

CASE STUDY BRIEF

Since 2013, the Partnership for 21st Century Learning (P21) has annually designated 21st Century Learning Exemplars based upon exceptional implementation of the [Framework for 21st Century Learning](#).

Each year, P21 has highlighted a cohort of early learning centers, K–12 schools, school districts, and beyond school programs in the U.S. as 21st Century Learning Exemplars. Now that P21 is a network of Battelle for Kids, we are leading together in celebrating the current year of 21st Century Learning Exemplars.

As part of celebrating these awardees, Battelle for Kids and its P21 network provide ways for their stories and impactful practices to be shared with others. This case study brief and those for the other awardees provide powerful insights to guide other school districts, schools, and programs so that every child can experience the best of 21st century learning experiences.



Henry Ford Academy: Alameda School for Art + Design San Antonio, TX

With considerable attention and care, Henry Ford Academy: Alameda School for Art + Design (HFA Alameda) relentlessly advocates for and champions its students by providing a safe learning environment that challenges them to meet their potential and transition successfully into the next phase of their academic journey.

Grades Served: 9–12

Enrollment: 138 Students

Founded in 2009

[Website](#)

100% of students graduate and are accepted to college or university.

Henry Ford Academy: Alameda School for Art + Design

San Antonio, TX

Inclusive Learning Environment

HFA Alameda takes great care to foster a warm and supportive whole-child learning environment that enables each student to realize their full potential, with every detail of the facilities tailored to support art, innovation, and design. Housed in the historic Casa de Mexico and adjacent to the Alameda Theater, students are immersed in a vibrant, colorful environment where their artwork adorns almost all the wall space so that students have opportunities to engage with fellow students' work.

HFA Alameda is a veritable playground for creative discovery and showcase with two art and design studios, two art galleries, a technical theatre studio, a performance art studio, a digital design lab and film studio, and a mixed-use community space. By design, HFA Alameda creates a highly differentiated learning experience for students, evidenced by an impressive 100% graduation rate.

By removing the critical barrier of conformity and actively encouraging full expressions of creativity, HFA Alameda strives to create a culture of tolerance and respect. The school provides a safe haven for forward thinkers through the relentless advocacy of teachers and administrative staff. Students become thoughtful risk takers and leaders in their classrooms and community. With a commitment to social justice, student agency, and critical thinking, HFA Alameda graduates develop resiliency and apply their compassionate mindset to real-world challenges.



Senior Mastery Process

All HFA Alameda students are challenged with a workforce readiness signature learning experience known as the Senior Mastery Process (SMP), which was initially developed in a fellow Henry Ford Academy in Dearborn, MI. Beginning with a Junior Workshop, the SMP provides an interactive, immersive experience within a career path of interest. The workshop allows students to better understand and make informed decisions about their career trajectory after graduation. Following an initial exploratory phase during Junior Workshop, seniors complete at least 60 hours of work-place experience at businesses and organizations in the community such as the San Antonio Aquarium, San Antonio Cultural Arts, Cameo Theater, and The Salvation Army.



While completing their internships, students also determine the research focus of their senior paper. By tackling a real-world problem with [design thinking](#) tools and strategies, students are tasked with creating a practicum/internship work product that links to their career exploration experience, the focal-point of their senior defense. A committee evaluates students who must carefully defend their practicum and provide narrative on their future plans and how the SMP helped refine that vision. This culminates with a public exhibit where HFA Alameda students share their final products with their fellow students, families, and community internship partners.

Community Partnerships

Located in the Zona Cultural District in the heart of downtown San Antonio, HFA Alameda takes full advantage of its central location to cultivate robust partnerships in the community for the SMP other school-wide initiatives.

A new after-school program was launched in early 2019 thanks to two students who made a partnership with San Antonio Sound Garden (SASG) the focus of their SMP capstone project. The SASG Classroom Sessions program provides clear and practical tools on how to bring music to life and the opportunity to work with professional musicians and sound engineers; it helps HFA Alameda students build a roadmap for establishing a career in the creative class.

Students also contribute their talents to a number of annual events, including [Childsafe's](#) Cardboard Kids campaign to raise awareness for child abuse prevention. HFA Alameda regularly sends a team of students to participate in the annual Houston Street "Chalk It Up." In the past, students contributed to a collaborative, city block-sized mural.

Getting out into the community and seeing the transformative power of art in beautifying a common space has led some students to seek out partnership opportunities with San Antonio River Authority. Directly abutting a portion of the reimagined and revitalized San Pedro Creek Cultural Park, students have presented their ambitious sculptural designs for consideration and inclusion amongst the art walks close to the campus.



2019 21ST CENTURY LEARNING EXEMPLARS

Each of the following earned this year's award for its outstanding practices in equipping students with the necessary skills and knowledge for success in college, career, and life:

Early Learning

The Goddard School Located in Broadview Heights
(Broadview, OH)
The Goddard School Located in Simpsonville
(Simpsonville, SC)

K-12 Schools

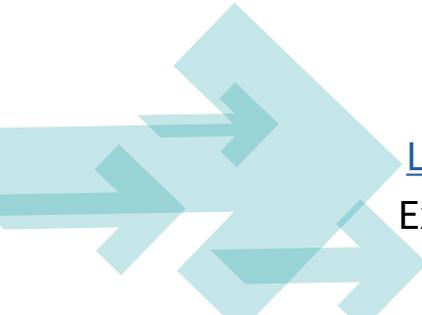
Canyon Crest Elementary School (Fontana, CA)
Elon Elementary School (Elon, NC)
EVSC New Tech Institute (Evansville, IN)
Henry Ford Academy: Alameda School for Art + Design
(San Antonio, TX)
Kairos Public School Vacaville Academy (Vacaville, CA)
Kensington Elementary School (Waxhaw, NC)
Moreno Valley High School (Moreno Valley, CA)
Saint Ambrose School (Brunswick, OH)
Santiago Charter Middle School (Orange, CA)
Valley View High School (Moreno Valley, CA)
Vineyard STEM Magnet (Ontario, CA)
Vista Heights Middle School (Moreno Valley, CA)
Wolf Springs Elementary School (Overland Park, KS)

Districts

Lennox School District (Lennox, CA)
Vicksburg Warren School District (Vicksburg, MS)

Beyond School Programs

Camp Champions (Marble Falls, TX)



[Learn more](#) about the 21st Century Learning Exemplars at: bfk.me/p21_ExemplarProgram