



Descriptions of Community Arts Experiences Options Thurs, Oct 22, 2026

Our hosts, San Diego School for the Creative and Performing Arts (SDSCP), have curated several outstanding hands-on community arts experiences options of some of San Diego's most prestigious cultural institutions for the morning of Thursday, October 22. Please read through the following choices so you can select the one you'd like to attend during the registration process. Note, we will base transportation arrangements on the choices made at registration and we will not be able to accommodate requests for changes. Tour sizes will be limited and assigned on a first come first serve basis.

- Balboa Art Conservation Center
- Chicano Park
- Comic-Con Museum
- Old Globe Theater
- San Diego Institute of Contemporary Art
- San Diego Opera
- San Diego Area Writing Project, former San Diego Poet Laureate Jason Magabo Perez, and the SDSCPA Creative Writing Department
- SDSCPA Dance

Balboa Art Conservation Center

Description

What does it mean to preserve culture, and how can conservation as a living practice inform teaching and learning?

This 3-hour professional development workshop at the Balboa Art Conservation Center introduces educators to the field of conservation through the lens of identity, inquiry, and cultural responsibility, and explores how conservation—understood as part of the broader, lived practice of cultural preservation—can serve as an interdisciplinary framework for teaching and learning. Participants will begin with three guiding questions – Who am I? Who am I from? Where am I from? – as a starting point for exploring how personal and collective stories are embedded in material culture.

Participants will then explore how conservation concepts intersect with arts, humanities, and STEAM learning environments through a guided conservation lab tour and object-based discussion. Rather than presenting a fixed curriculum, this Train-the-Trainer model invites educators to translate preservation ideas through their own pedagogical expertise and teaching contexts.

Participants will leave with a framework for discussing cultural preservation with students and at least one initial idea for integrating material culture and conservation concepts into their classroom practice as part of everyday learning.

Chicano Park

Description

Step into one of San Diego's most powerful cultural landmarks— Chicano Park, a National Historic Landmark and home to the largest concentration of Chicano murals in the world. Spanning seven acres, this vibrant space features more than 100 murals alongside sculpture, gardens, and gathering spaces that tell stories of identity, resistance, and community pride.

In partnership with San Diego Unified's Ethnic Studies Department and the Chicano Park Museum and Cultural Center, this experience goes beyond a traditional tour. Participants will walk the park with knowledgeable guides, engage directly with artists and community members, and explore the deep cultural and historical significance behind the artwork.

The experience culminates in a hands-on art-making session with a Chicano Park Teaching Artist, offering participants the opportunity to reflect, create, and connect their learning to their own practice.

Join us to experience the geographic and emotional heart of San Diego, where art is not only seen, but lived, and where creativity continues to bridge history, culture, and community.

Comic-Con Museum

Description

As part of Comic-Con, the world-renowned comics and popular arts convention, Comic-Con Museum is a participatory space focused on celebrating and bringing together diverse audiences for shared vibrant experiences featuring comics, film, television, cosplay, science fiction, fantasy, books, video games, anime, and other related popular arts.

With interactive exhibits that are updated regularly, hands-on STEAM based art-making activities, panels, movie screenings, and other dynamic programming, you will always find something new and exciting to explore.

The experience includes two options for workshops (select one):

- **Table-Top Game Design:** In this workshop, adult learners collaborate with colleagues to conceptualize, design, prototype, test, iterate and reflect on a tabletop board game. Professional learning outcomes include a deeper understanding of the role of academic language and compromise in interest-driven, project-based learning; content knowledge of multimodal storytelling and games as systems; and pedagogical knowledge related to curriculum design for productive failure, constructive feedback and authentic assessment. Participants will leave with a replicable, standards-based project that can be undertaken in almost any context, with any content, as a meaningful pathway to arts integration.
- **Using Community Co-Design to Eliminate Silos and Seed Collaboration:** In this workshop, educators and leaders will learn about the practice of co-designing interventions across perceived boundaries in education; whether those barriers are

institutional, practical, financial, cultural, historical, and more! Further, members of the Comic-Con Museum Education team will share tips, tricks, and tensions from their own experience of using the development of Comic-Con Education Center as a productive problem space to seed collaboration across our arts-based learning community in San Diego and beyond. Participants will leave with an intellectual community of practice centered on using arts-based curriculum development as a pathway to collaboration across organizational, cultural, and historical divisions.

Old Globe Theater

Description

Nurturing the Next Generation of Theatre Artists & Leaders – A Conversation & Tour of The Old Globe. Listen to three of the Old Globe's leaders—Associate Artistic Director Kim Heil, Director of Arts Engagement Adena Varner, and General Manager Alex Orbovich—as they talk about the Globe's unique position as one of the largest and most successful theatres in the country, and how arts education and engagement play a significant role in the Globe's relationship to community. We'll discuss how schools at all levels can prepare their students for viable and sustainable careers in the arts, and how participation in theatre—whether as an artist or audience member—can help students find their voices and become better advocates for themselves and their communities.

Then, join Old Globe docents in a tour of the theatre complex, which includes three theatres, administrative offices, and rehearsal halls on the magnificent grounds of historic Balboa Park!

San Diego Institute of Contemporary Art

Description

In this professional development workshop at the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) San Diego, educators will learn how to incorporate inquiry-based teaching strategies through a guided exhibition tour, hands-on art making, and a workshop covering practical implementation of arts-based classroom strategies. Teachers will engage first as learners, practicing close looking, open-ended discussion, and creative risk-taking, then reflect on how these strategies translate to their own classrooms, in both arts and academics settings at elementary and secondary levels. We will explore how to incorporate visual thinking strategies (VTS) across subjects, as well as how to scaffold critical thinking and create inclusive spaces for dialogue. Participants will walk away with a new understanding of creating hands-on, project-based learning experiences for all learning styles, as well as practical, classroom-ready tools related to critical thinking, arts integration, and social-emotional learning.

San Diego Opera

Description

Engage with the San Diego Opera for a dynamic, hands-on experience that brings together storytelling, music, visual art, and STEAM. Through the Words & Music program, you'll engage in the same creative process students use to transform their ideas and lived experiences into original songs—developing lyrics, shaping narrative, and collaborating through melody and rhythm in ways that connect directly to ELA, music, and social-emotional learning. Then, step into the Opera STEAM Lab, where you'll build instruments such as pan pipes and rain sticks to explore the science of sound, and design opera-inspired masks that bring visual storytelling, symbolism, and character to life—bridging science, visual arts, theatre, and cultural studies.

Participants will leave with adaptable lesson ideas, cross-disciplinary strategies, and project frameworks that can be implemented across grade levels and content areas—whether in arts classrooms or traditional academic settings—empowering students to think creatively, collaborate meaningfully, and connect learning across disciplines.

San Diego Area Writing Project & SDSCPA Writing Department

Description

Join the San Diego Area Writing Project, former San Diego Poet Laureate Jason Magabo Perez, and the SDSCPA Creative Writing Department for an interactive experience that explores the power of writing across disciplines. This session invites educators from all content areas to discover how creative writing can be embedded into both artistic and academic settings to deepen thinking, elevate student voice, and increase engagement. Through guided activities and collaborative exploration, participants will experience how writing can serve as a bridge—connecting ideas, disciplines, and perspectives in meaningful and transformative ways.

SDSCPA Dance

Description

Attendees are welcomed into the studio to experience the SDSCPA Dance Department's curriculum and culture that prepares the dancer to be audition ready for college, conservatory, and professional dance careers. Participants will observe ballet and modern classes in a variety of grade levels to see the results of curriculum across years of study, participate in a talk back session with the faculty and students, and leave with resources to enhance the curriculum, culture, and success of their own arts departments.

About SDSCPA Dance Department

The SDSCPA Dance program welcomes students of all skill levels at any grade who have the passion to dance. The curriculum is strategically designed to support every student (6th-12th grade) with a defined scope and sequence, curricular and extra-curricular performance opportunities, and culture of care and professionalism. The ballet curriculum is guided by the American Ballet Theater Training program and the modern curriculum includes training in Graham, Horton, and Limón foundational modern dance techniques. The program boasts a breadth of guest artists from local and national dance companies and colleges and ample technical and artistic performances.