



We engage children in an inspiring, challenging, and civically active educational experience that embraces learning through the arts.

Dear LFCSA Community,

As was announced by the administration on Friday, after months of process and appeal, we received our final offer from LAUSD on our Prop 39 co-location for next year:

**Albion Street Elementary,
322 S Ave 18, Los Angeles, CA 90031**

This offer was approved by the Board of Directors at Monday night's special board meeting, enabling the district to formalize it and LFCSA to begin more detailed planning on making this co-location a wonderful beginning for those students embarking on their learning careers at Los Feliz Charter School for the Arts.

With this announcement, many questions and emotions have come up. The need for co-location is due to our Conditional Use Permit (CUP), which only allows 520 students at the Media Center campus. All decision-making has been made with much deliberation and great care. Parent Board members are also directly affected by the new location, and the logistics for having the youngest grades off the main campus are well understood and appreciated. The importance of expanding our school for its sustainability cannot be overstated - without the expansion we would not be able to fiscally sustain lease payments to stay in our current building. The integrity of our programming at both sites is a top priority for all of us. LFCSA Middle School has been a dream since our inception, and that it's now a reality is a testament to our community, mission, and most of all, our students!

The vision for the current middle school expansion, and the decisions related thereto, have been under consideration by the Board and administration since 2015. To provide our community with context related to the process of our information gathering, decision-making, and public communication of those decisions, we are sharing the [attached timeline](#) for your reference.

There are **general informational meetings for current and prospective families** scheduled on:

- Tuesday 4/24 at 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday 4/25 at 8:00 a.m.

A special meeting for this year's current TK families only,

who have an option to stay on the Media Center site during this transition year, is scheduled on:

- Thursday 4/19 at 8:00 a.m.

Three main concerns have come up for current families with siblings (current and incoming) that will be split between the two locations. The administration and the Board take these concerns very seriously and address them as follows:

COMMUTING BETWEEN TWO CAMPUSES WILL ADD TOO MUCH OF AN ADDITIONAL BURDEN:

This appears to be the most pressing concern that has been expressed by families to date. The administration and the Board are committed to identifying a transportation solution for those members of our community who need assistance with the difficulties of the commute. We are currently researching both in-house and contracted service options to transport siblings between the two campuses in order to negate the need for two drop-offs/pick-ups. Cost is a main hurdle but this is a top priority and we will aim to provide options for alternative solutions to families by mid-May.

MY CHILDREN WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING AT SCHOOL TOGETHER AND NOW THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO: Establishing a cohesive community between the two campuses is going to be a major focus of the first year. This will be an ongoing process as we work out the logistics of both locations. We will explore bringing the Albion classes onto the main campus to share their work, see upper class performances, and participate in programs such as book buddies. Rolling this out will depend on what transportation solutions we finalize, so these may take some time to implement. Families who stay at LFCSA for middle school will gain those additional years of their kids being together on the same campus.

WILL THE YOUNGER KIDS AT THE CO-LOCATION GET THE SAME BENEFIT FROM THE ARTS-INTEGRATED CURRICULUM: The arts-integrated curriculum will be the same at both locations with art, dance, and music tailored specifically to those lower grades. The Arts Specialists will also teach at the Albion site, as will PE, Artists in Residence, and CAP. We have secured extra space for a studio and will also have shared use of the playground, library, and auditorium. More information about the sharing of space will follow once the District schedules the initial meeting between Dr. Lee and the Principal at Albion. At that point we will begin coordinating with the Albion site on designing our space to meet the needs of our educational model for our students. From there, we will bring in the Build Committee to do their magic!

We sincerely understand the upheaval this change is causing for those families directly affected by the co-location. Every decision regarding the middle school transition has been undertaken with a

lot of thought, deep discussion, the asking of hard questions, and with the well-being of families and students in mind. The onboarding of middle school grades is absolutely critical for the sustainability of the school, but it's also a great achievement and for the benefit of ALL our families. The LFCSA school community is vibrant, strong, and resourceful! As a team we have created a spectacular hidden gem in the LA educational landscape, and are now moving from the hand-to-mouth phase, to one of expansion where we can fulfill the mission of our charter in a broader way, both for our students and the wider community. A critical part of our current Executive Director search is finding a candidate who will be able to shepherd us through this transition not only in regards to our finances and mission, but in light of the close community we have built these last 12 years and pushing that forward.

As a Board we are here to listen, support, find solutions, and take action. For any questions or concerns, please reach out to Dr. Lee or to the Board at board@losfelizarts.org . We ask for your patience as we work through these growing pains, and to please know that we value each and every family's presence at our beloved school. This expansion is something to be very proud of, we are enthusiastic about what this will mean for our organization and our students, and we are eagerly looking forward to what awaits LFCSA & LFCMSA!

LFCSA & LFCMSA Board of Directors

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