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Ann Bradley, Communications Consultant, 323 660-1376 ann.bradley@sbcglobal.net
Linda Chiavaroli, Director of Communications 323 871-4554 lchiavaroli@lacountyarts.org
LaDonna Jackson, Media Contact, Hacienda La Puente USD 626 933-3806 ljackson@hlpusd.k12.ca.us
Robbie Diamond, Administrator, The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, 310 247-2966, rdiamond@thegilbertfoundation.org

Hacienda La Puente USD adopts K-12th grade Arts Education Plan

Los Angeles County's Arts for All guided district to become 11th among the County's public school districts to restore comprehensive arts education
The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation helped fund effort

Last night at its May 25th meeting the Board of Education of Hacienda La Puente Unified School District approved and adopted a comprehensive arts education plan to give its 87,000 students sequential K-12 arts education based on California's Visual and Performing Arts Standards. The vote makes the district the 11th among L.A. County's public school districts – and the third in the San Gabriel Valley (with Pasadena USD and Rosemead USD) - to adopt a budgeted plan to restore comprehensive arts education to the general curriculum since the County Board of Supervisors launched *Arts for All: Los Angeles County Regional Blueprint for Arts Education* in 2002.

Arts for All is a 10-year strategic plan to restore dance, music, theatre and the visual arts to public school districts and is administered by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission on behalf of a 55-member County-wide arts education taskforce. Implementation is made possible by a wide coalition of arts education funders.

The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation gave \$100,000 to the *Arts for All* Pooled Fund to support work at school districts. Of this, \$50,000 will support key priorities of Hacienda La Puente USD's plan over the next three years including hiring an Arts Coordinator to guide implementation, developing arts curriculum and arts education training for district teachers. Hacienda La Puente USD is providing \$111,282 over the three year period to match the grant.

District Superintendent **Edward Lee Vargas** lauded the Hacienda La Puente Board and all who participated in the 18-month planning process. "This joint effort reflects the tireless commitment and recognition of our community, parents, teachers, support staff and students that the arts are vital to learning. That dedication merited the Board's confidence. We are particularly grateful to The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation for its generosity in supporting this effort for our students."

Announcing the generous gift from The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, **Janis Minton**, Senior Advisor, said, "The Foundation recognizes that the arts are integral to the development of the whole person. The arts strengthen cognition, inspire new visions, promote leadership and innovation, bolster self-confidence and improve academic performance. Focusing on assets rather than

deficiencies, The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation invests in individual capacity by funding programs supporting access to college, health care and Israel. The Foundation also supports Los Angeles arts and culture by funding educational programs at major arts institutions and community-based organizations.”

In addition to Hacienda La Puente USD, Pasadena USD and Rosemead USD, the other districts that adopted arts education plans are Beverly Hills USD, Burbank USD, Castaic SD, Culver City USD, Compton USD, Norwalk-La Mirada USD, Santa Monica-Malibu USD and the Los Angeles County Office of Education that educates special populations. Further, Alhambra USD, ABC USD, Little Lake City SD and Palos Verdes Peninsula USD began the *Arts for All* process in fall 2005 and are on track to adopt arts education plans this year. The Los Angeles Unified School District that educates half of the County’s 1.7 million students adopted an arts education plan prior to *Arts for All*.

The *Arts for All* Pooled Fund funds technical assistance for district arts education planning provided by California Alliance for Arts Education coaches. When districts adopt long-range plans, the Pooled Fund then offers matching grants to help hire district level arts coordinators and support specific plan components. Pooled Fund grantees Beverly Hills USD, Culver City USD, LACOE, Pasadena USD, Rosemead USD have hired arts coordinators; Burbank USD and Compton USD are in the process of hiring. Santa Monica-Malibu USD, which began *Arts for All* with an arts coordinator on board, received a grant to write curriculum, provide professional development and develop and pilot tools to assess student learning in the arts.

The Arts for All Pooled Fund was launched in February 2004 with a \$500,000 gift from the Entertainment Industry Foundation and in addition to The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, includes Creative Artists Agency, The Getty Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, Jewish Community Foundation, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Thelma Pearl Howard Foundation and Warner Bros. Entertainment. Boeing, The Dana Foundation, Los Angeles County Arts Commission, Target Corporation and Herb Alpert Foundation support specific Arts for All initiatives and are also members of the Pooled Fund.

ARTS FOR ALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rita Hadjimanoukian, *Deputy, Supervisor Antonovich*
Janice Pober, *Senior Vice President, Corporate Social Responsibility, Sony Pictures Entertainment*
Dr. Darline P. Robles, *Superintendent, Los Angeles County Schools*
Laurie Schell, *Executive Director, California Alliance for Arts Education*
Mark Slavkin, *Vice President of Education, Music Center*
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.