

## **The School of Arts and Enterprise Governing Board**

**Mark Skvarna**, has more than 25 years of experience in K12 education, including 13 years as Superintendent of Baldwin Park USD. In addition to his experience as a superintendent, Mr. Skvarna also has an extensive track record as Deputy Superintendent of Business Services at the district and county levels, most recently concluding service as the Chief Business Official for the Santa Clara County Office of Education. Mark is also known for his knowledge and expertise in school facilities construction issues having been a district Director of Facilities, and was a certified inspector by the Division of the State Architect (DSA). He also served as Chief of School Police.

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During Mr. Skvarna's 25 years of service to public education, he has passed three school bonds and managed hundreds of millions in school construction funding. Mr. Skvarna is a member of the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO), International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), Southern California Superintendents, active and honorary member since 2009. His education includes a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Engineering, a Masters of Science in Strategic Leadership and a Doctoral Degree in Business.

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**Joshua Swodeck**, Supporting businesses, artists, musicians and non-profits through Brand Storytelling, Strategic Marketing and Creative Design for over a decade. An Art Director, Creative Director and Designer over the years. He's studied Art History, Commercial Art, Religion, and Philosophy. A volunteer advocate for Arts & Education. Served as the PTA PUSD Council Art Education Chair, PTA PUSD Council Public Relations Chair, PTA Unit President, and PTA Unit Historian in the Pomona Unified School District and actively support local seasoned and emerging artists. A Board Member of the Pomona Arts Colony Association and Committee Member of the Fairplex Pomona Community Committee.

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**George Charney**, Retired Provost, Western University of Health Sciences & Emeritus status. Doctor Charney is an American academic administrator. Diplomate American Osteopathic Board of Anesthesiology, 1981. Executive member School of Arts and Enterprise, Pomona, California, 2003—2004; Fellow: Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators, American Osteopathic College of Anesthesiologist (chair of colleges 2001-2004); member: American Osteopathic Association.

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**Jeffrey Seymour**, Born in Long Beach California and raised in the San Gabriel Valley, Jeff has been a teacher and administrative in local schools for the past five decades. He served as a teacher, principal, and then superintendent for 25 years in the El Monte City School District. He has taught and been the program Coordinator for the Cal Poly Administrative Services Credential Program for nearly twenty years as well.

Being active in organizations that play roles in supporting students and families has been a key part of his energies as well. He serves on boards at Boys Republic, The El Monte Promise Foundation, The Jeff Seymour Family Center and currently is the president of the boards of the Greater El Monte Community Hospital and the El Monte / South El Monte Meals on Wheels, among others.

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**Martha Rivera, Ed.M.**, a strategic leader, arts advocate, and community connector whose career spans higher education, K-12 public education, the nonprofit sector, and the arts—with a lifelong dedication to empowering children, youth, and families. She currently serves as the Assistant Vice President for Community Benefit and Governmental Affairs at Western University of Health Sciences, where she leads cross-sector initiatives to expand access to healthcare, align institutional priorities with community benefit, and grow governmental affairs strategies across California and Oregon. Her career began with a focus on youth development and the arts. At the Orange County Children's Therapeutic Arts Center (OCCTAC) (2013-2014), she served as Director of the After-School Arts Program, designing culturally responsive programs that fostered creative expression, identity, and well-being for over 400 children and their families. She also served as a Santa Ana Arts & Culture Commissioner, advocating for inclusive arts policies that reflect and uplift the city's vibrant and multicultural communities. Martha holds a Master's in Education from Harvard University and dual Bachelor's degrees in Psychology and Spanish from Chapman University.

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**Dr. Denise Davis-Cotton**, Director of the Florida Center for PAInT, is an internationally recognized educator, author, and arts integration advocate. As founder and first principal of the Detroit School of Arts, she has championed academic and artistic excellence, earning honors such as the Milken Educator Award, Michiganian of the Year, and recognition by the U.S. Congress. Her book, *Losing My Mind over Education (Finding My Way Back to Me)*, explores the disconnect in education and her mission to reignite its spirit. A past president of Arts Schools Network and Distinguished Alumna of Alabama State University, Dr. Davis-Cotton is known for her visionary leadership in S.T.E.A.M. education, workforce development, and community engagement. She holds degrees from Wayne State University, the University of Montevallo, and Alabama State University.

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