



IDYLLWILD ARTS ACADEMY

Idyllwild, CA

HEAD OF SCHOOL
Start Date: Summer 2023
idyllwildarts.org



Carney
Sandoe
& ASSOCIATES



Mission

Changing lives through the transformative power of art.

OVERVIEW

The Idyllwild Arts Academy, in Idyllwild, CA, is the country's premier and internationally-acclaimed residential arts high school for grades 9-12. The Academy provides pre-professional training in the arts and a comprehensive college preparatory curriculum to a diverse student body of gifted young artists. Idyllwild is the first independent boarding high school for the arts in the western United States.

Idyllwild Arts Academy's 300 students hail from more than 30 countries and pursue artistic excellence in Music, Theatre, Dance, Visual Art, Creative Writing, Film & Digital Media, InterArts, and Fashion Design. Graduates of Idyllwild Arts Academy currently excel in every professional field of the arts including Broadway theatre, primetime television, classical and jazz music, motion pictures, graphic design, photography and more.

The School also offers a summer program, which provides high caliber arts instruction and memorable arts immersion workshops to a diverse student population of all ages and abilities. Nearly 2,000 children, youth, adults, and families participate in the diverse summer program featuring workshops in all the arts and specifically tailored to all proficiency levels and ages.

Idyllwild Arts Academy seeks a permanent Head of School to begin in the fall of 2023. The next Head of School will follow the Interim Head, Craig Sellers, who will lead academy during the 2022 school year. Idyllwild Arts Academy's approach to the arts, academics, and social-emotional wellbeing of their students centers around a wonderful, accepting community of adults and students. It is a place where students feel welcome and where they are accepted, supported and encouraged. Likewise, teachers at the academy, whether with the academic program or the arts, work with students who are fun to teach and who thrive within the walls of their classrooms.

At a Glance

Founded: Summer Program: 1946

Academy: 1986

Total students: 280

Students of color: 51%

Total faculty: 90

Faculty of color: 24 (27%)

Student/teacher ratio: 5:1

Financial aid budget: \$7 million

Students receiving aid: 65%

Endowment: \$8.6 million



The Head of School serves as the educational leader of Idyllwild Arts Academy and will lead the school toward its vision to be the most dynamic arts community in the nation. This position reports to the President, who has the primary responsibility of fundraising, building strategic partnerships and overseeing various campaigns.

THE SCHOOL

Idyllwild Arts was founded as a respite for creators to come together from around the world. The vision of the founders, in 1946, was that this creative collective would promote intercultural understanding and peace while re-envisioning the artist's responsibility to society. This vision is also reflected in the school's Anti-Racism Statement and the community's strong commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging.

Idyllwild Arts has always believed that art is the greatest teacher of humanity. It continues to believe that the practice of creativity hones a person's desire and ability to effect global change. Therefore, it strives to embolden and cultivate artists as citizens who attain the height of individuality in partnership, as interdisciplinary thinkers, and as apprentices to nature who humbly take inspiration from the Cahuilla people on whose land the Idyllwild Arts community dwells.

College Acceptances

Students from the classes of 2018-2022 were accepted to the following institutions, among others:

American Musical and Dramatic Academy
Berklee College of Music
Boston Conservatory at Berklee
Brown University
California Institute of the Arts
Columbia College Chicago
Cornell University
Eastman School of Music
Indiana University, Bloomington
The Juilliard School
Kansas City Art Institute
Loyola Marymount University
Loyola University, New Orleans
Manhattan School of Music
Maryland Institute College of Art
Mount Holyoke College
New York Film Academy
New York University
Northwestern University
Oberlin Conservatory of Music
Otis College of Art & Design
Pratt Institute
Rambert School of Ballet & Contemporary Dance
Rhode Island School of Design
Royal College of Music
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
School of Visual Arts
Suffolk University
Syracuse University
The New School
Tufts University
University of Applied Sciences Europe, Berlin
University of California, Berkeley, Irvine, Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz
University of Southern California,
University of the Arts London
University of the West of England, Bristol

[See the Full List.](#)



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Idyllwild Arts Academy provides students in grades 9-12 with the skills and attitudes that will improve their opportunities for success in the highly competitive world of the arts and in post-secondary education. They accomplish this through an innovative and competitive college preparatory curriculum, and honors levels are offered in all subjects.

Students explore subjects in great depth and independence, and they are active members of their departments. Students participate, create, rehearse, design, and perform collaboratively. Each student takes arts classes needed for a student's chosen discipline (Music, Theatre, Dance, Visual Art, Creative Writing, Film & Digital Media, InterArts, or Fashion Design) and the School's graduation requirements, which satisfy the University of California's admission requirements. Seniors work towards a culminating artistic project. Learn more about each of the disciplines [HERE](#).

Idyllwild recognizes the importance of cross disciplinary education. Science and mathematics teachers collaborate with faculty from the Academy's other arts and academics departments on a curriculum that provides an authentic twenty-first-century education. Environmental Studies, Introduction to Computer Game Design, and S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) courses are three examples of their determination to teach science and math as creative means of making discoveries and solving problems, including the most pressing global problems.



Idyllwild Arts graduates excel in professional careers in the arts, and many students also go on to careers that require application of the scientific and mathematical skills developed at the Academy. Students often find that innovative collaboration between the Academy’s science and math teachers and its arts faculty helps them acquire the skills and confidence to succeed in any field.

SCHOOL LIFE

Days at Idyllwild are full—students take academic classes in the morning and arts classes in the afternoon. A typical school day extends from 8 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. Evening activities include rehearsals, lectures, performances, and study hours. On weekends, students have additional arts classes, private lessons, auditions, masterclasses, field trips, competitions, or independent projects. Idyllwild Arts also regularly hosts premier guest artists from around the world.

Residential students are strongly encouraged to stay at School on the weekends and to participate in a variety of activities. Activities on campus include dances, open-mic coffee houses, movie screenings, games and competitions, pool parties, and open houses in dorm parent apartments.

Off-campus activities include trips to museums, concerts, theatre productions, amusement parks, beaches, shopping malls, movie theatres, sporting events, and many other cultural and recreational activities. Some trips may include a community service component.



Residential Life

The Idyllwild Arts dormitories are designed to provide students a “home away from home” and a welcoming, comfortable, and friendly environment in which to relax between classes, rehearsals, and other student life activities. Each dormitory on campus also has a “common” room to enjoy social interaction with your fellow dorm mates who hail from around the world. Faculty/Dorm Parents reside in or next to the dormitories. They are visible, available, and approachable for students. Prefects are responsible for the well-being of residents and the implementation of dormitory policies. These older students provide good role modeling, experience, and leadership for the younger students.

CAMPUS

Idyllwild’s picturesque campus is set on 205 acres of pristine pine forest located in the renowned arts village of Idyllwild in Southern California’s San Jacinto Mountains. At an elevation of 5,200 feet, the sprawling campus and facilities are comprised of state-of-the-art classrooms, sound-proofed private rehearsal studios, a sound stage, spacious and comfortable student dormitories, a large dining hall, an architecturally stunning library, a performance theatre, a recital hall, an outdoor amphitheater, health center, student store, and numerous administration buildings all laid out with scenic walking trails and roads. The Idyllwild Arts campus is located only 2 miles from the center of town.



VILLAGE OF IDYLLWILD

The village of Idyllwild is renowned for its cultural and arts environment, as well as its stunning natural beauty. With a population of 2,500, Idyllwild has earned the distinction of becoming one of the 100 Best Small Art Towns in America. The town features over 15 galleries representing the work of more than 200 artists. Idyllwild is filled with unique gift and antique shops, boutiques, galleries, and wide variety of dining options.

Outdoor opportunities abound in the region. There are hundreds of miles of hiking and mountain biking trails for all levels, from gentle strolls to strenuous trails leading to the meadows and peaks that tower above the village. Fishing is also available within 20 minutes at Lake Foster and Lake Hemet.

Idyllwild can be reached from regional airports by car. The campus is within a 2 hours' drive to Los Angeles, Orange County and San Diego, and 1 hour from Palm Springs.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The next Head of School will have the opportunity to partner with a dynamic President and a passionate school community to build upon the strength of its many programs to make Idyllwild Arts Academy the most dynamic arts community in the nation.



The next Head of School will:

- Support the faculty and staff in the academics, arts, and social-emotional life of the academy;
- Support students in today's complicated academic and social-emotional world;
- Examine and implement best practices around retention of faculty and students;
- Ensure the residential program continues to fulfill the needs of the students;
- Continue to communicate the identity of the academy both internally and externally;
- Collaboratively create a strategic plan that shepherds the school to achieve its vision.

DESIRED QUALITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

The next Head of School will:

- A visionary and strategic thinker with bold ambitions for the organization and its students and ability to support the community with a comprehensive strategic plan;
- A skilled and collaborative leader with exceptional listening skills and a natural inclination to seek inspiration from the many stakeholders of the organization;
- A strong team builder who inspires the best from his/her teams and colleagues and respects and leverages the expertise of others within the community;
- An excellent and active communicator and passionate advocate for Idyllwild Arts and its students;
- A visible and positive presence on campus and in the greater Idyllwild community;
- A deep appreciation of the arts, if not a practitioner, as well as a thorough understanding of academic curriculum;



- Experience and understanding of student life/wellness, especially in a residential setting;
- Knowledge of enrollment management practices to attract and retain exceptional students to participate in the School’s artistic and academic programs;
- A robust understanding and champion for equity, inclusion, and an emotionally safe learning environment;
- A proven track record of recruiting and retaining a diverse and competent staff, including support for professional development;
- Experience managing a large staff and substantial budget in support of students.

TO APPLY

Interested and qualified candidates are invited to contact the consultants in confidence. Candidates will ultimately need to submit the following materials as separate PDF documents:

- A cover letter expressing their interest in this particular position;
- A current résumé;
- A list of five professional references with name, relationship, phone number, and email address of each (references will not be contacted without the candidate’s permission) to:

Karen Neitzel

Search Consultant

karen.neitzel@carneysandoe.com

Rice Bryan

Search Consultant

rice.bryan@carneysandoe.com