



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 8.1

Meeting Date: May 5, 2022

Subject: Approve Letter Supporting CLARA (E. Claire Raley Studios for the Performing Arts) Proposal for State Funding

- Information Item Only
- Approval on Consent Agenda
- Conference (for discussion only)
- Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: _____)
- Conference/Action
- Action
- Public Hearing

Division: Board Office

Recommendation: Approve Letter Supporting CLARA Proposal for State Funding

Background/Rationale: CLARA (E. Clair Raley Studios for the Performing Arts) is a Sacramento-based nonprofit that provides art education, access, and resources to the community. In 2015, the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD), in partnership with the City of Sacramento, entered into a long-term lease with CLARA, to provide, among other services, arts education to designated Title 1 schools.

CLARA is requesting \$3.4 million in the State's 2022-23 budget to complete the Courtyard Studio Project. These funds will be used to construct a new, professional classroom and performance space, which will seat up to 350 audience members and serve students in SCUSD and beyond. Furthermore, the proposed Courtyard Studio Project will benefit SCUSD students in several ways: 1) additional classroom space will allow CLARA to double in size for summer camps—where 50% of the campers are SCUSD students who attend on a scholarship with an estimated annual impact of 100 students; 2) additional studio and performance space will allow CLARA to reinstate the Teaching Artist Space Exchange—where community artists exchange time teaching at schools for free in exchange free use of rehearsal space increasing the number of free residencies at SCUSD, with an estimated annual impact of 300 students; and, 3) the additional performance space will provide added capacity for student matinees and other field trips to the CLARA campus.

Financial Considerations: N/A

LCAP Goal(s): N/A

Documents Attached:

1. Letter in Support of CLARA proposal for state funding – to be provided prior to the Board meeting

<p>Estimated Time of Presentation: 5 minutes Submitted by: Alexis Rincon, Legal Analyst Approved by: Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent</p>
--



BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE

5735 47th Avenue • Sacramento, CA 95824

(916) 643-9314 • FAX (916) 399-2058

Jorge A. Aguilar, Superintendent

May 5, 2022

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Christina Pritchett
President
Trustee Area 3

Leticia Garcia
Vice President
Trustee Area 2

Chinua Rhodes
2nd Vice President
Trustee Area 5

Lisa Murawski
Trustee Area 1

Jamee Villa
Trustee Area 4

Darrel Woo
Trustee Area 6

Lavinia Grace Phillips
Trustee Area 7

Jacqueline Zhang
Student Board Member

The Honorable Dr. Richard Pan
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 7320
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Kevin McCarty, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2 on Education Finance
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4250
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Budget Request for the CLARA Courtyard Studio Project—Support

Dear Honorable Members McCarty and Pan:

We write in support of CLARA’s (E. Claire Raley Studios for the Performing Arts) budget request for \$3.4 million in the State’s 2022-23 Budget. The Courtyard Studio Project will fund construction of a new, professional classroom and performance space, which will seat up to 350 audience members and serve students in Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) and beyond. By way of background, CLARA are Studios for the Performing Arts Operating Company, which began in 2015 when SCUSD donated the historic Fremont Building to be the home to diverse cultural organizations. CLARA benefits from this donation in exchange for free arts outreach programming to selected Title 1 schools. CLARA also offers space to cultural organizations at 50% of market rate with seven permanent tenants as well as affordable short-term event space to community arts groups.

CLARA’s arts education programs serve more than 3,600 students per year in SCUSD, an additional 12,000 students in the greater Sacramento region per year via in-person-fee-for-service programs; and, an additional 84,000 students state-wide via their online digital arts platform—which is Elk Grove Unified School District’s official Visual and Performing Arts curriculum for students in TK-6 grades. CLARA’s programs were a lifeline for many of our students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, the proposed Courtyard Studio Project will benefit SCUSD students in several ways: 1) additional classroom space will allow CLARA to double in size for summer camps—where 50% of the campers are SCUSD students who attend on a scholarship with an estimated annual impact of 100 students; 2) additional studio and performance space will allow CLARA to reinstate the Teaching Artist Space Exchange—where community artists exchange time teaching at schools for free in exchange free use of rehearsal space increasing the number of free residencies at SCUSD, with an estimated annual impact of 300 students; and, 3) the additional performance space will provide added capacity for student matinees and other field trips to the CLARA campus.

For these reasons, we support CLARA's \$3.4 million budget request for the Courtyard Studio Project in the 2022-23 budget. Thank you for your consideration of this community budget request.

Sincerely,

Christina Pritchett, Board President
Sacramento City Unified School District

CP/AC/am

cc: Maria Alvarez, Chief of Staff, Assemblymember Kevin McCarty
Darin Walsh, Chief of Staff, Senator Richard Pan
Megan Wygant, Executive Director, CLARA