



“ McCallum’s Aesthetic Education Program energizes teaching and learning by bringing vibrant live performances and high-quality arts experiences into the curriculum. This immersive approach empowers educators with creative, effective strategies to reach every learner through direct engagement with professional artists.”

ALLAN LEHMANN  
Retired Principal  
Desert Sand Unified School District



# ARTS INQUIRY IMAGINATION

2026 | 2027

AESTHETIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

McCallum Theatre’s Aesthetic Education Program places the arts at the center of inquiry driven learning experiences that integrate live performances with classroom instruction for grades 2-5.

Through partnerships with McCallum, educators and students engage deeply with dance, theater, and music by:

**Investigating works of art** — asking questions, exploring meaning, and examining multiple perspectives

**Creating and expressing** — engaging in art-making, communicating ideas and emotions, and developing an artistic voice

**Developing essential learning habits** — curiosity, empathy, adaptability, and reflection that support rigorous, imaginative learning rooted in integrity and respect



Participation in the Aesthetic Education Program:

- Develops critical thinking, creative problem-solving, and imaginative capacities
- Nurtures communication, collaboration, and self-expression
- Strengthens social and emotional learning
- Aligns with *Common Core State Standards* and *Portrait of a Graduate* competencies

# PROGRAM COMPONENTS

This inquiry driven, collaborative program provides arts based learning for students and educators, advancing academic and social emotional growth.

## STUDENT LEARNING EXPERIENCES (Grades 2–5)

Students participate in a cohesive sequence of learning experiences (a unit of study) during the school year, including:

- Experiential in-class workshops led by a McCallum Teaching Artist
- Student attendance at live performances in dance, theater, and music
- Classroom educators extend Teaching Artists' work through curriculum connected instruction supported by McCallum's easy to use companion lesson slide decks



## EDUCATOR LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Educators participate in introductory or advanced workshops that explore imaginative teaching and learning through inquiry driven, collaborative engagement with specific works of art (*focus works*). These learning experiences model pedagogical practices that expand multiple modes of participation and expression, supporting deeper engagement for all students and offering particularly strong access points for English Language Learners. The workshops establish a strong foundation for the partnership with McCallum Theatre while introducing adaptable instructional strategies that extend across content areas and learning contexts.

## WORKSHOP OPTIONS FOR EDUCATORS INCLUDE:

- Site based workshops held at individual school sites (by appointment)
- Summer Institute — **June 11, 2026**
- Fall workshops hosted at McCallum Theatre (early September 2026)

Together, these experiences strengthen academic learning while developing creative, critical, collaborative and social emotional capacities, fostering empathy, adaptability, and integrity essential for success in school and in life.



# ENROLLMENT

Early indication of interest is encouraged to support planning and availability by June 4, 2026.

Partnering classrooms select two works of art each year and engage in two units of study. Each unit includes:

- A collaborative planning meeting with a McCallum Teaching Artist (TA)
- Four in class workshops (45-60 minutes each) by the TA
- Attendance at a live performance (typically following the third workshop)

Classroom educators reinforce and extend learning through integrated instruction connected to core curriculum areas. To support successful classroom implementation, McCallum provides ready to use companion lessons in a dynamic Google Slide Deck, making partnership seamless, flexible, and easy to incorporate into existing instructional practices.

## 2026–27 FOCUS WORKS OF ART (Units of Study)

- *Everybody Get On Board* featuring Inez Barlatier and Justin Roberts
- *The Planets* by Backhausdance (performance touring to schools)
- *Ballet Hispánico in Concert*
- *The Musicians of Bremen* by Cahoots NI (Northern Ireland)
- *Aesop Bops!* featuring David Gonzalez and Daniel Kelly (performance touring to schools)



The participation fee represents a shared investment in student access to high quality professional performance experiences and learning in the arts. McCallum Theatre for the Performing Arts, a nonprofit organization, subsidizes a significant portion of the program cost through philanthropic and institutional support, allowing schools to participate at a reduced, sustainable rate.

Participation fees per school site:

- \$825 per classroom — 4 to 7 classrooms
- \$450 per classroom — 8 to 14 classrooms
- \$375 per classroom — 15 or more classrooms

Minimum participation: four classrooms per school. Schools pay for transportation to and from McCallum Theatre.

**Please note:** The participation fee for the Aesthetic Education Program is an allowable expense under a school site's Prop-28 AMS Budget, utilizing the 19% allocation for materials, support, and community partnerships.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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