



September 1, 2020

Dear colleagues:

We hope this finds you keeping well during these challenging and historic times.

As the respective chairs of Create CA and the California Alliance for Arts Education, we are writing to share some exciting and timely news: At the request of our boards, we have initiated a process to begin exploring a potential “strategic restructuring” or merger of our two organizations to help us have even greater impact as we pursue our shared mission of advancing arts education for all students in California. The longstanding partnership between our organizations, as well as the current challenges facing the future of public education, make this an especially opportune time for us to explore the potential ways that joining together as a new, united and stronger organization can benefit the students and communities we seek to serve.

We are in the very early stages of this process and we look forward to your engagement in it. After a thorough interview process, we have selected the SEED Collaborative based in Los Angeles to facilitate an objective exploration that will include our many diverse statewide stakeholders. We look forward to hearing from you as to how we can best work together to ensure a high-quality arts education for every California student, and particularly for the Black, Latinx and Indigenous students who have historically been marginalized in the public education system.

It is our goal to complete this strategic exploration process and bring any possible recommendations to our respective governing authorities for a vote by December 2020. We know the current moment calls for urgent action. Students and educators across the state are struggling to adapt to the greatest crisis in a generation. We must be prepared for a future that looks much different than it did only five months ago. In the meantime, Create CA and the Alliance will continue to work together to build public will and advocate for the students of California and their mandated legal right to the benefits of a quality arts education.

Our teams and the SEED Collaborative will be reaching out in the weeks ahead to invite your good thinking. In the meantime, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact our two Directors, Pat Wayne ([pwayne@createca.net](mailto:pwayne@createca.net)) or Tom DeCaigny ([tom@artsed411.org](mailto:tom@artsed411.org)).

In partnership,

Jason Spencer  
Chair, Create CA

Paul Richman  
Chair, California Alliance for Arts Education