

LAEF



LOS ALAMITOS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

April 2024

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LAEF Donated Over \$80,000 for STEAM!

(Los Alamitos, CA) – The Los Alamitos Education Foundation (LAEF) was proud to grant over \$80,000 to Los Al schools for STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math) needs this year. LAEF accepted grant submissions from school principals to support anything STEAM related, such as curriculum, supplies, technology and/or staff salaries.

Students across the district are already benefiting from these grants. At McGaugh Elementary School, the 3D pens are a huge hit! STEAM grant funds purchased pens and supplies and McGaugh’s STEM Lab teacher, May Samari, quickly went to work creating lessons to put the new devices into the hands of her students. Third graders used the pens to build 3D basketball hoops to go along with a lesson incorporating International Women’s Month and March Madness. While first graders used the pens to make prosthetics during a bio-engineering lesson. Fourth and fifth graders used the pens to make beautiful 3D fireflies.

“Excitement was in the air when I visited the McGaugh STEM lab to see the kids finish up their basketball projects. I was blown away by the students’ attention to detail and innovation in creating these 3D designs,” said LAEF Donor Relations and Development Manager Lauren DeNinno.

At Los Alamitos Elementary School, STEAM grant funds were used to purchase Makey Makey STEM sets, 3D pens, and wired mice. Los Alamitos Elementary Principal Jenny Padilla shared how the students are using these items in the STEM lab. Fourth and fifth graders used the mice to create a stop motion animation in Google Slides showing how a hot air balloon works. Third graders learned about circuits by creating conductors using play dough and graphite, and connecting them to the new Makey Makey sets. 3D pens were used by fourth graders to create flower models as part of a lesson where students dissected lilies to learn about male and female reproductive parts.

Middle schoolers are also benefiting from STEAM grants this year. McAuliffe STEM classes recently began experimenting with newly purchased Sphero robots. The students will use iPads to interact with the robots and learn how they operate. At Oak Middle School, grant funds totaling \$25,000 over the past two years will be combined to upgrade the school's multi-purpose room with new projectors and AV equipment to enhance drama, choir and band performances. With the upgrade, students will use new software to select backgrounds for performances and be involved in behind-the-scenes elements of stage production.

All granted funds enhance learning in the areas of science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math and provide many opportunities for hands-on learning. To date, LAEF has donated over \$530,000 to support STEAM programs and staff across Los Alamitos Unified School District.

"We were thrilled to award STEAM grants again this year to all nine district schools. It is so rewarding to see all the ways these funds are bringing hands-on STEAM learning opportunities to our students," said LAEF Executive Director Carrie Logue.

The STEAM donations are due in large part to the support from LAEF's major donor group, the Los Al Leadership Circle (LALC). The LALC consists of the distinguished, significant supporters of LAEF's visionary work. Members of the LALC provide the critical donations that bring LAEF's

support of Los Al kids to the next level. To learn more about how to become a member of the LALC, please visit www.LAEF4kids.org/LALC.

LAEF is the non-profit partner of Los Alamitos Unified School District. LAEF enhances educational excellence by providing after-school and summer enrichment programs to children in grades Pre-K to 12. LAEF impacts all students by providing significant funding for student mental health/wellness and STEAM instruction, as well as igniting new programs and providing valuable resources. For more information, visit www.LAEF4kids.org or call (562) 799-4700 Extension 80424 today.



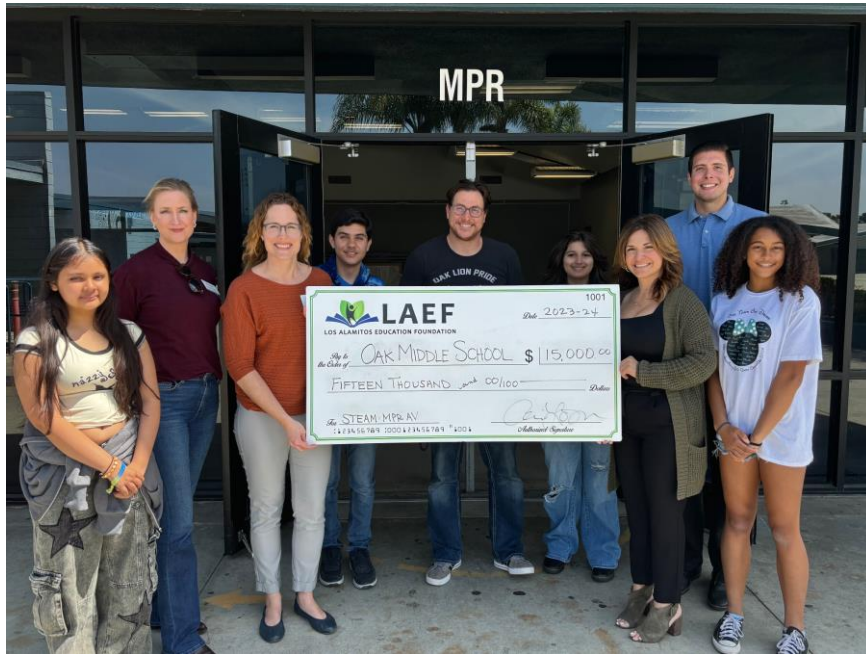
Pictured are McGaugh students showing off basketball hoops created using 3D pens purchased with LAEF grant funds.



Pictured are McGaugh students using 3D pens purchased with LAEF grant funds.



Pictured are LAE students showing off their flowers created using 3D pens purchased with LAEF grant funds.



Pictured are Oak students along with STEM Teacher Chris Miko, Principal Evelyn Garcia and Assistant Principal Stephen Segura accepting a check for projectors and AV upgrades from LAEF's Community Outreach Specialist Amelia Nicholls and Executive Director Carrie Logue in front of their MPR.

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