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Target Supports Arts Education at Compton Unified School District Grant helps fund restoration of arts education for all 31,449 students

Target, through Los Angeles County's *Arts for All* initiative, is giving a grant to Compton Unified School District to help fund a district-level arts coordinator position that will guide the implementation of the district's comprehensive Arts Education Plan for the 31,449 students attending the district's 23 elementary, nine middle schools, three high schools and three alternative schools.

The \$70,000 grant was announced Thursday, November 16 at a community event at the Compton USD office at [Compton district will fill in address of offices – they hope to have their event in their new offices] in Compton. Superintendent Dr. Jesse Gonzales called Target's support, "a tremendous acknowledgement of the power and vitality of arts education and the need for every single student to benefit and develop in the arts throughout their K-12 education."

"Target is proud to be a part of Compton Unified School District's commendable efforts to strengthen arts curriculum for all of its students and their families," said Laysha Ward, vice president, community relations, Target. "We know that the arts help foster an appreciation and understanding of various cultures and points of view and hope that our partnership will help them flourish in the community."

Compton USD is one of 13 Los Angeles County school districts that have adopted arts education policies and plans as part of the *Arts for All* initiative launched in 2002 by the County Board of Supervisors. Matched by district funds, Compton USD will assume responsibility for the arts coordinator in the third year.

As specified in the long-range plan, Compton's arts coordinator will guide development of curriculum in dance, drama, music and the visual arts based on California's Visual and Performing Arts Curriculum and the implementation of arts education for all students. The arts coordinator will also work with faculty to ensure classroom time for the arts and to incorporate the arts to strengthen student learning in math, reading, science, history and citizenship.

Other county districts, in addition to Compton, that have adopted policies and plans are Alhambra USD, Beverly Hills USD, Burbank USD, Castaic SD, Culver City USD, Hacienda La Puente USD, Norwalk-La Mirada USD, Pasadena USD, Palos Verdes Peninsula USD, Rosemead SD, Santa Monica-Malibu USD and the Los Angeles County Office of Education that educates special populations.

ABC, Inglewood, Little Lake City SD, Mountain View, Paramount and Wiseburn school districts are receiving technical assistance to develop arts education policies and plans. The Los Angeles Unified School District that educates 700,000 of the County's 1.7 million students adopted an arts education plan prior to *Arts for All*.

The Arts Coordinator position is integral to a five-part strategy to fully restore arts education at all 80 Los Angeles County school districts. The five critical success factors are: board adopted policy, an implementation plan with timeline, district level arts coordinator, 5% district budget allocation and a ratio of at least one credentialed arts teacher per 400 students.

Administered by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, *Arts for All* seeks to restore comprehensive sequential K-12 arts education keyed to California's Visual and Performing Arts Standards for students in all 80 county school districts. Arts education was cut from California classrooms in 1978 when passage of Proposition 13 reduced property taxes and consequently local public school funding. *Arts for All* guides districts to restore the arts to the general curriculum commensurate with the other core subjects. The initiative is supported by the *Arts for All* Pooled Fund, launched in February 2004 with a \$500,000 gift from the Entertainment Industry Foundation.

ARTS FOR ALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rita Hadjimanoukian, *Deputy, Supervisor Antonovich*
Janice Pober, *Senior Vice President, Corporate Social Responsibility, Sony Pictures Entertainment*
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Gail Tierney, *Senior Deputy, Supervisor Don Knabe*
Hope Warschaw, *Immediate Past President, Los Angeles County Arts Commission*
Laura Zucker, *Executive Director, Los Angeles County Arts Commission*

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 to the Arts Commission 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 250 nonprofit arts organizations annually, oversees the County's Civic Art Program for capital projects, funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Foundation, 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 60 free concerts each year in public sites. The 2006-07 President of the Arts Commission is Marjorie Lyte.

About Target

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