

Youth in Arts®

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MARIN ARTS PLAN RELEASED

Nearly 100 arts education leaders, parents and teachers met in San Rafael today to celebrate the release of a plan to increase access to the arts for all students in Marin County.

The Arts Education Plan took three years to develop and comes at a time when communities across the country are celebrating National Arts in Education Week (Sept. 9-18). Local leaders include Youth in Arts, the Marin County Office of Education, the Marin Community Foundation and the Marin Cultural Association.

“This plan is the first time ever that multiple agencies are coming together in Marin to make a statement that all kids deserve equal access to the arts,” said Miko Lee, executive director of Youth in Arts.

Lee is being honored next week as one of five [Arts Now heroes](#) chosen by the California Alliance for Arts Education. Her blog for Americans for the Arts on the inequity of arts education for Marin schoolchildren can be read [here](#).

While some students in Marin have an opportunity to study visual art, theater, dance and music, others do not, Lee said. Marin is the only county in the Bay Area that does not have a local tax to support the arts and arts education.

A newly updated database, marin.artsedvision.org, allows people to compare how much is spent per student on the arts from school to school and how many minutes of instruction is provided. Nearly 80 percent of Marin public schools participated in the project.

“We know that the arts can make a difference in attendance, in civic engagement, in grades and also in social-emotional learning,” Lee said. “We want young people to have their voices heard and to feel empowered.”

The plan was released at a kickoff breakfast for Marin Arts in Education Week. The event was hosted by the California Alliance for Arts Education and the Marin County Cultural Services, the Marin County Office of Education and Youth in Arts.

Since its founding in 1970, Youth in Arts has reached more than one million children through programs that build visual and performing arts skills. Through Arts Unite Us, it is the only arts provider in Marin for students in special education classrooms.

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