

Thank you for the opportunity to share information about Henry Ford Academy: Alameda School for Art + Design (ASAD) and our unique partnership with San Antonio Independent School District

Our charter high school, which focuses on art and design along with required college-preparatory courses in math, science, social studies and language arts, leases a formerly closed SAISD elementary school, James Bowie School, on the westside of San Antonio.

The school, a former Blue Ribbon award winner, had been closed for a year as the neighborhood could not support a full elementary school and the community was eager for another program to go into the building

Through a relationship between one of our board members and an SAISD board member, we met and came up with a partnership that would give benefits to both sides:

--SAISD leases the building to ASAD, who pays all utility, building upgrade (painting, etc.) maintenance, cleaning and security costs. The benefit to SAISD is

that a previously unused building is renovated, repurposed and again filled with students and families who contribute to the community, and ASAD pays costs for ongoing upkeep. The benefit to ASAD is that it is housed in a beautiful school building at a cost that fits into its budget, families and students are comfortable with their students being in a charter school that is also in a traditional school building, and it has the added bonus of being affiliated with SAISD, which maintains a positive reputation with local families

--ASAD provides SAISD with 12 arts-specific elective high school courses, from color studies to career research and internship curriculum

--ASAD provides joint in-kind professional development for SAISD and its own teachers in Ford Partnership for Advanced Studies (Ford PAS) courses, which many SAISD schools are implementing, and in the Academy's Senior Mastery Process, which included administrator and teacher training and travel to Michigan to work with founding Academy teachers

--HFLI provided a \$20,000 grant to SAISD to pay for professional development in programs that SAISD and ASAD are doing together

--Dr. Robert Duron, SAISD superintendent and principal Jeffrey D. Flores recently attended an exclusive convening of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to discuss and advise on ways that districts and charters can and should work together for the benefit of the students

We at ASAD are grateful for the leadership of the SAISD board members and Dr. Duron as we move forward to build even stronger connections. Thank you.