

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE AND EDUCATIONAL THEATRE ASSOCIATION PARTNER AGAIN FOR SECOND YEAR OF JUMPSTART THEATRE

*APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR SAN DIEGO MIDDLE SCHOOLS TO PARTICIPATE IN
ACCLAIMED INITIATIVE FOSTERING MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT*

San Diego, CA – La Jolla Playhouse is now accepting applications from San Diego middle schools to be considered for the **JumpStart Theatre Program**, a three-year, fully-funded musical theatre program sponsored by the **Playhouse** and the **Educational Theatre Association (EdTA)**. The program was implemented in 2018 in partnership with the San Diego Unified School District. This year the application process is open to middle schools in all local schools districts.

The JumpStart Theatre Program equips non-theatre teachers with the skills and resources to produce their school's first musical through a proven combination of hands-on mentoring and boot-camp style training. Due to its reputation for excellence in arts education through such programs as the Performing Outreach Program (POP) Tour and the Young Performers series of summer theatre training programs, the Playhouse was chosen as one of two theatre companies in the country to spearhead the national expansion of the highly-successful JumpStart Theatre Program that the Educational Theatre Association has conducted in Cincinnati since 2014.

"We are honored to be one of the Regional Partners for EdTA's acclaimed JumpStart Theatre program. La Jolla Playhouse is known for – and deeply committed to – the development of new plays and musicals, and the JumpStart Theatre Program provides a terrific opportunity to empower middle school teachers to produce musicals in their schools," said Playhouse Managing Director Debby Buchholz."

Applications are available on La Jolla Playhouse website now through April 19. Applications received after this date will be notified and advised to apply for the 2020 school year. Selection criteria includes the commitment of a minimum three educators from each school who will remain dedicated to the program for the duration. Previous theatre experience is not required. Schools will be mentored by La Jolla Playhouse teaching artists throughout the entire program with the goal of building a sustainable, long-term musical theatre curriculum. All applications will be reviewed, and schools selected to move forward will be notified by April 30. Site visits and interviews will be scheduled at that time with a final selection to be completed and announced by May 10, 2018.

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About La Jolla Playhouse

[La Jolla Playhouse](https://www.lajollaplayhouse.org/) is a place where artists and audiences come together to create what's new and next in the American theatre, from Tony Award-winning productions, to imaginative programs for young audiences, to interactive experiences outside our theatre walls. Currently led by 2017 Tony Award-winning Artistic Director Christopher Ashley and Managing Director Debby Buchholz, the Playhouse was founded in 1947 by Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Mel Ferrer. Renowned for its development of new plays and musicals, the Playhouse has mounted 101 world premieres, commissioned 52 new works, and sent 32 productions to Broadway – among them the currently-running hit musical *Come From Away* – garnering a total of 38 Tony Awards, plus the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. For more information, please visit [LaJollaPlayhouse.org](https://www.lajollaplayhouse.org/).

About The Educational Theatre Association (EdTA)

The Educational Theatre Association (EdTA) is an international association with approximately 125,000 active members. EdTA's mission is shaping lives through theatre education: honoring student achievement in theatre; supporting teachers by providing professional development, resources, and recognition; and influencing public opinion that theatre education is essential and builds life skills. EdTA is the home of the International Thespian Society, an honorary organization established at more than 4,700 schools that has inducted more than 2.3 million theatre students since its founding in 1929. EdTA also produces the International Thespian Festival and publishes *Dramatics* magazine for high school theatre students, and *Teaching Theatre*, a journal for theatre education professionals. For more information, please visit [schooltheatre.org](https://www.schooltheatre.org/)