

Enriching Lives



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**FORUM ON “QUALITY ARTS EDUCATION IN LOS ANGELES”
JANUARY 14 FEATURES HARVARD’S STEVE SEIDEL
L.A. County’s *Arts for All* arts education quality indicators to be released**

How to define and measure quality instruction has been the subject of much debate in educational circles and is especially important at a time when school districts are making difficult choices about where to invest limited and shrinking funds. Two researchers who have recently weighed in on the subject — **Steve Seidel** of the Harvard Graduate School of Education and **Lynn Waldorf** of the Griffin Center for Inspired Instruction — will share their findings at the community conversation “Quality Arts Education in Los Angeles” on Thursday, January 14 from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Central Los Angeles High School #9, (450 North Grand Ave., Los Angeles 90012).

All who have an interest in arts education in Los Angeles County public schools are welcome to attend. Attendees should register by January 11 at <http://jan14roundtable.eventbrite.com>

The forum is a rare opportunity for a County-wide discussion about quality arts instruction. The event is presented by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission in partnership with the high school and the arts education branch of the Los Angeles Unified School District.

At the event, Lynn Waldorf will unveil the quality indicators developed for the Arts Commission’s *Arts for All* arts education initiative. Currently 39 of the County’s 81 school districts, representing 517,000 students, have joined *Arts for All*, a strategic plan to restore arts education — in dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts — to all students in the County.

The evening also marks the first public appearance in Los Angeles of Steve Seidel, Ed.D., the Director of the Arts in Education program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He was a principal investigator for “The Qualities of Quality: Understanding Excellence in Arts Education,” report released in 2009. “The Qualities of Quality,” commissioned by The Wallace Foundation with additional support from the Arts Education Partnership, synthesizes the critical elements of high quality arts teaching and learning to identify effective strategies for creating those experiences for school-age youth in diverse settings. The study may be downloaded by visiting www.wallacefoundation.org and clicking on Knowledge Center.

Steve Seidel has held his current post at Harvard since July 2004. He was the Director of Harvard's Project Zero from 2000 to 2009 and continues as a senior investigator.

Lynn Waldorf, Executive Director of Griffin Center for Inspired Instruction, is the primary researcher for the development of *Arts for All's* arts education indicators for quality, equity and access at the school site level. She is a nationally recognized program evaluator who has produced groundbreaking studies in arts education and literacy integration. She was the primary investigator for "*Arts for All: The Vanguard Districts: Case Studies from the First Five Years,*" which offers new insights about the differences between planning to restore arts education and making that plan a reality. The report can be downloaded at <http://lacountyarts.org/artsed/casestudies.html> .

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission, Laura Zucker, Executive Director, provides leadership in cultural services of all disciplines for the largest county in the United States, encompassing 88 municipalities. In addition providing leadership and staffing to support the regional blueprint for arts education, *Arts for All*, the Arts Commission administers a grants program that funds more than 300 nonprofit arts organizations annually, oversees the County's Civic Art Program for capital projects, programs the John Anson Ford Theatres and supports the Los Angeles County Cultural Calendar on ExperienceLA.com. The Arts Commission also produces free community programs, including the L.A. Holiday Celebration broadcast nationally, and a year-round music program that funds more than 40 free concerts each year in public sites. The 2009-10 President of the Arts Commission is Araceli Ruano. For more information please consult the Arts Commission online press kit: <http://lacountyarts.org/page/pubnewspress>

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