

# EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT IMPACT REPORT

JULY 2024 - JUNE 2025

COMPASSION



MUSEUM <sub>of</sub>  
VENTURA  
COUNTY

CURIOSITY



CONNECTION





# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

**Thanks to our supporters, we made Ventura County a more curious, compassionate, and connected community this year.**

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Education & Engagement Programs  
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Community members learn traditional Zapotec weaving at the *Threading Together* program with MICOP in Downtown Ventura, Jul 2024.



Child Development Resources lead a sound bath activity at June's *Play Date in the Garden* at the Agriculture Museum in Santa Paula, Jun 2025.



Intern Nathaniel Vargas shares information about our observation beehive at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual *Labor Day Tractor Fair* at the Agriculture Museum in Santa Paula, Sep 2024.



Julia Fireflower leads cordage making at the *Winter Solstice Storytelling Festival* in Downtown Ventura, Dec 2024.



Clark Song teaching how to screen print at an *InnoVision Artist Workshop* in his Oxnard studio, Jan 2025.



# 2024-2025 EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT AT-A-GLANCE

8,468

PEOPLE SERVED

50

COMMUNITY  
PARTNERS

26

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS &  
POP-UP EXPERIENCES

highlighting Ventura County  
art, culture, & history

ALL 5  
SUPERVISORIAL  
DISTRICTS  
SERVED

99

SCHOOL TOURS

57

EDUCATIONAL  
INSTITUTIONS

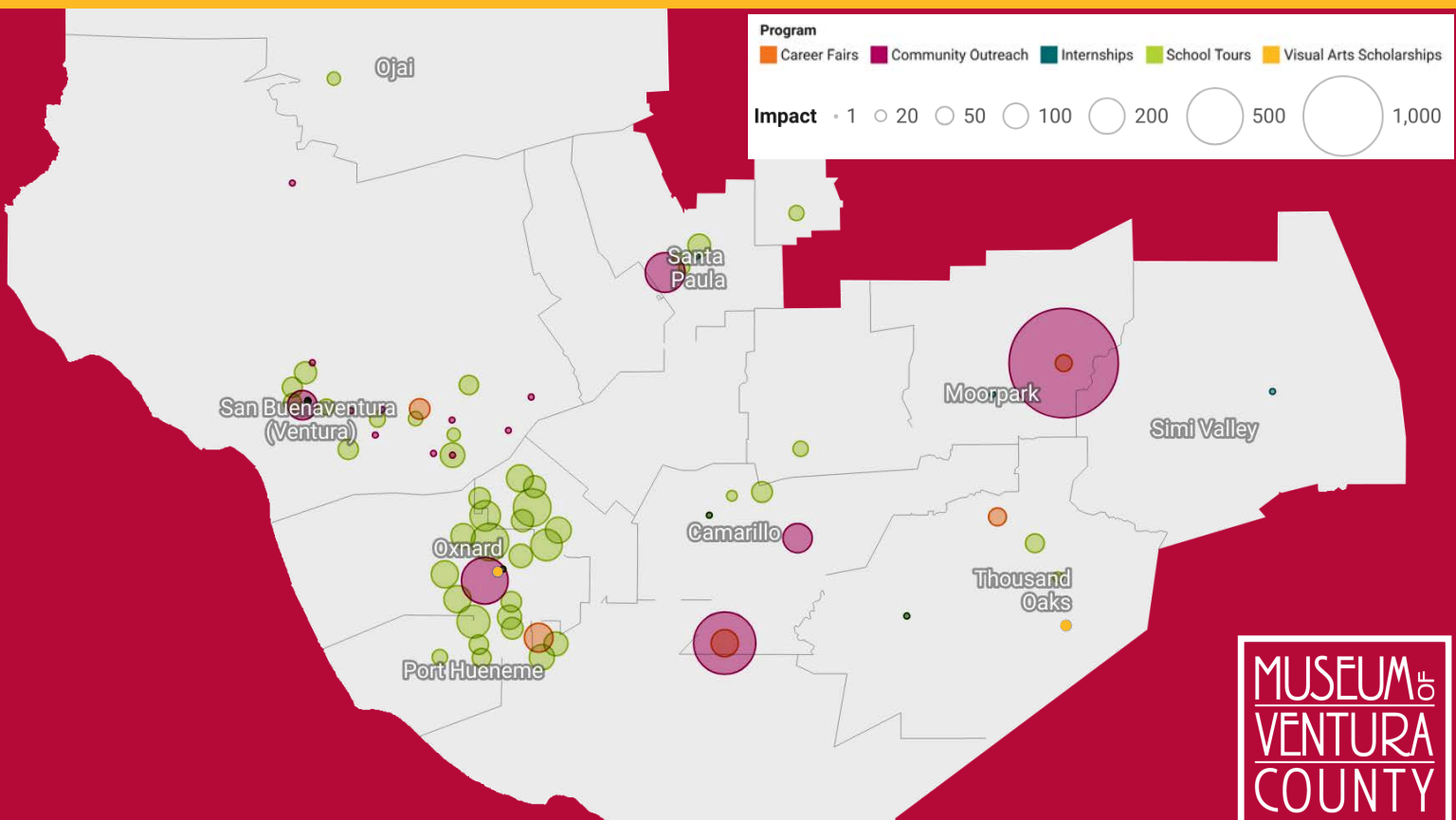
colleges, universities, community  
organizations, K-12 schools & districts

\$30,000

GIVEN TO OUR COMMUNITY

through grants & scholarships

## NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH MVC EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS





## FROM CLASSROOM TO MUSEUM

**With free admission and bus grants available to Title I classes, MVC school tours welcome students from across the county.**

“The students were thrilled to learn about the indigenous Chumash people and how they lived in our region. **The engaging stories, games, and hands-on activities were not only educational but also fun and interactive, sparking their curiosity and helping them connect with the history in a meaningful way.** It was clear that your team’s passion for preserving and sharing the rich heritage of the Chumash people was evident throughout the entire tour.”

3rd grade teacher at Rio Del Mar

“This bus grant has allowed children from different cultural backgrounds to have the experience of visiting and learning about the Chumash experience in California. **For some of these students, it is the first time ever visiting a museum and embarking in the journey of the past in a museum setting.** This field trip allows students to also have a hands-on learning experience of what they have learned in the classroom.”

2nd grade teacher at Montalvo Arts Academy

“I work in a low-income school district and the grant makes it possible for our **students to attend when they might not be able to otherwise.** I have been on this field trip with previous classes and my colleagues, and I love how the program is organized. The museum staff is very knowledgeable and is great with the kids. The hands-on activity and information about bees and pollination align perfectly with our science curriculum so we find the entire experience fun and educational for our students.”

2nd grade teacher at Tierra Vista School





# 2024-2025 SCHOOL TOURS BY THE NUMBERS

## SCHOOL TOURS

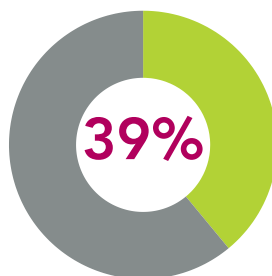
### ATTENDANCE

**2,630 students**



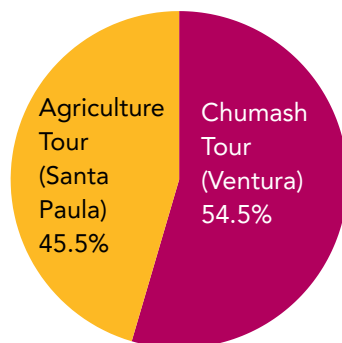
The equivalent of **105** average grade school classes

### % OF DISTRICTS SERVED



of all Districts with Elementary Schools in Ventura County

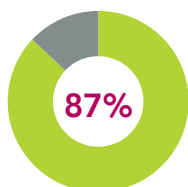
### TOUR FOCUS



### SCHOOLS SERVED

**40**

elementary schools



**86**

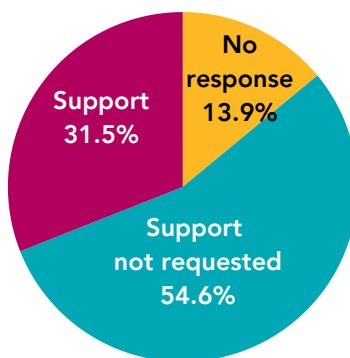
Title I Classes

of Schools Served were Title I

**\$10K**

to support transportation for Title I Schools

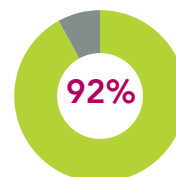
### LANGUAGE SUPPORT



### BOOKING

**36**

week season



**99**

tours given

Available tour slots booked

### PEOPLE & PLACES

**7**

Volunteers



**2**

Museums



**3**

Interns



### STUDENT CONTACT TIME

**3,945**

Hours of Student Learning



The equivalent of **16 months** of 8-hour workdays

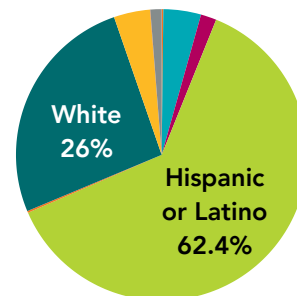
### STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS\*

Two or More Races 4%

Filipino 1.7%

Asian 4.2%

African American 1.2%



\*Calculated from data available via the California Department of Education (CDE) for Ventura County. Categories are from the CDE.



Third grade students from Camarillo's Cornerstone Christian School on the Chumash School Tour in Ventura.



MVC interns are vital to bringing tours to life and preserving our collections.



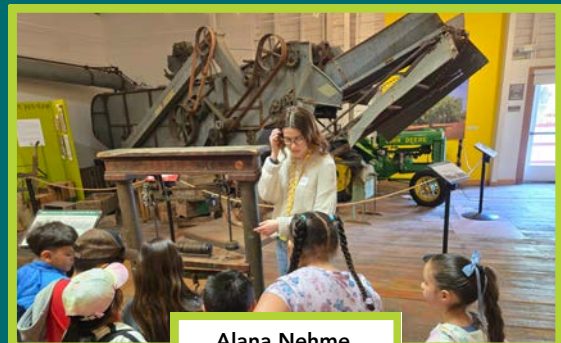
This internship was a valuable opportunity for me to connect with students from a variety of backgrounds. As a student studying sociology, it was especially meaningful to observe how they learn and what sparks their interest, particularly through the hands-on experiences offered by the activities we planned. For example, when the UC Master Gardeners pulled out an onion flower, the kids were absolutely ecstatic. They were excited to see, smell, and touch it. Many of them had never seen an onion flower before and didn't even know onions produced flowers. **Being able to offer students a new kind of experience, one that was tactile and in-person, felt especially important at a time when so much of the world is going digital.** Being a part of these moments was one of the most impactful parts of the internship for me.

**Nathaniel Vargas**  
Museum Educator Intern

### MUSEUM EDUCATOR INTERNS IN ACTION



Janely Quijas,  
CSUCI



Alana Nehme,  
CSUCI



“I had the opportunity to work with maps, architectural drawings, postcards, photographs, and oral histories that offered insight into my community’s rich and storied heritage. Everywhere has an important story to tell. I am so grateful for the opportunity to have helped MVC in its mission to elevate our county’s unique historical character.”

*Douglas Joys, Library Intern*



## MUSEUM EDUCATORS

### ALANA NEHME

California State University Channel Islands  
Undergraduate Student  
Degree Focus: History

### JANELY QUIJAS

California State University Channel Islands  
Undergraduate Student  
Degree Focus: Studio Arts,  
Developmental Psychology

### NATHANIEL VARGAS

Ventura College  
Undergraduate Student  
Degree Focus: Sociology

## LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

### ANNIKA AINZA

California State University Channel Islands  
Undergraduate Student  
Degree Focus: Psychology

### SHAYNA MAIRO

California State University, Northridge  
Graduate Student  
Degree Focus: History

### JORJA GARCIA

Columbia University  
Undergraduate Student  
Degree Focus: Visual Arts

### JULIANA OVERIN

California State University Channel Islands  
Undergraduate Student  
Degree Focus: History

### DOUGLAS JOYS

University of Denver  
Undergraduate Student  
Degree Focus: History, Political Science

### DANIEL SALES

California Lutheran University  
Undergraduate Student  
Degree Focus: History

## REFLECTING OUR COMMUNITY

### 7 CITIES

Camarillo, Moorpark,  
Newbury Park, Oxnard,  
Santa Paula, Simi Valley,  
and Ventura

PLACES

### 6 COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

California Lutheran University,  
CSU Channel Islands, CSU Northridge,  
Columbia University, University of  
Denver, and Ventura College

SCHOOLS



**In 2025, MVC awarded \$20,000 in scholarships to talented art students across the county.**

**ON DISPLAY:  
ART OF THE FOUR 2025  
SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS**

**JUNE 20 - AUGUST 10, 2025**

**MVC DOWNTOWN VENTURA  
HELEN YUNKER ALCOVE**

**FINALISTS**



*Frankenstein-ian Beginnings*  
Jorja Garcia  
Columbia University

The Museum of Ventura County proudly supports future artists and the growth of the arts in Ventura County through its Visual Arts Scholarships. The scholarships, supported by the generous endowments of the Bonita C. McFarland Visual Arts Scholarship and the Gail Faulkner Memorial Fund, and administered by the Museum of Ventura County's Fine Arts Committee, **give emerging artists the funding to pursue careers in visual arts and add to our artistic economy.**

**This year, we were proud to introduce the Gail Faulkner Memorial Arts Scholarship**, honoring the legacy of Gail Faulkner, a beloved Ventura County watercolor artist whose work captured the beauty of the natural world and the spirit of our community. Though Gail is no longer with us, her legacy lives on through this generous scholarship, which supports emerging artists and carries forward her passion for the visual arts into future generations.

The candidates for this scholarship are **promising high school seniors and continuing college students in visual arts who are based in Ventura County.** They are chosen for their artistic merit and dedication, demonstrated through a portfolio, an essay on their artistic and career aspirations, and a letter of recommendation from a mentor.



*Merely a Vessel to Control*  
Kayla Oliver  
Newbury Park HS & UC Irvine



*Wren and the Moon*  
Wren Stepan  
Ventura College



*Complicity Kills*  
Bennett Urwick  
Buena HS & UC Santa Barbara

# 2024-2025 SCHOLARSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS

## APPLICATIONS FROM

- Buena High School
- Columbia University
- Foothill Technology High School
- Moorpark College
- Newbury Park High School
- Oak Grove School
- Oak Park High School
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- Ventura College

## WORK SAMPLES INCLUDED

- ceramics
- charcoal
- collage
- colored pencil / pencil
- copper etching
- digital art
- graphite
- hand embroidery / digital embroidery
- handmade paper
- ink / India ink
- marker
- mixed media
- painting (gouache, oil, acrylic, watercolor)
- pastels
- performance art
- photography
- quilting
- screen printing
- weaving
- woodblock printing
- woven tapestry

## STUDENTS ACCEPTED TO

- Ringling College of Art and Design
- Savanna College of Art and Design
- The College of William & Mary
- University of California, Irvine
- University of California, Santa Barbara

## VISUAL ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS

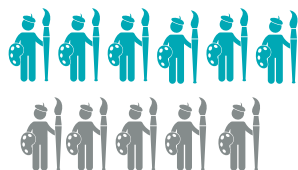
## HONORABLE MENTIONS



*peeling back*  
Piper Snowber  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago



*Self-Portrait in Room*  
Lillian Napier  
Ventura College &  
Savannah College of Art and Design



11

Applications

6

Awardees

STUDENTS SERVED



5

High Schools

4

Colleges &  
Universities

SCHOOLS SERVED



MVC Fine Arts Committee Chair, Pamela Small, and Ventura County Arts & Culture Manager, David Yoshitomi, with awardees at the Visual Art Scholarship Awards Ceremony, Jun 2025.



MVC programs not only preserve local stories,  
they create new ones.

In the past fiscal year, the Museum of Ventura County deepened its role as community connector and cultural hub, welcoming thousands of visitors across our two sites (Downtown Ventura and Santa Paula) through a dynamic range of programs, exhibitions, and events that celebrated Ventura County's history, communities, and creative spirit. From honoring Indigenous traditions during the *Winter Solstice Festival* to spotlighting contemporary Latinx and Persian American voices through art and cultural celebrations, we served as platforms for fostering understanding, creativity, and community. Our *Labor Day Tractor Fair* connected families to agricultural roots of the region, while artist-led workshops cultivated meaningful connections between educators, creators, and community members.



Hummingbird Women's Drum performing at the *Winter Solstice Storytelling Festival* in Downtown Ventura, Dec 2024.



Participants making stamps at the *InnoVision Artist Workshop* with Jasmine Delgado in Downtown Ventura, Oct 2024.



Las Chinas Oaxaqueñas at *Threading Together* in Downtown Ventura, Jul 2024.



### COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

- Threading Together: Weaving Our Indigenous Heritage/Tejiendo Juntos: Entrelazando Nuestra Herencia Indígena
- Artists and Amplifiers Fête & Bonita C. McFarland Scholarship Reception
- Book Release – *Ventura County Lima Beans: A History*
- 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Labor Day Vintage Tractor Fair
- Unveiling the Archives (Fall)
- InnoVision Artist Workshop with Jasmine Delgado
- Play Date in the Garden (October)
- Ventura County Farm Day 2024
- InnoVision Artist Workshop with Elisa Torres
- InnoVision Artist Workshop with Marianne McGrath
- Unveiling the Archives (Spring)
- Winter Solstice Storytelling Festival
- InnoVision Artist Workshop with Clark Song
- 3rd Annual UC Master Gardener Open House
- Nowruz: Persian New Year Celebration
- Poetry in the Gallery: What is Beauty?
- Play Date in the Garden (April)
- Unveiling the Archives: Online Resources, Online Program
- Play Date in the Garden (June)
- MVC Visual Arts Scholarships Awards Ceremony

# 8,468

COMMUNITY  
MEMBERS REACHED

# 26

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS  
& POP-UP EXPERIENCES  
highlighting Ventura County  
art, culture, and history

# 50

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

### POP-UP EXPERIENCES

- Gold Coast Ethnic Studies Conference
- Todos Los Juntos por los Niños
- VLT Monarch Festival
- Boo at the Zoo at Moorpark College's Teaching Zoo
- Día de los Muertos Festival at OPAC
- STEAM Carnival at CSUCI

Child coloring at a Play Date in the Garden  
at the Agriculture Museum in Santa Paula,  
Apr 2025.







## Unwritten: Oral Histories of Ventura County



Compiled by Leila Kaseke and Loribeth Gregory-Beck

Cover of *Unwritten: Oral Histories of Ventura County*, designed by Museum Educator Intern, Janely Quijas.

***Unwritten: Oral Histories of Ventura County* brings forward the powerful, often overlooked voices that have shaped our region's history.**

Developed specifically for Ventura County high schools, *Unwritten* supports educators in implementing Ethnic Studies by providing a curriculum aligned with state standards. Featuring 20 interviews, it preserves and presents first-hand accounts from community members whose experiences reflect the resilience, diversity, and complexity of life in Ventura County. The accompanying teacher guide includes tools for critical thinking, reading comprehension, and classroom discussion around themes of identity, migration, labor, and belonging. By centering lived experiences, ***Unwritten* empowers students to see themselves and their communities as part of the historical record and to carry those stories forward.**



Group photo, Mayor Takasugi on the left, signing a paper on the desk. Manuel Lopez is behind Mayor Takasugi. No date.  
PN11273, Museum of Ventura County Library & Archives collection.

***Unwritten: Oral Histories of Ventura County* is a book full of heart. It gives students, teachers, and community members the chance to hear real stories about real people who shaped our local history. The voices inside are honest and easy to connect with, sometimes frustrating in what they reveal about how people were treated, but also inspiring with how people can overcome when they have courage. If you live in Ventura County, you won't find another book that is laser focused on reflecting the real history of everyday people.**

Ethnic Studies and  
Civics Teacher,  
Royal High School,  
Simi Valley Unified  
School District

# TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

### MVC supports Ethnic Studies in the classroom.

MVC offers professional development sessions for teachers and administrators, giving educators the opportunity to engage directly with our research library, collections, exhibitions, and Education & Engagement Department.

This year, we focused on supporting the implementation of the California Ethnic Studies curriculum by highlighting zines as a creative and fun tool for student learning. Our sessions explored how zines can foster self-expression, encourage activism, and connect students with primary source materials from our library. We were pleased to collaborate with educators from both Simi Valley Unified and Oxnard Union High School Districts.

The Museum of Ventura County is proud to serve as a dynamic resource for K-12 schools and higher education institutions.

“Thank you! I'm looking forward to implementing Zines in my classes this year and expanding upon the idea next year. Our time at the museum was worthwhile, both interesting and inspiring. Thank you and your colleagues for your time that day.”

English Teacher,  
Santa Susana  
High School,  
Simi Valley Unified  
School District



Kimura family portrait inside their barrack home at the Gila River Relocation Center. Back from left: Helen, Alice, Tama Kimura, and Sakuji Kimura. Front: Lillie and Irene. 1944. PN28228, Museum of Ventura County Library & Archives collection.



Class photo of sixth grade class at Mountain View School in Fillmore. The class is standing on the front steps of the school. This was a segregated class. The teacher is Glenn R. Phillips. 1939. PN29088, Museum of Ventura County Library & Archives collection.



# PARTNERS & SCHOOLS

## WHO WE WORKED WITH IN 2024-2025

### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Alan Salazar
- Benita Martínez
- Blanchard Library
- Boys & Girls Club of Santa Clara Valley
- C.A.U.S.E.
- C.R.E.W.
- Child Development Resources of Ventura County
- Chumash Dance Sisters
- Clark Song
- Dennis Garcia
- Elisa Torres
- hi ho' stoqošlôq' hi xus Chumash Bear Circle
- Hummingbird Women's Drum
- Isabella Project
- Jasmine Delgado
- Jeffrey Maulhardt
- Julia Fireflower
- Kammy Algiers
- Kat High
- Luzmaria Espinosa
- MICOP
- Marianne McGrath
- Marsha de la O
- Mary Ann McFadden
- Mary Kay Rummel
- Mary Mendoza
- Maryam Nikkhah
- Mona Lewis
- Moorpark College Performing Arts
- Naz Madaen
- Oxnard Performing Arts Center
- Phil Taggart
- Pinaysphere
- Santa Paula Beekeepers Association
- Santa Paula Farmer's Market
- Saticoy Village
- Sean Colletti
- SEEAG
- Topa Topa Flywheelers
- University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources & University of California Master Gardeners
- Ventura County Mobile Library
- Ventura County Agriculture/Weights & Measures
- Ventura County Arts and Culture
- Ventura County Arts Council
- Ventura County Poetry Project
- Ventura Land Trust
- Ventura Music Festival

### COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

- California Lutheran University
- California State University, Channel Islands
- California State University, Northridge
- Moorpark College
- Oxnard College
- University of Denver
- Ventura College

### K-12 SCHOOLS & ORGANIZATIONS

- Ansgar Larsen Elementary
- Barbara Webster Elementary
- Bridges Charter School
- Cesar Chavez K-8 School
- City Christian School
- Curren Elementary
- Dos Caminos Elementary
- Elm Elementary
- Emilie Ritchen Elementary
- E.P. Foster Elementary
- Harrington Elementary
- Isbell Middle School
- Juan Soria Elementary
- Lincoln Elementary
- Mar Vista Elementary
- Marina West Elementary
- Military Homeschoolers of Ventura County
- Montalvo Elementary
- Oak Grove School
- Our Lady of the Assumption School
- Parkview Elementary
- Patagonia
- Pierpont Elementary
- Revo Academy
- Richard Bard Elementary
- Rio del Mar Elementary
- Rio del Norte Elementary
- Rio del Sol Elementary
- Rio Lindo Elementary
- Rio Plaza Elementary
- Rio Real Elementary
- Rio Rosales Elementary
- Saint Sebastian School
- Santa Clara Elementary
- Secular Ventura County/Conejo Valley Homeschoolers
- Sheridan Way Elementary
- Sierra Linda Elementary
- Somis Elementary
- Tierra Vista Elementary
- Ventura Missionary School

### K-12 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

- Hueneme Elementary School District
- Ocean View School District
- Oxnard School District
- Oxnard Unified School District
- Pleasant Valley School District
- Rio School District
- Santa Paula Unified School District
- Ventura Unified School District
- Simi Valley Unified School District
- Ventura County Office of Education

### PARTNER WITH US

[education@venturamuseum.org](mailto:education@venturamuseum.org)