composing and help them take their first steps as beginning composers.

C.I. Waggoner Elementary School- The Art Department at Waggoner seeks to afford all students in Kindergarten through 5th grade with the opportunity to explore the world of ceramics through the purchase of clay and glazes. Grant funds will be utilized to create a ceramics hand-building activity for each grade, advancing students' fine and gross motor skills, hand eye coordination, and sensory skills through the tactile experience.

C.I. Waggoner Elementary School- This grant will provide ukuleles for 2nd through 5th grade students in the music program. The project is designed to allow all students the opportunity to experience and embrace the art of ukulele. These new supplies will impart lessons in social harmony and awareness of others in playing as an ensemble.

Curry Elementary School- To best serve students as they learn and grow musically, Curry will utilize grant funds to purchase a new specialty set of speakers and cables for the combined band and orchestra departments. This updated sound system would provide access to equipment to create a more professional performance for all students as well as a better sound experience for their audiences.

Curry Elementary School- This grant will let 4th and 5th grade students' musical abilities shine by applying what they know to a new instrument: the ukulele. Curry's 3rd grade students participate in a recorder program and, given this grant opportunity, they will be continuing into the 4th grade on an instrument that has a lot of meaning for Hawaiian culture and, since the 1960s, for youth culture in the United States.

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Holdeman Elementary School- Funds will be used to purchase five specialty Orff stands, which completes the school's mallet instrument set utilized by over 300 students in both choir and band. This grant benefits all music students, and especially those with limited mobility, by creating equitable ADA playing spaces throughout all instrument rotations, additionally promoting students' skills as they experience new instruments.

Kyrene de los Ninos Elementary School – This project will employ funds for the residency of ceramic artist James Schwartz, who will guide a project and provide instruction from initial creation to final glazing with a 4th-grade class and their new ceramics kiln. Both the instructor and students benefit by working with Schwarz, an artist specializing in ceramics, as he guides them through the comprehensive and beautiful process of ceramic making.

Kyrene del Norte Elementary School- The annual drama production is an 11-year tradition at Kyrene del Norte, and funds will be used primarily for the production's set, while also being allocated to costumes and props. This yearly project, alongside its partnership with the stage crew program, allows students to explore social-emotional wellbeing, career paths, and transformative performance art in a beautiful stage space.

Rover Elementary School- The Rover Music Theater Program will enhance its sound design through the purchase of specialty receivers for wireless microphones used to support the program's lead stage roles. Grant funds will supply equipment to create a better performing experience for theatre students while also allowing distribution of new ukuleles to Rover's Ukulele Club, serving numerous 2nd through 5th grade students.

Thew Elementary School- An electronic drum station is being created for Thew's General Music classrooms to benefit over 400 students. This grant will fund the purchase of five drum machines to be used for grades K-5. The classes are level- and subject-specific, thus different grades will use the specialty drum station for music exploration and song composition, exploring the manipulation of new digital tools.

Ward Traditional Academy- Grant funding will be used to arrange residencies for violinist Spencer Ekenes and cellist Jenna Dalbey, local professional chamber musicians. These residencies will allow orchestra students to develop both musical and collaborative skills and apply them in and out of the classroom, teaching them how to harness chamber music skills for orchestra music through specialized workshops.

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Connolly Middle School- This funding will allow students in the advanced art class to work with artist John Toumisto-Bell in a weeklong residency. Toumisto-Bell's residency would explore sculpting with Styrofoam and casting the sculptures with a lost foam technique in aluminum pours. The project will have the pieces displayed at the district honors art show, giving students lasting original artwork and knowledge of a new sculptural technique.

Connolly Middle School- This grant will provide the necessary funding to produce the Spring Musical, "Once on This Island Jr.," at Connolly Middle School. The musical will be a valuable experience for students and the community, and it will have a positive impact on all involved, as the production emphasizes love, hope, and the power of community.

Fees College Preparatory Middle School- Grant funds will be used for the residencies of both Miranda Newell and Chris Reidy, experts in Double Reed and Comprehensive Percussion, to offer private lessons and master classes for interested band students. This project directly impacts students that have a desire to go above and beyond by learning a challenging instrument that benefits the quality of the entire band program.

Fees College Preparatory Middle School - The grant will be used to purchase printmaking supplies for Fees' art classes, allowing the students to learn the process and skills needed to create quality prints. Students will expand their understanding of how to block print, use gelli plates, and how the silkscreen process works, then apply these skills by producing a t-shirt design from initial drafting to final product.

Fees College Preparatory Middle School – Through this grant, the residency of vocal clinician Perry Chacon Jr. will be funded to assist Mariachi students in receiving vocal training, allowing them to sing in a life-long healthy way. Chacon Jr. would help students foster their instrument, fundamental performance, and music literacy skills.

Fees College Preparatory Middle School - The project grant supports the residency of Kenna Connelly, who will provide foundational skills in printmaking for 200 6th through 8th grade art students. Connelly's residency affords students an opportunity to apply a more comprehensive understanding of printmaking styles through new printmaking materials in the classroom and exposure to an artist that specializes in the medium.

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Kyrene Middle School- Grant funds will be applied toward a specialty supply, air-dry clay, to hone skills in sculpting 3D forms in Visual Arts classes. Middle school students will be encouraged to experiment and refine new skills within the art of ceramics through a deeper understanding of three-dimensional structures and spaces, providing both an outlet for creative expression and the promotion of art accessibility.

Kyrene Middle School- Through a grant-funded residency, skilled clinician Jon Gomez will host two workshops to greatly enrich the musical learning experience of all three of the school's bands. This project will focus on providing specialized instruction and essential supplies to improve students' musical skills and overall learning environment, while also breaking financial barriers and fostering an environment where all students can thrive.

Kyrene Middle School- This grant will fund a residency of choir clinician Aimee Stewart to work with chorus students, allowing them to improve their vocal technique, sight-reading, and performance skills. Stewart's residency highlights the works of historically marginalized and underrepresented communities, teaching history and music in unison, which will culminate in a concert performance of the student ensembles.

Kyrene Middle School- Grant funds will be applied to the residency of trumpet performer Alexander Strawn to provide individualized instruction to the school's Mariachi trumpet players and a masterclass for the entire Mariachi Program. This project will greatly improve student learning, musicianship, playing ability, and the quality of the Mariachi Program's performances due to their exposure to high-level music instruction from Strawn.

McKemy Academy of International Studies- The grant funds will offer a residency to Kelsey Phillips, a visual artist and teacher within Tempe Community Arts. Phillips will be teaching in-depth demonstrations of developing ideas, as well as digital illustration tools and techniques. Students will bolster their knowledge and skills of digital works by exploring this innovative medium alongside an expert artist and their new digital tools.

McKemy Academy of International Studies - Funds will be used for the residency of Guest Musical Director Miciah Dodge to spearhead the theatre program's spring play. This grant will provide students more opportunities to work side-by-side with a successful musical director to enhance their voice, instrumentation, and choreography.

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Mosley Middle School- Award-winning Orchestra Director Brian Murphy will be provided a residency at Mosley Middle School through grant funding, allowing him to directly engage with and improve the instrument techniques of 6th-8th grade band students. Through Murphy's mentorship, students will attain fundamental performance skills, boosted work ethics, and motivation to benefit the entire Mosley community.

Mosley Middle School - This project grant will offer a residency to the Tetra String Quartet ensemble, an Arizona nonprofit organization that aims to uplift elementary, middle, and high school students through chamber music instruction. Two Mosley student ensembles will be provided a large group workshop, instrument-based clinics, and a performance-based masterclass through Tetra's residency of creative exercises.

New School for the Arts & Academics- This grant will benefit the Levels I-III Fashion Classes by providing a specialty cover stitch sewing machine to contribute toward their knowledge on clothing construction and sewing skills on stretch knit fabrics. Fashion students will be collaborating with dance students in designing dance wear for their annual performance, additionally showcasing their designs at a yearly fashion show.

Shamley Middle School- This funding will allow students in two Shamley art classes to learn alongside artist John Toumisto-Bell in his weeklong residency. Toumisto-Bell's residency would explore sculpting with Styrofoam and casting the sculptures with a lost foam technique in aluminum pours. Students' final pieces will be displayed at a school gallery night before students have the opportunity to take home their original metal art.

Corona del Sol High School- Funding will contract a residency for the Burn City String Quartet to work with students in the Orchestra Program. The quartet will both perform for the orchestra classes and provide section coaching for the students. This residency will help improve students' musicianship through personalized instruction they may not have access to otherwise, creating equitable, extraordinary experiences.

Corona del Sol High School- This project grant will be used for the residency of guest clinician and musician Scott Yandell. Yandell will work with students in preparation for concert performances, as well as Area and State Concert/Jazz Festivals, providing collaborative instruction and feedback to students as they improve. Additionally, this residency would offer Corona del Sol the opportunity for Yandell to be a guest soloist at their Spring Jazz Concert and collaborate with CdS Jazz Band.

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Corona del Sol High School- This project grant will offer a residency to an outside lighting designer, Todd Muller, to work with Corona del Sol Dance Company students to produce their Winter Dance Concert. Muller will work with students to deliver a high-quality production of “Nutcracker Tale,” while raising state dance and theater standards in extracurricular performances.

Corona del Sol High School- International drum set/steel pan artist Chris Wabich will work with students through a residency to perform and give clinics on steel pan/drum set, focusing on advanced drum set techniques, advanced pan performance, and tuning the steel drum. Over 170 students will work with Wabich to study musical scores and learn advanced drum set techniques, bolstering percussion students’ music education.

Marcos de Niza High School- Marcos de Niza Theater students will be involved in the continued tradition of planning of their own prop and set design as they discover the backstage job of properties and fake prop creation. Funds will be used to acquire supplies needed for this project, and a total of 40 students will benefit.

Marcos de Niza High School- Chuck Hulihan will be offered a residency as a guest clinician to work with the Marcos de Niza Guitar Classes. Hulihan will provide students valuable lessons in repertoire and technique development as they begin their journey in learning guitar. Students will become more advanced as Hulihan helps solidify foundational skills on the instrument and supports further growth.

Marcos de Niza High School- The Marcos Fine Arts Academy will afford a residency to guest clinician and local artist Rae Wilson to help students explore their identity and create a self-portrait. During Wilson’s residency, students will have time to ask questions of a local professional artist, collaborate with Wilson as well as their peers, critique their works, and display them on campus as finished introspective pieces.

McClintock High School- Tetra String Quartet, a local professional music ensemble, will receive a residency to work with two McClintock orchestra students. With Tetra’s coaching, students will hone their skills as they learn and create chamber music in small groups, with a culminating concert at Friendship Village.

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McClintock High School- This project grant will bring in professional sound technician Nick Halonen of Link Performing Arts to teach choral students how to set up, use, and store sound equipment. Halonen will also run audio for McClintock's November choir concert. This will benefit 140 McClintock choir students as Mr. Halonen provides valuable instruction and opportunities to interact with professional sound equipment.

McClintock High School- This grant will support the residency of a visual arts guest artist to the school. Ceramic students will work with Dylan Fitzgibbons on wheel throwing and slab construction technique to create vessel forms. Students will gain depth of knowledge from a successful, local artist while being provided opportunities to learn and present work in a professional setting.

McClintock High School- The McClintock High School Band Program will use this grant to purchase new microphones to enhance the program's sound and performance quality. Upgraded microphones will benefit the band program at McClintock for generations, and students will receive valuable training and education in audio set-up.

Tempe High School- In collaboration with McClintock High School, this grant fund will bring in Tetra String Quartet, a local professional music ensemble, to work with Tempe High orchestra students. With Tetra's coaching, students will hone their skills as they learn and create chamber music in small groups, with a culminating concert at Friendship Village.