

DRAFT

OCEAN CHARTER SCHOOL STRATEGIC PLAN

MAR VISTA CAMPUS | 12606 CULVER BLVD | LOS ANGELES | CA | 90066

WESTCHESTER CAMPUS | 7400 MANCHESTER AVE. | LOS ANGELES | CA | 90045

<http://www.oceancharterschool.org>

June 2013- June 2018

Table of Contents

- I. Our Vision and Mission
- II. Introduction to Ocean Charter School
- III. Our Strategic Goals

I. OUR VISION AND MISSION

Ocean Charter School Vision

Ocean Charter School is a community of families and educators using innovative teaching methods to nurture and educate children in a multi-cultural, urban environment. We are committed to achieving academic excellence through experiential learning and to enhancing the growth of curiosity and imagination through the rigorous practice of an arts integrated curriculum. This approach addresses the whole child, promoting the development of healthy, responsible, and creative human beings. Our graduates will have the vision, desire and skill to live meaningful lives, balance technology and humanity, and create a sustainable future.

Ocean Charter School Mission

Ocean Charter School addresses the California State Standards and Common Core Standards through the mindful implementation of Waldorf Education. Our curriculum is built on a foundation of creativity and self-confidence, and grows with the child to balance imagination, critical thinking and academic excellence. This foundation, combined with a focus on ecological and social responsibility, nurtures a sense of delight and wonder about the world, as well as respect for nature and humanity. Our goal is to graduate students who will positively shape our culture, rather than merely reflecting it. Our curriculum is designed to empower each student with the knowledge that she or he matters as an individual and shapes not only her or his own life, but, ultimately, our shared future.

II. INTRODUCTION TO OCEAN CHARTER SCHOOL

Ocean Charter School formed as an organization and had its initial Charter approved by Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) in 2003. A small group of passionate parents and educators intent on bringing an arts-integrated Waldorf-inspired curriculum into the public sector spearheaded the initiative. In preparation for the school's opening, parents, children and members of the local community hauled rocks, dug irrigation ditches, painted classrooms, and planted greenery. This massive effort transformed an unremarkable site into a beautiful, environmentally attuned school in just a few weeks. Ocean Charter School's doors opened on our Culver Boulevard site in the fall of 2004 with 220 students in kindergarten through sixth grade, growing to over 400 students in kindergarten through eighth grade on two campuses.

In 2006 LAUSD first granted Ocean Charter School site use under Proposition 39 at Walgrove Elementary School to accommodate our upper grades. OCS volunteers worked with the Friends of Walgrove to beautify our shared campus, make site improvements and develop community bonds. In 2012 LAUSD granted Ocean Charter School site use under Proposition 39 at Playa Vista Elementary School to house our third, fourth, and fifth grades. OCS volunteers worked to build relationships with the Friends of Playa Vista. In 2013, OCS was granted site use at Westchester Sciences Magnets School to house our upper grades. Developing relationships with our co-location partner continues. Moving the school year after year is taxing financially; therefore, securing a single site is imperative.

In the spring of 2011 the state awarded Ocean Charter School a Proposition 1D preliminary apportionment to build a single campus. We received a check for \$7.5 million dollars for site acquisition. We will undertake this immense and vast project to achieve long-term stability for Ocean Charter School.

Ocean Charter School continues to thrive with the support of OCS families and numerous institutions that assist us in fulfilling our mission since we opened our doors. As a demonstration of our curricular achievements, Ocean Charter School has annually met or exceeded our Academic Performance Index (API) and Academic Yearly Progress (AYP). Over the years, a diverse array of high schools in the Los Angeles area have noted their appreciation for the high degree of preparedness of students arriving from Ocean Charter School. Our achievements and successes are also demonstrated by a strong applicant pool. Each year we receive hundreds of applications for enrollment in our school. Charter School developers in Georgia, Tennessee, Alaska and California have used our charter as a model to develop their own schools as the Waldorf-inspired public school movement has taken off across the country.

Ocean Charter School is dedicated to delivering its unique, arts integrated curriculum, developing in-depth content understanding and cultivating a community of lifelong learners. Since opening, we have made building and retaining

a strong faculty a priority. All OCS faculty are credentialed with the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing and all faculty are also at various stages of working towards their Waldorf Certification. In addition, OCS faculty attends summer grade level training in Waldorf educational methods to build on their skill and expertise. Fundamental to our success, and as part of bringing a rich arts-based curriculum to our students, we implement and develop specialty instruction programs that include Japanese, music, games, and handwork.

Ocean Charter School maintains fiscal health and stability despite the immense challenges and obstacles facing education in California beginning as early as 2008. Ocean Charter School continues to weather state cuts by tough decision-making, maintaining fiscal conservativeness, and through generous contributions. Ocean Charter School has a cash reserve to ensure a smoothly running program and adequate cash flow to meet all our obligations, regardless of state funding deferrals.

Over the years, Ocean Charter School has forged community partnerships and developed many valuable relationships with local residents, small businesses and corporations to maintain longevity and support our future goals. It is in deep appreciation that we thank the following institutions and foundations for their generous support along with the many past, present and future OCS families:

LAUSD
KaBoom
Japan Business Association
Macerich
Japan Foundation
Tom Saffran & Associates
The Home Depot
Roll International Giving
LA Works
Jeanne & Maxwell Kaufer Family Fund
Rayathon
TreePeople
Long Cove Grant
Wells Fargo Community Support
Warner Brothers Matching Fund

Calvert Giving Fund
Sony Pictures Matching Grant
Boeing Matching Grant
Farmers Insurance Matching Grant
RipBang Studios
KESMail Inc.
Northrop Grumman Matching Fund
Polonsky Foundation
Taproot Foundation
Whole Foods
Playa Vista, Inc.
J. Paul Getty Matching Fund
Groundworks

III. OUR STRATEGIC GOALS

The OCS Board of Trustees and Administration developed the following strategic goals to be realized over the next five years in support of furthering our mission and long-term vision:

1. Secure a Single Site: With the Site Development Task Force, we will locate a financially viable and appropriate site option that will house the entire school.

2. Continue to Increase Diversity: With support from the Diversity Committee, OCS Administration will increase the diversity at Ocean Charter School to better reflect the demographics of LAUSD. We will increase the diversity of our student population so that it is 60-65% PHBAO (predominantly Hispanic, Black, Asian and Other) by 2016.

3. Create Financial Sustainability: To fulfill the OCS mission, school leadership will work to secure increased financial support for programs, staff and site development:

- The Board of Trustees will cultivate broader philanthropic relationships with the support of a Development Director*.
- The Development Director will increase grant-writing efforts to support curricular programs and support community fundraising.
- The Development Director will launch a Capital Campaign to raise additional funds needed for a single site.