

**Board of Trustees Meeting**

Cafeteria

1401 Highland Avenue

Duarte, CA 91010

(657) 321-4000

**Open Board Minutes****Monday, October 27, 2025****Closed Session - 6:00-6:30 PM, Location: Admin Conference Room****Open Session - 6:30-8:00 PM, Location: Cafeteria****1. Call to Order****a. Roll Call**

a. Genevieve Spinella	CSArts-SGV Board Member (President)
b. Marcy Ulrich	CSArts-SGV Board Member
c. Carol Green	CSArts-SGV Board Member
d. Francisco Figueroa	CSArts-SGV Board Member
e. Daniel Volonte	CSArts-SGV Board Member
f. Steven Wagner	CSArts-SGV Founder & Strategic Consultant
g. Nicole Read	CSArts-SGV
h. Alison Hennessey	CSArts-SGV (Via Zoom)
i. Sean Kerr	CSArts-SGV
j. Leon Metoyer	CSArts-SGV
k. Ann Kang	CSArts-SGV
l. Jean- Near Ansari	CSArts-SGV & OCSA
m. Zakai Haynes	CSArts-SGV
n. Jessica Tan	CSArts-SGV

**2. Public Comment on Closed Session Agenda Items and Other Items Within the Jurisdiction of the Board***No Comment***3. Closed Session****a. Student Matters****b. Personnel Matters**

- i. Public employee  
employment/discipline/dismissal/release/resignation/complaints: Government Code section 54957

**c. Legal Matters**

- i. Conference with legal counsel: Anticipated Litigation: Government Code sections 54954.5 (c) & 54956.9 (d) (2) & (e) (1) Student v. Duarte Unified School District & California School of the Arts-San Gabriel Valley OAH Case Number 2025090888

- ii. *Motion to Adjourn: C.Green*

- iii. *Second: F. Figueroa*

- iv. *Unanimously Approved*

**4. Call to Order for Open Session****a. Roll Call: Open Board Meeting Start: 6:29pm****b. Pledge of Allegiance**

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**5. Reportable Action (if any) from Closed Session***No Report***6. Mission & Core Values**

- a. Mission (who we are):
  - i. We provide an unparalleled arts and academic education in a creative, challenging, and nurturing environment to a diverse student body passionate about the arts, preparing them to reach their highest potential.
- b. Core Values (how we make decisions):
  - i. Student growth and education come first.
  - ii. Commitment to excellence, innovation, professionalism, and integrity.
  - iii. Foster a nurturing environment of creativity, respect, and collaboration.
  - iv. Commitment to life-long artistic and scholarly development.

**7. Public Comment on Open Session Agenda Items and Other Items Within the Jurisdiction of the Board***No Comment***8. Consent Slate**

- a. Approval of Minutes: [Open Board Minutes 9.29.25](#)
- b. SGV Position Change Form - SEP 25
  - i. *Motion to Approve Consent Slate: C.Green*
  - ii. *Second: M. Ulrich*
  - iii. *Unanimously Approved*

**9. Principal's Report**

N. Read, A. Hennessey, &amp; S. Kerr

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- a. Administration will update the Board on the activities and operations of the school
  - i. Class President Report: Sophomore Class Presidents: Kayla Minasian & Evelyn Linchangco
    1. Kayla and Evelyn recap on the School of Theater performance of Merrily We Go Along. Both attended Oct. 11 Performance of masters and share the excitement and joy of being a part of the community.
    2. Kayla and Evelyn report on the participation of Spirit week leading up to the pep rally and Sophomores are currently in the lead for class points.
    3. Kayla recaps the success of Homecoming on Oct. 11th.
    4. Evelyn reported on the success of the annual college and career fair and how grateful they are for the resources the school has provided for college planning.
    5. Kayla reports on her participation as a backup dancer for one of Commercial Dance's performances.

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6. Evelyn reports on the Vocal Arts Conservatory's opportunity to perform along with Citrus College performers this past week.

- ii. Senior Spotlight Award: James Okon & Sophia Howard

1. Nicole presents the award for Senior Spotlight: James Okon

- a. Teacher Comments:

- i. Touzel: James is an incredibly kind-hearted student who brightens every room he walks into. He is amazing at his ability to seamlessly fit into any group. He approaches challenges with a wonderfully open mindset and is a wonderful ambassador for our school.
        - ii. Gomez: There is a hop in James' step when I see him walking around campus that I always think about, I think it represents James so well, a kid with so much Joy in his eyes he approaches everything he does with such enthusiasm and yet you see his smile and soft wave each day it's easy to forget the vast talent that James has. He is a writer that approaches his work with a level of depth with few his age can approach.

2. Rising Star Award: Zora Kuzma & Marlow Barkley

3. Nicole presents the award for Rising Star: Marlow Barkley

- a. Teacher Comments:

- i. Conley: Marlow is an accepting young woman with a heart for helping people. She had great relationships with her peers of all backgrounds and is a great leader by example.
        - ii. Cardenas: Marlow has blossomed into a strong leader in the Leadership class. I can always count on her to get things done and given the nature of the leadership class that's no easy feat. Her enthusiasm for all she does is contagious. She truly "Shines Brightly."
        - iii. Williams: Marlow embodies "Welcome" in the way that she carries herself in a friendly and personable manner when talking with teachers or working with partners. Everyone makes an instant friend in Marlow because the ways she asks people about themselves makes us feel like we've known each other forever. She's kind, patient, and inquisitive all the qualities that make her, "Shine Brightly" amongst the students at CSArts.

4. Nicole presents the award for Rising Star: Zora Kuzma

- a. Teacher Comments:

- i. Averitt: Zora speaks softly, but carries remarkable strength and presence. Her passion for music especially

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for Choral music shines through in every rehearsal and performance. She is loved by her peers for her kindness, warmth and generosity of spirit making her a unifying force in the school of music. Beyond her Leadership she brings creativity, thoughtfulness and an unwavering commitment of excellence that inspires her peers. Zora is not only a gifted musician but also a model of grace, humility, and quiet confidence.

- ii. Williams: Zora is incredibly knowledgeable and always approaches discussions with an open and curious mind even in the first month of the school year she shines brightly and I'm excited to see where she goes as a Junior this year.
- iii. Cardenas: Zora is a new addition to the leadership class but it feels like she has always meant to be a leadership student. She is always ready to help whenever possible and our class is better because of Zora's thoughtful and creative contributions.

### iii. Niche Rankings

- 1. Nicole reports that California School of the Arts- San Gabriel Valley is the #1 Best Charter High School in California according to [Niche.com](https://www.niche.com) and thanks to the amazing teachers, staff, and administrators.

### iv. Preview Day

- 1. Alison recaps the 2nd Preview Day with a guest count of 1,021 and that there was a lot of great energy and interest for prospective students in 2026-2027.

### v. College & Career Fair

- 1. Sean recaps the success of College and Career Fair and USC Arcadia Hospital gave us 1000 bags for our students so that they can collect college information. They also had some of their surgeons and the heads of their medical staff talk with the students and families and students about their own experiences.

### vi. Arts Schools Network Conference & Arts Innovation Award for our Middle School Program

- 1. Alison reports on how inspiring it was to attend the Arts Schools Network Conference and the positive experience it was to learn about other art schools and what they offer.

### vii. Newly Appointed Duarte Unified School District Superintendent, Dr. Jessica Medrano

## 10. Governance

N. Read

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### **11. CSArts-SGV Teachers' Association (CSATA) Updates**

- a. Updates on Teacher Accomplishments and Classroom/Department Celebrations
  - i. A. Pegan highlights the accomplishments of his colleagues such as P. Cardenas and how her Leadership class maintains their frenetic energy as they planned and organized spirit week that lead up to a successful pep rally with games and featuring our competitive hip hop team. This year's homecoming was well attended and DJ Jorge received particularly great reviews. Leadership is gearing up for CSArts' Superbowl: Halloween with particularly spooky spirit week leading up to our Halloween Costume contest.
  - ii. T. Zhu and C. Woo from our Math Department have organized peer to peer tutoring and students who have made good use of this system have witnessed great improvements.
  - iii. A. Miranda from our special services department and wellness center classes celebrated World Mental Health Day by wearing green in honor of our staff on campus who help support the students and CSarts-sgv community.
  - iv. T. Skinner of the Social Science Department and his AP US Government students completed their annual mock election. The mock election is a high stakes simulation where students enter the roles of both democratic and republican presidential candidates delivering persuasive debates.

### **12. Strategic Consultants' Report**

S. Wagner & G. Endelman

- a. The strategic consultants will update the Board on the activities and operations of the school, services agreement, and property management
  - i. S. Wagner reports on the two strategic initiatives and the refinance of the facility finance debt and future facility plans. Looking at options to replace the 6 classrooms that we may lose next year and are looking at different locations on campus to drop portables.

### **13. Committee Reports - Information Only & Action Items**

- a. Finance S. Wagner & G. Endelman
  - i. The strategic consultants will update the Board on finance reports
- b. Foundation T. Shaffer
  - i. The President will update the Board on the activities and operations of the Foundation
- c. Operations N. Read
  - i. Information Only: Williams Visit Findings
  - ii. Information Only: Pursuant to Article 4 of the Agreement Between CSArts-SGV & CSArts-SGV Teachers Association, parties shall exchange their sunshine topics for a successor Agreement no later than November 1st. The school and CSATA have agreed to negotiate salary and benefits in early December and push negotiations around sunshine topics to the Spring.



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- iii. Information Only: CALSASS Findings with Credential Coordinator, Jean Near-Ansari
  - i. Action Item: Adoption of proposed salary schedules for academic elective/CTE teachers (non exempt)
  - ii. *Motion to Approve: F. Figueroa*
  - iii. *Second: D. Volante*
  - iv. *Unanimously Approved*
- iv. Information Only: Early College Updates and Possible Changes
- v. First Read: New Course Approvals
  - 1. Earth and Space Science
  - 2. Line Dance & Two-Step
  - 3. Latin Jazz Dance
- vi. *Motion to Approve: M. Ulrich*
- vii. *Second: C. Green*
- viii. *Unanimously Approved*
- ix. Information Only: CAASPP Testing Data for 2025
- d. Community Liaison
  - i. October 22, 2025: Duarte Rotary Installation, Sean Kerr, Member
  - ii. October 25, 2025: Duarte Kiwanis Installation, Leon Metoyer, Board Member; Recognition of SRO Art Valenzuela
- e. Legal
- f. Government Liaison

### **14. Reports from the Board of Trustees on non-agendized items**

### **15. Next Trustee Meeting and Agenda**

- a. Agenda Requests for November 17, 2025
  - i.  [Board Meeting Dates 25/26](#)

### **16. Adjourn**

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