

SESSION DESCRIPTION

LCFF, LCAP, and the Arts: A Framework of Possibility for Ensuring Equity & Excellence

There is ample evidence that the arts help African American students develop the attitudes, characteristics, and intellectual skills required to participate effectively in today's 21st century society and economy. The arts teach self-discipline, reinforce self-esteem, and foster the literacy/thinking skills and creativity so valued in the workplace. By studying the arts, students stimulate their natural creativity and learn to develop it to meet the needs of a complex and competitive society. That is why district leaders need to seriously consider how they will incorporate powerful arts teaching and learning in LCFF implementation and LCAP design. This session will unpack several key assumptions related to successful LCFF implementation and engage participants in exploring a framework of five strategic questions essential to the design of an arts-rich LCAP so that excellence and equity are achieved for African American students. Francisca Sánchez will facilitate the session, and Martha Zaragoza-Díaz will be available to respond to technical questions related to LCFF/LCAP legislation, regulations, and templates.

BIO STATEMENTS

Francisca Sánchez is CEO of Provocative Practice™, an educational consultant organization, and President of the California Association for Bilingual Education. She is also a task force chair for CREATE CA. Most recently, she served as Chief Academic Officer for Hayward and San Francisco USD. She has particular expertise in district/school success planning, facilitative leadership, 21st century learning, instructional innovation, and the education of English Learners, students of color, and student living in poverty. She is the author of *When I Dream/Cuando Sueño*, published by Velázquez Press in 2013, and illustrated by her son, artist Nicolás Sánchez-Handy. Ms. Sánchez completed her doctoral studies at Stanford University and has a Master's Degree from San José State University and a Bachelor's Degree from Mount Holyoke College.

Martha Zaragoza-Díaz is founder of Zaragoza-Díaz and Associates, a government relations firm in Sacramento, California. She is a registered lobbyist with the State of California and has over thirty years of experience in government relations, public policy development, and leadership training. Prior to establishing the firm, Ms. Zaragoza-Díaz served as Director of Governmental Affairs to the California Department of Education. Her accomplishments include writing and shepherding legislation establishing English Language Development standards, primary language academic assessments, and the State Seal of Biliteracy. Ms. Zaragoza-Díaz has a Master's Degree in Public Health from the School of Public Health, University of California-Berkeley and a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Mills College in Oakland, California.