

Careers in the Visual and Performing Arts

The following lists contain a sampling of careers in the visual and performing arts and places in which artists might be employed. *Taken from the California State VAPA Framework.*

Dance

PreK to post-secondary educator/consultant

- Public/private/magnet school
- Private studio
- Dance assessment
- Community outreach program
- Community nonprofit arts organization
- Movement for actors and singers

Arts administrator

- Dance department in school
- Community arts council
- College or university
- Dance program coordinator, nonprofit
- District dance coordinator
- Professional group or organization
- State/federal government
- Community center
- Dance conference coordinator

Dancer

- Ballet/Film/television/video
- Folk/social
- Improvisation specialist
- Jazz/Modern/contemporary/postmodern
- Professional/regional company
- Theatre dance
- Variety/character productions
- Industrials/entertainment industry
- Cultural/ethnic specialist

Choreographer

- Professional and regional companies
- Special events
- Film/television/video
- Industrials/fashion shows/conventions
- Opera
- Broadway theatre/children's theatre
- Community/civic events/Ballroom

Director/producer

- Dance captain
- Audition coordinator
- Dance company
- Film/television/video
- Nonprofit dance organization

Owner

- Dance studio
- Dance company
- Dance supply business

Technical production

- Business manager
- Costume designer
- Lighting/sound designer
- Manager
- Public relations representative
- Notation expert
- Special movement effects designer
- Stage manager for dance company
- Video technology expert in dance
- Set and prop designer
- Music composer for dance

Business/management

- Advertising agency
- Costume construction/rental
- Dance supply store
- Costume store
- Marketing/promotional
- Personal agency
- Press agency
- Prop/scenic construction/rental
- Private dance school owner/manager

Notating

- Autographer
- Reconstructor
- Dance media documenter

Criticism/research

- Dance textbook/book writer
- Scholar/professor
- Dance historian
- Consumer researcher
- Ethnologist
- Historian/researcher
- Library media teacher
- Writer/editor/critic for magazine or newspaper

Medicine/science

- Adaptive movement specialist
- Dance therapist

- Kinesiologist
- Personal trainer
- Physical therapist Pilates instructor
- Scholar/professor Injury prevention specialist

Media

- Computer programmer
- Television consultant
- Video consultant
- Internet Animation

Government services

- Arts councils, national/state/regional
- Cultural arts commissions, national/state/regional/local

Recreation

- After-school programs
- Boys'/girls' clubs

- Parks/recreation programs
- Private camps
- YMCA/YWCA

Designer for dance

- Costumes
- Lighting
- Makeup/hair
- Model making
- Props
- Sets/stage
- Sound
- Environmental
- Exhibits
- Graphics
- Print media
- Special effects

Music

Music education

- Early childhood music educator
- School music educator
- Music supervisor/consultant
- Music professor
- Administrator, university music school
- Studio teacher

Instrumental performance

- Armed forces musician
- Orchestra musician
- Small-ensemble musician
- Concert soloist
- Dance/rock/jazz band musician
- Clinician

Vocal performance

- Dance band/nightclub vocalist
- Concert/opera chorus
- Concert soloist
- Opera soloist

Conducting

- Choir/orchestra/opera conductor

Composing

- School music composer
- Art music composer
- Commercial jingle composer
- Television show composer
- Film score composer

Music for worship

- Organist

- Choir director
- Cantor/hazan

Music business

- Music dealer salesperson
- Music dealer manager
- Marketing/advertising specialist
- Music/instrument/accessories distributor

Instrument making and repair

- Instrument maker
- Instrument repair technician
- Piano tuner

Music publishing

- Music editor
- Note setter
- Publishing sales representative
- Copyright/licensing administrator

Music communications

- Publisher/editor of music books/periodicals
- Music reporter
- Public relations specialist

Recording industry

- Producer/engineer/pixer
- Artist and repertoire (A&R) person
- Studio arranger
- Music copyist

Television and radio industry

- Radio/television commercial musician
- Copyright/clearance administrator
- Music license administrator
- Radio program director
- Postproduction/scoring
- Music adviser/researcher
- Disc jockey/video jockey

Music technology

- Multimedia publisher
- Editor, sound/video
- Designer, technology-based music instruction

Music librarianship

- Librarian, college/university/conservatory/public library/orchestra

Music therapist

- Hospital/psychiatric facility
- Special education facility
- Clinic for disabled children
- Mental health center
- Nursing home
- Correctional facility
- Private practice

Performing arts medicine

- Physician
- Physical therapist

Theatre

Pre-K to postsecondary educator/consultant

- Public/private school
- Visiting artist
- Private studio
- Distance-learning instruction
- Community theatre
- Internet/online instruction
- Touring theatre
- Theatre technology: lighting/sound/sets/costumes/animatronics/cinematography/business management

Arts administrator

- Theatre department in school
- Community arts council
- College/university
- Artistic director
- Production manager
- Private studio
- Marketing/public relations
- Professional group/association

Actor

- Voice coach
- Film/television/video/radio/local/cable/network/independent/regional/studio

Live theater

- Amusement park/theme park
- Dinner theatre
- Motivational
- Musicals
- Training films
- Professional
- Religious
- Resident

- Stand-up comedy
- Stock
- Regional
- Touring company
- Visiting artist

Playwright

- Screenwriter
- News writer
- Commercial
- Visiting artist
- Documentary
- Dramaturge

Director/producer

- Film/radio/television/video
- National/local/regional/independent/student/cable
- Arts events/presentations
- Casting
- Community/regional theatre
- Theatre company
- Theatrical productions
- Commercial productions
- Documentary productions In-house productions
- Training films
- Religious films

Owner

- Theatre
- Theatre/film/television company
- Film/television/theatre supply business

Technical production

- Costume designer
- Camera operator

- Lighting/sound designer
- Scenographer, costumes/lights/sets
- Editor
- Sets/scenic construction
- Designer, sets/props
- Sound boom operator
- Special effects designer
- Stage manager
- Grip/stagehand
- Video technology expert
- Wardrobe dresser
- Pyrotechnics
- Model making
- Props
- Hair design
- Makeup
- Animal trainer
- Cinematographer
- Gaffer
- Best boy
- Caterer
- Animator
- Computer graphics
- Costumes
- Lighting
- Model making
- Props
- Sets/stage
- Sound
- Special effects
- Actors agency
- Press agency
- Publicist
- Prop construction
- Public relations
- Sets store
- Publisher
- Rentals, costumes/sound/lighting/stage/
scenic/rigging/props Lawyer

Criticism/research

- Dramaturge
- Historian/researcher
- Market researcher
- Library media teacher
- Textbook writer

- Writer/editor/critic for magazine/
newspaper
- Web publications
- Film critiques for magazines
- Book author

Medicine/science

- Speech therapist
- Drama therapist
- Movement therapist
- Satellite/cable (global)/specialized
networks Scientific laboratory

Media

- Computer,
lighting/sound/visuals/sets/animation/
holography
- Consultant,
television/film/cable/video/satellite/radio

Government services

- Arts councils, national/state/
regional/local
- Cultural arts commissions, national/
state/ regional/local

Education consultant/specialist

- State/regional/district/private/nonprofit

Recreation

- Boys/girls clubs
- Parks/recreation programs
- Day/overnight private camps
- Arts camps
- YMCA/YWCA
- Nonprofit arts camps/agencies/courses,
consulting/theatres, touring groups/ artists

Business/management

- Business manager
- Graphics/text director/agent
- Advertising agency
- Costume construction
- Wardrobe cutter/milliner/stitcher
- Marketing/promotion
- Programs/billboards/advertising

Visual Arts

New media

- 3-D animation
- Commercial/computer graphics
- Film/television design
- Halography
- Media design 3-D model making
- Multimedia game design
- Software design

- Cinematography
- New media art
- Photo journalism

Visual artist

- Animator
- Architect
- Art director

- Auto designer
- Billboard artist
- Biomedical photographer
- Biomedical illustrator
- Book designer
- Calligrapher
- Cartoonist
- Catalog illustrator
- Children's book illustrator
- Commercial/computer graphics
- New media artist
- Glass artist
- Print maker
- Printer
- Photographer
- Potter/ceramic artist
- Sculptor
- Site-specific artist Installation artist
- Performance artist
- Stained glass artist
- Fiber artist

Technical production

- CAD designer
- Editor
- Installation designer
- Lighting designer
- Scenic designer
- Set/props designer
- Special effects designer
- Video technology expert
- Wardrobe designer
- Topographer
- Weaver
- Engraver
- Lithographer
- Model maker
- Photo editor
- Production potter
- Sign painter

Business/management

- Public relations representative
- Advertising agency
- Appraiser
- Art investment
- Art supply manufacturer
- Art supply store
- Picture framer
- Convention/fair
- Corporate/private/freelance collection management
- Gallery/exhibit space
- Marketing/promotion
- Museum
- Party/event designer
- Press agency
- Private art school owner/manager
- Web site development agency
- Multimedia presentation creator

Criticism/research

- Art law

- Consumer researcher
- Ethnologist
- Historian/researcher
- Library media teacher
- Textbook writer
- Writer/editor/critic for magazine/newspaper

Medicine/science:

- Biomedical
- Art therapist
- Illustrator, medical texts/scientific texts/law enforcement/courtroom

Designer

- Advertising
- Amusement/theme park designer
- Art materials/supplies
- Automobile designer
- Coin designer
- Costume/mask designer
- Ceramist/potter
- Couture artist
- Covers
- Displays
- Environmental
- Exhibits
- Graphics
- Interiors
- Jewelry
- Landscape
- Leather goods
- Model maker/designer
- Museum exhibitions
- Scenic designer
- Props
- Packaging
- Sets/stage
- Stamp designer
- Textiles
- Tools
- Toys
- Urban
- Video interface
- Wallpaper
- Windows
- Fashion designer
- Furniture designer
- Greeting card artist
- Industrial designer, packaging/products

Media

- Computer programmer
- Television consultant
- Commercial/computer graphics
- Film/television designer
- Cinematographer
- Holographer
- Media designer
- 3-D model maker
- Multimedia game designer
- Multimedia presenter

- 3-D computer-generated imagery
- Interactive designer
- Software designer
- Web site designer
- Video producer
- Special effects designer

Illustrator

- Biomedical
- Technical
- Editorial
- Botanical
- Children's literature
- Advertising

Recreation

- Boys/girls clubs
- Parks/recreation programs
- Private camps
- YMCA/YWCA

- Fashion
- Forensic
- Courtroom
- Police
- Sports
- Calligrapher
- Catalog

Government services

- Art councils, national/state/regional
- Cultural arts commissions, national/state/ regional/local
- Education consultant/specialist