Youth Art Exchange | Leap ARTS IN EDUCATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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44th Annual Sandcastle Classic

Giant Sand Sculptures, Live Entertainment, and Community Celebration to Benefit Bay Area Arts Education

Saturday, October 24, 2026 | Ocean Beach at Balboa St.

FREE TO THE PUBLIC! RAIN OR SHINE!

SAN FRANCISCO, CA — On Saturday, October 24, Ocean Beach will transform into Northern California's largest sandcastle competition with the 44th Annual Sandcastle Classic. This iconic San Francisco event brings together thousands of students, professionals, and families for a day of jaw-dropping sand sculptures, live music, food trucks, and community fun – all in support of arts education for Bay Area students.

The 44th Annual Sandcastle Classic, a San Francisco tradition, raises funds for high-quality arts and architecture education for nearly 8,000 Bay Area students who would otherwise go without. Thousands flock to Ocean Beach to see teams of local elementary students and professionals from over 100 architecture, design, engineering, construction, and tech companies collaborate to build enormous, intricate sandcastles.

This year's theme, **"Bay Area Vibes"**, celebrates the music, art, culture, and architecture that make this region unlike anywhere else in the world! From iconic landmarks and natural landscapes to legendary sports teams and a vibrant local arts scene, we encourage teams to bring the spirit and creativity of the Bay Area to life on Ocean Beach this fall.

Event Highlights:

- Massive themed sand sculptures created by students and professionals
- Live music and dance performances
- Food trucks and vendors
- Interactive "Community Castle" open to all attendees
- Arts and crafts activities for kids and families

The Classic will feature celebrity judges, live entertainment, and Community Castles so everyone can join in the fun, cheer on teams, and get their hands dirty! The public is invited to bring a blanket, grab a bite from the food trucks on site, participate in the

competition, and spend a **FREE** day in the sun, all while helping raise over $300,000 to keep the arts alive in local schools.

Where: **Ocean Beach at Balboa St**, rain or shine.

When: Saturday, October 24, 2026, from 11 AM - 3:30 PM

Who:

- *Charles "Chuck" Collins, President of the San Francisco Arts Commission,* serving as a judge
- Hosted by *KOIT's Freska* (http://www.koit.com/hosts/freska)
- Live DJ performance by Grammy-nominated DJ Wonway Posibul
- Live dance performances by LionDanceMe and Cuicacalli
- Bay Area 3rd - 5th grade students
- Professionals from 100+ companies representing the Architectural, Engineering, Design, Construction, and Technology industries

Sponsors:
McCarthy Building Companies, BNBuilders, Menard, Dunn-Edwards Paints, AT&T, SF Hole in the Wall Pizza, KOIT, SF Rec & Park, Ocean Beach Cafe, Truly Loved Events, Western Neighborhoods Project, PWHL San Jose

IMPACT:

Leap Arts in Education and Youth Art Exchange are joining forces and coming together as one organization, strengthening their collective ability to provide transformative arts education for young people and communities across the Bay Area. Funds raised from the Sandcastle Classic ensure that the organization can continue its important mission to keep the arts alive for Bay Area students. The 2026 goal is to raise $300,000.

For more information, visit: www.leapsandcastleclassic.org.

Arts Education Matters:

- Students with an arts education increase test scores across every subject
- Students with an arts education are 4X more likely to be recognized for academic achievement
- Students who receive a quality arts education have higher attendance and graduation rates

Bay Area classroom teachers agree that an arts education is fundamental to student success:

-74% agree that students develop/apply **critical thinking**
-89% agree that students develop/apply **communication** skills
-85% agree that students practice **collaboration**

For more information:

Sandcastle Classic: www.leapsandcastleclassic.org
Donate: www.leaparts.org, www.youthartexchange.org/
Phone: 415-512-1899.