



# A vision of our future



Thanks to the generosity of Novato voters and homeowners and the visionary planning from our NUSD leadership, our new Center for the Arts is scheduled to break ground June 2019.

The multi-disciplinary theatre and gallery will be situated on the current NHS tennis courts with access directly from the parking lot and completion is estimated in 18 months, which means our current freshmen and sophomore students should celebrate its ribbon cutting in Spring 2021.

This \$25-million-project is bond measure financed and designed by award-winning architects Shalleck Collaborative. It will feature a 450-seat theatre with two levels, a permanent art gallery and flexible space for classes or dressing room space. MSA programs will have priority to accommodate our major productions and exhibitions. The Center for the Arts will also host activities by other NUSD, Novato, and touring groups.

The MSA Foundation is raising funds for state-of-the-art lights, sound and technology to augment the technical package provided by the bond funding. These additional funds, secured through Fund-A-Need paddle raises at our Divine Wine and Showcase performances are essential to the completion of this vital community asset.

Though we are two years from completion, now is a great time to start planning for the future.

MSA Visual Arts has benefitted greatly from coaching and mentorship in gallery curation by experts Gail Anderson and John Chiodo. Their work with student curators in Drawing and Painting, Ceramics, Digital Arts, Product Design and Creative Writing provides students with invaluable skills to present their work professionally. Though we love Art Fest in the cafe



in May in collaboration with NHS electives art classes, imagine a permanent space with seasonal displays of MSA student artwork. We love the potential of expanded exhibitions, student curation, and seasonal art openings.

To date, our Music Department has settled on ways to perform in the Old Gym, despite its inferior acoustics, lighting and seating. Not only will our jazz, classical and rock bands and vocal music choirs sound great in our new Center for the Arts, this space will also help attract renowned guest artists and allow us to possibly host or coordinate festivals on our own site.

The MSA Dance Department has gone to great lengths to make performances work in the Old Gym and the PAC. Neither space is adequate for our talented dancers and choreographers as recurring rentals of staging and lighting are required to accommodate performers. Our dancers can't wait to stretch their limbs on what will be a far more appropriate stage.

We also imagine being our Cinema Arts students seeing their work projected on a full-sized screen with sharp images and sound. We look forward to the day when an MSA Film Challenge ends triumphantly in the new Center for the Arts.

And, of course, sold out runs of our fall musicals and spring plays will finally have a worthy setting in this new venue. Already students are approaching us with requests to build their technical theatre prowess with studies in the advanced sound, lighting, and technology. What will be possible in set design? How many students might get cast with this additional stage and wing space? What is possible when we set our sights on the potential of this professional level stage?

It's a pleasure to imagine, plan and prepare with the Center for the Arts in mind. This process of wondering and working toward a brighter future for our students begs for community participation and support. We invite you, our families and community sponsors, to get your creative sparks flying.

How will we grow and sustain our programs in this ambitious space? Don't hesitate to reach out to MSA Director Michelle Cortez or MSA Foundation board members if you have funding or resource connections or ideas. In what ways might we partner to engage, inspire, and empower our community through the arts in this new facility?

Together we will make that vision a reality and in doing so provide an incredible community space for the benefit of generations to come.

