



Arts for All Pooled Fund

Investing In Access, Quality and Equity in Arts Education

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is addressing the lack of access, quality, and equity in arts education in Los Angeles County?

With more than 100 collaborative partners, *Arts for All: Los Angeles County Regional Blueprint for Arts Education* is addressing these issues. Administered by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission in partnership with the Los Angeles County Office of Education, *Arts for All* was adopted in September 2002 by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors as the strategic plan to restore sequential K-12 arts education in dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts in Los Angeles County.

What is the vision of *Arts for All*?

To bring about lasting systemic change in the 81 school districts of Los Angeles County so that standards-based, sequential K-12 arts education is offered to the County's 1.7 million public school students, including those in juvenile offender, special education, and alternative education schools.

What progress has been made in achieving this vision?

The first six years were focused on working with school districts to build a sustainable infrastructure for the delivery of K-12 arts education based on the following five critical success factors:

- board adopted arts education policy and plan
- arts education budget of 5% or more of the total school district budget
- district level arts coordinator
- student to credentialed arts teacher ratio of 400:1

Since 2003, 38 of 81 school districts, representing 510,073 students, have committed to realizing their arts education goals based on these factors.

In addition to building the school district infrastructure, *Arts for All* has provided valuable practical tools and resources that support successful implementation of arts education in the classroom. These tools have deepened and strengthened each school district's long term arts education goals:

- LAArtsEd.org (includes a vetted directory of high quality arts providers and programs in all four disciplines, Tools and Resources, and a Handbook for K-12 Professional Development Planners)
- Teaching Artist Training Program
- Residency Grant Program
- Advocacy Team Training
- Arts Education Roundtable and listserv
- Arts Education Performance Indicators Report (AEPI, 2003, 2005, 2008)
- School District Spokesperson Training
- Arts Coordinator Professional Development Series
- Leadership Fellows

The impact of *Arts for All* is more than regional. The initiative has become a national model in the arts education field. One of six collaborative arts education efforts in the nation included in a June 2008 RAND study, *Arts for All* was cited in the report as an outstanding example of "how organizations that pool resources and coordinate activities can make it possible for more children to benefit from arts learning."

The significance of this work led The Wallace Foundation, in 2008, to award *Arts for All* an 18-month, \$1.2 million grant to deepen and expand efforts that are addressing issues of access, quality and equity in arts education. Support from the Pooled Fund played a key role in helping *Arts for All* leverage this funding.

What is the *Arts for All* Pooled Fund?

The Pooled Fund is an ad hoc committee of arts education funders who began meeting quarterly in February 2004 to support the implementation of *Arts for All*. The Pooled Fund's members collectively support the overall goals of the initiative and have an equal voice in determining the initiative's priorities.

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arts for all

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
REGIONAL BLUEPRINT
FOR ARTS EDUCATION

Who belongs to the Pooled Fund?

Members of the Pooled Fund include foundations, corporations, and government agencies whose philanthropic giving match the vision and goals of *Arts for All*. Current members are the Herb Alpert Foundation, The Angell Foundation, Boeing, The Dana Foundation, The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, Jewish Community Foundation, Los Angeles County Arts Commission and Sony Pictures Entertainment.

Previous members include Creative Artists Agency, Entertainment Industry Foundation, Getty Foundation, Walter & Elise Haas Fund, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, James Irvine Foundation, Target Corporation, Thelma Pearl Howard Foundation, and Warner Bros.

What are the benefits of being a Pooled Fund member?

Members of the Pooled Fund join for reasons specific to their own goals and visions, yet there are several benefits that all share:

- Joining high-level colleagues to make strategic funding allocations that positively affect the lives of over one million school children
- Gaining an insider's view of local, state, and national news, trends and research about arts education
- Achieving the broadest impact in arts education by pooling investments
- Making an investment in a sustainable program that will have far reaching, positive impact for generations to come

What are the total contributions of Pooled Fund members?

Pooled Fund members have contributed over \$2 million directly and leveraged \$1.9 million in matching funds from participating school districts. The Pooled Fund has also played a key role in leveraging the \$1.2 million grant from The Wallace Foundation, the initiative's largest single award to date. Pooled funds are deposited into a separate interest bearing account, administered by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and reported quarterly at Pooled Fund meetings.

Can a Pooled Fund member choose to target their giving to a specific program?

Yes. Pooled Fund members have the option to support the initiative's overall goals or to choose specific *Arts for All* programs. For example, The Dana Foundation funds training for teaching artists, while The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation funds are unrestricted. *Arts for All* staff works with each funder individually to determine the best mutual approach.

What are the criteria for Pooled Fund membership?

Pooled Fund members typically make an annual contribution of \$25,000 or more, and actively participate in quarterly meetings held at the Los Angeles County Arts Commission's downtown office. Pooled Fund members are also the initiative's best ambassadors and help cultivate relationships within the arts education and philanthropic communities.

How do I find out more or become a member of the Arts for All Pooled Fund?

Please contact Ayanna Hudson, Director of Arts Education at 213.202.3983 or AHudson@arts.lacounty.gov.