

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

TO: BSEP Planning & Oversight Committee
FROM: Pete Gidlund, Visual & Performing Arts Program Supervisor, and
Pasquale Scuderi, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services
DATE: March 12, 2019
SUBJECT: Preliminary Recommendation for Expenditure of BSEP Funds for
the Visual and Performing Arts Programs in 2019-20

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Berkeley Public Schools Educational Excellence Act of 2016 allocates 6.25% of the available revenues annually to providing quality instructional programs in music and the visual and performing arts for elementary and middle school students. Available Revenues may be used for, but are not restricted to, providing qualified teachers and staff, and professional development in the arts for elementary and secondary students. Musical instruments, instructional materials, equipment and necessary services may be provided for any K-12 school, as long as funds permit.¹

Program Objectives

Mission Statement: The BUSD Music Department provides a musical foundation in an equitable, culturally responsive and respectful classroom environment that facilitates cooperation and perseverance.

Program Summary

BSEP funds provide the instrumental and choral music program for grades 4-8 and supports arts instruction and professional development in arts integration in the elementary and middle schools. In March 2016, BUSD was recognized for the fourth year in a row by the NAMM Foundation as one of the Best Communities in the United States for Music Education 2016. Berkeley is one of 388 recognized districts across the United States and one of only five to receive the award in California.

Music Program Summary

All Fourth and Fifth Grade students receive music instruction twice per week. Four types of instruction are delivered—strings (orchestra), woodwinds and brass (band), world music (percussion, ukuleles, guitars).

In the middle schools, classes are electives, held five days a week, usually during zero period. Choices include 6th Grade Band, 7th-8th grade Band, two levels of Orchestra, Chorus, Jazz Band, and Guitar. Jazz Band is an after school elective four days a week at all three middle schools. Mariachi and Music meets two days a week at Longfellow. For 2019-20, there will continue to be two Orchestras and three Bands during zero period at King to accommodate the large number of students who have signed up for music. We will also be

¹ BSEP Measure E1 of 2016, Section 3.B.ii

piloting a middle school dance program during zero period at all three middle schools.

Visual and Performing Arts Program Summary

The VAPA BSEP resource provides curriculum and professional development support to the district's dance, drama and visual art teachers K-8 by providing workshops as well as facilitating meetings with their Berkeley High School peers on district Professional Development days. In addition, there is financial support for conferences and professional development, and a middle school drama material allocation of \$2,000 per middle school.

BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MUSIC, VISUAL and PERFORMING ARTS for FY 2019-20

Staffing

Release Time Music Teachers

- Release Time Transfer to General Fund

In accordance with the teacher contract, fourth and fifth grade teachers receive five periods of release time per week. The General Fund pays for the FTE for science, dance and art teachers who provide part of this release time. The General Fund is currently providing half of the cost of the FTE required for music teachers for the two periods per week of fourth and fifth grade teacher release time, and the BSEP fund is paying the other half of the FTE in the release time calculation through a transfer to the General Fund.

Music Program Staffing

Additional Fourth-Fifth Grade Music Teachers

Three music teachers are scheduled for the prep period of every two classroom teachers in order to offer a variety of options, including strings, woodwinds, brass, and world music. Several additional music teachers may be assigned for 4th and 5th grades as needed to provide an optimal learning environment and to allow for grade level groupings where there are combination classes. The total number of classes for the 2019-20 school year may need to be altered when school opens based on variances in enrollment. Music class sizes average 15:1 so that all students receive the instruction and coaching they need to be successful musicians. The BSEP fund bears the entire cost of these additional music teachers.

Middle School (6-8th grade) Music Teachers

Over 800 middle school students participate in the music program, requiring multiple before and after school sections in jazz, band, orchestra, chorus and guitar.

Visual and Performing Arts Program Supervisor

1.0 FTE

This position supervises and evaluates 18 music teachers, plans all arts professional development, facilitates all arts partnerships, serves as liaison to Bay Area arts organizations and supports district arts teachers and programs. The Supervisor supports the four arts curricula and assessments as well as Standards and Common Core alignment. This person is the budget manager for all aspects of the VAPA resource in the BSEP measure, as well as for independent contracts and outside grants.

VAPA Technician

1.0 FTE

The VAPA Technician keeps an ongoing database (library information software) of all instruments and sheet music. The VAPA Tech works with the music teachers to ensure that they have the materials and supplies they need for their students. This person arranges for repairs, tracks purchase orders, places and receives orders, tracks teacher absences and repairs instruments when possible. In the fall and the spring, the VAPA Tech delivers and then picks up over 2,500 instruments from the school sites. The proposed FTE is an increase from the prior 0.6 FTE which has proved to be insufficient to tackle the tasks associated with supporting the VAPA program; a number of clerical tasks were falling to the VAPA supervisor.

Hourly Staffing

\$15,000

Middle School Music Tutors and Instructional Specialists - \$4,000

Instructional specialists provide individual and small group instruction to orchestra and band students by coaching chamber music groups and reinforcing classroom learning in small group settings.

Teacher Substitutes for Special Events - \$6,000

Substitutes for music teachers are necessary when those teachers attend Berkeley Symphony concerts, Cazadero Jumpstart Retreats, Arts on the Run, California Music Education Association student festivals and music conferences.

Teacher Hourly for Performing Arts Rehearsals - \$5,000

In order to properly staff and supervise 800 students rehearsing and performing in the annual Performing Arts Showcase, teachers are paid hourly for their weekend work time, approximately nine hours per teacher.

Performing Arts Teachers for the Middle School

\$120,490

VAPA funds will continue to support after school performing arts courses in Dance and Jazz at the three middle schools. Jazz Band is provided at Willard and Longfellow, and music coaching is offered at King. Longfellow and Willard add .04 FTE from their site funds to support jazz class a fourth day of the week.

New this year, an additional 0.6 FTE will be allocated to pilot a zero period dance program comparable to our zero period music program at all three middle schools. Credentialed dance teachers will teach Modern/Hip-Hop

dance 5 days a week. The rationale behind this expansion is to continue to offer diverse, equitable course offerings in the visual and performing arts.

Professional Development & Arts Anchor Schools \$98,200

Professional Development - \$13,200

Since 2012, music teachers have participated in the year-long *Mills Teachers Scholars inquiry*. We will continue this program in 2019-20. The VAPA staff and Mills have worked together to incorporate DuFours-style PLC groups in compliance with the BUSD PLC initiative and VAPA PD will remain committed to both styles. VAPA staff has also committed to make the main “lens” of inquiry equity-based.

Arts Anchor School Programs - \$85,000

The Arts Anchor school program provides professional development in arts to K-5 classroom teachers, utilizing modeling and coaching to encourage classroom teachers to integrate the arts into their curriculum. Teachers at Arts Anchor schools design the professional development focus as a team and work with an arts provider or a certificated arts teacher to plan integrated arts lessons. Classroom modeling and coaching are essential to deepen learning and understanding for all students, as well as greater teaching proficiency of the teachers.

In 2019-20, ten elementary schools plan to participate in the Arts Anchor program. The one school not participating has a part time visual art teacher on staff. Principals and teachers report an increased level of confidence among classroom teachers in undertaking arts integration on their own. Classroom teachers eagerly choose curriculum and an art focus for the year; teachers who are new to the staff or who have not participated previously engage in the work. Dance and class plays have become “something we do at this school” and student displays throughout the school express the “student as artist” vision.

Arts Anchor Extension \$110,400

This year we plan to pilot a program to fund arts and enrichment programming in middle school and afterschool to provide support for programs that have been lacking due to scheduling or funding constraints. The intent is to provide equitable arts opportunities for all students.

Instruments and VAPA Instructional Materials \$124,500

Instruments- \$75,000

The music program provides musical instruments to all fourth to eighth grade music students. Berkeley is one of the few California school districts that loans instruments so that students of all financial levels have equal access to the program. In addition, students are supplied with music method books and workbooks, recorders, reeds, strings, all instrument accessories and sheet

music, and classrooms are outfitted with music stands, music carts and music storage units. Instruments are repaired as needed and new ones purchased to replace those that are beyond repair.

Growth in student enrollment over the last several years has had an impact on the music program. While current projections are for slower overall enrollment growth affecting the elementary grades for another three years, the middle school program participation continues to grow. There is an ongoing demand for instrument purchase and repair in order to serve a larger overall population than were being served several years ago. \$43,000 is budgeted for instrument purchases, and \$32,000 for repairs, tuning and moving.

Materials - \$49,500

The music library collection will continue to be expanded in 2019-20 to help students grow and develop as musicians. As the number of students enrolled in music classes continues to increase at the middle schools, so does the need for additional instruments, repairs and instructional materials. As the students become more proficient, more sophisticated instruments must be provided. \$40,000 is budgeted for music materials and supplies, and \$6,000 for drama production materials. The balance of the budget, \$3,500, is for memberships with the National and California Music Educators Associations, The Kennedy Center Partners in Education Program, and the Orff Music Association.

Mileage for Music Teachers; Festival Participation \$10,000

Mileage reimbursement is needed for the elementary and middle school music teachers, who travel between three or four schools a day and five to seven schools during the course of the week.

Middle school teachers understand the tremendous educational opportunity provided by participation in local chorus, band and orchestra festivals. Students play for adjudicators who give the chorus, band or orchestra a score with comments. In addition, guest conductors work with the ensembles in clinics. The registration fees are covered and teachers raise funds for the buses to transport students.

Technology \$5,000

A small technology budget for 2019-20 supports the maintenance, updating, and replacement of teacher iPads and office computer hardware and purchase of projectors for music teachers.

Performances and Exhibitions \$3,000

BUSD participates in *March IS Art Education Month* each year with a variety of special events. VAPA monies support the custodians for Performing Arts Showcase and the Arts of the Run Bus costs.

Performing Arts Showcase: The VAPA Department presents the Performing Arts Showcase, an afternoon of music performed by grades 5-12 at the Berkeley Community Theater. On March 10 of 2019 roughly 1000 students participated in Choruses, Orchestras, and Bands by grade level. Participation in this event has more than doubled in the last several years.

Arts on the Run: In February 2019, three busloads of Berkeley High School performing arts students traveled to the three middle schools, to present a 50 minute sampler of the dance, drama, vocal and instrumental music opportunities at Berkeley High School to the eighth grade students, who would soon be registering for their ninth grade classes at BHS. Experiencing the many options available for participation in the arts at BHS supports students in their transition from middle school to high school.

Collaborative Partnerships

\$12,400

Thanks to BSEP funding, the VAPA program is able to leverage contributions towards collaborative partnerships with the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra, Cal Performances, Alonzo King LINES Ballet, and the Kennedy Center to provide expanded opportunities for our students at a fraction of the full cost of these programs.

The Berkeley Symphony Orchestra (BSO) *Music in the Schools* Program provides BUSD elementary schools with an exciting educational program. Our students benefit from Symphony visits to schools in the fall for *Meet the Symphony* concerts, as well as Symphony musicians visiting with our K-5 classrooms, and *I Am a Performer* concerts at many schools in February.

Cal Performances provides our teachers with the opportunity to attend workshops and have guest artists visit their classes in conjunction with "School Time Performances." The Kennedy Center provides KC Partners with unique collaborations - this year the BUSD has an exciting new partnership opportunity with the Alonzo King LINES Ballet, a contemporary ballet company which draws upon a diverse range of cultural influences to inspire our students.

The VAPA budget includes contributions toward these partnerships, with \$10,000 to support the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra program at the eleven K-5 schools and residencies at middle and high schools, \$400 to support custodial time for Cal Performances in the classroom workshops, and \$2,000 for travel expenses to the Kennedy Center Partners in Education annual meeting. By association, the Kennedy Center oversees our partnership with the Alonzo King LINES Ballet, which provides dance instruction and teacher PD to Washington elementary and will provide BUSD with general dance PD to elementary teachers district wide 2019-2020.

Measure A Funds for VAPA

In addition to the expenditure of funds from BSEP Measure E1, the remaining fund balance from the BSEP Measure A resource for Music, Visual and Performing Arts (Resource 0853) is sufficient to provide for this program need for 2019-20:

Deferred Maintenance Initiative

\$100,000

In order to maintain the quality of our larger instruments, and address deferred maintenance issues, up to \$100,000 of Measure A fund balance will be used to repair or replace larger assets such as pianos, as well as to make a few necessary major purchases of large brass instruments and string instruments which had been deferred during the previous measure. This special use of funds provides the opportunity to strategically address a delayed investment in our district assets. This same amount was used in 2018-19 and only accomplished a portion of what needs to be done to sustain our fleets larger musical instruments.