



Descriptions of School/Community Tour Options Wed, Oct 21, 2026 AKA “School Tour Morning”

Our hosts, San Diego School for the Creative and Performing Arts (SDSCP), have curated school and community tour options for the morning of Wednesday, October 21. Please read through the following school tour choices so you can select the one you’d like to attend during the registration process. Please note, we will base transportation arrangements on the choices made at registration and we will not be able to accommodate requests for changes

- Creative Performing & Media Arts Middle School (CPMA)
- Freese Arts and Culture Museum Magnet School (Elementary School)
- La Jolla Playhouse (Community Tour)
- San Diego School for Creative and Performing Arts (SDSCPA)
- Zamorano Fine Arts Academy (Elementary School)

Creative Performing & Media Arts Middle School (CPMA)

Who would benefit from this tour?

Conference attendees interested in arts-integration, be it at elementary, middle, or high school, will learn how CPMA has made arts a cornerstone in all classrooms and foster bridges across disciplines.

Description

CPMA is a vibrant public middle school in the San Diego Unified School District serving grades 6–8. CPMA is a diverse and inclusive arts-focused school where students develop as both artists and scholars in an environment where creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication are central to learning. Through an arts-integrated curriculum implemented across core academic classes, students learn through interdisciplinary units and courses that teach about, with, and through the arts, providing multiple pathways for expression, understanding, and academic achievement. Students pursue focused arts pathways in theatre, music, dance, and creative writing, while also engaging in innovative programs such as Influencer Academy and Modern Band & Music Production that connect artistic creativity with real-world skills.

CPMA serves a diverse student population and provides a full continuum of special education services, ensuring all students have access to rigorous academics and meaningful arts experiences. Visitors will tour classrooms where arts integration is embedded in core instruction, observe interdisciplinary learning in action, and participate in a brief professional development session demonstrating how teachers collaboratively plan for our “Creating

Connections” Night, a schoolwide event that highlights arts integration in core academic courses.

This session will introduce our Dual Standards Model for arts-integrated learning, showing how teachers design lessons and projects that intentionally connect academic content standards with arts standards through interdisciplinary planning and performance-based learning.

Freese Arts and Culture Museum Magnet School

Who would benefit from this tour?

Conference attendees interested in leading quality partnerships, be it an elementary, secondary, or community organization, will learn how Freese has helped bridge divides by creating a high school internship opportunity and partnered with local arts organizations.

Description

Visit Freese Arts and Culture Museum Magnet School, a title I TK–5 campus where the arts are woven into everyday learning and community life. Grounded in the belief that “We Learn, We Lead, We Lift Each Other Up,” Freese shows how strong partnerships can bring arts education to life.

On this tour, you’ll learn how collaborations with ArtReach, Arts Education Connection, and the Mingei Museum support hands-on, culturally relevant visual arts that connect directly to classroom learning. A highlight is Freese’s on-site gallery space, featuring international folk art on loan from San Diego Mesa College World Art Collection, giving students daily access to real works of art as inspiration for their own creations. You’ll also experience the partnership with Freese, SDSCPA, and San Diego Mesa College World Art Collection, where high school students step into the role of aides and curators, helping plan and present student work for community exhibitions.

Join us to see how partnerships expand what’s possible for young artists and create meaningful, connected learning experiences.

La Jolla Playhouse (Community Tour)

Who would benefit from this tour?

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San Diego School for Creative and Performing Arts (SDSCPA)

Who would benefit from this tour?

Conference attendees interested in seeing how a clear vision and strong frameworks can shape a school’s success will learn how SDSCPA has developed strong artistic pathways and a community that loves and lifts.

Description

The San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts (SDSCPA) is a tuition-free, Title I public magnet school in San Diego Unified serving approximately 1,350 students in grades 6–12 from more than 50 zip codes across the county. As the district’s premier pre-conservatory arts school, SDSCPA offers audition-based admission and an intensive dual curriculum that blends

rigorous college-preparatory academics with focused training in six arts majors—Creative Writing, Dance, Design & Production, Music, Theatre, and Visual & Media Arts.

The arts are central to the school day, comprising nearly 40 percent of instruction, with students progressing through a structured sequence that builds technical skill, creative voice, and historical understanding, culminating in public performances, exhibitions, juries, and showcases. Students learn from professional artists through residencies, masterclasses, and mentorships while also engaging in Honors, Advanced Placement, and arts-integrated UCCI courses within a 4x4 block schedule that allows completion of eight courses annually. Additionally, through a partnership with San Diego City College, more than 90 percent of students complete at least one dual-credit college course before graduation. SDSCPA is one of the most diverse schools in California, with over 80 percent of students identifying as students of color, and consistently demonstrates strong academic outcomes, high graduation and attendance rates, and more than \$15 million in scholarships earned annually by graduates. Fully accredited by WASC, recognized as an Exemplary Arts School by the National Arts Schools Network (2023–2028), and a 2026 California Exemplary Arts Education Awardee, SDSCPA prepares students to graduate as skilled artists, creative thinkers, and academically accomplished scholars ready for success in universities, conservatories, and the professional arts world.

Visitors are invited to experience this work firsthand by touring our campus and learning spaces, observing pre-conservatory arts instruction and arts integration in action, learning about our innovative initiatives, and hearing directly from students about their learning.

Zamorano Fine Arts Academy

Who would benefit from this tour?

Conference attendees who are interested in how to create a strong arts community, regardless of the grade level, will see how Zamorano continues to draw students from even outside of district borders because of its intentional focus on community building and bridging cultures.

Descriptions

Zamorano Fine Arts Academy (ZFAA) is a tuition-free, Title I school in San Diego Unified serving approximately 735 students in grades UTK-5th. Established in 1986, ZFAA is an exciting and innovative school that provides its diverse student population with the opportunity to develop artistic knowledge and art appreciation, specifically in visual and media arts. Students engage and explore a variety of media while being introduced to artists in the community and from around the world culminating in the annual art show, Celebration of art in the spring.

Student works are regularly displayed at the local public libraries, Youth Art Month (YAM) and CAEA San Diego County K-8 Student Art Exhibit to take pride in their work and appreciate the work of others. ZFAA was selected as 1 of the 60 schools in the country to pilot the first National Elementary Art Honor Society and establish its first chapter with 34 5th grade students in the 2025-26 school year. ZFAA offers 5th grade students to also design and participate in a legacy mural, an experience unique to the school. By enhancing critical thinking, fostering creativity and innovation, encouraging positive risk taking and fine motor skills, ZFAA prepares students to become problem solvers and lifelong learners.

Participants will be introduced to the various ways students, staff, and families collaborate through art, fostering connection and coming together as a unified community. They will also explore how the school actively advocates for the arts, promoting creativity as an essential part of learning and community engagement.