

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Jewish Community Foundation and Los Angeles County Arts Commission Join to support arts education**

*Giving Circle Collaboration Allows Individual Donors to join the National Endowment for the Arts  
and the Los Angeles County Productivity Investment Fund to fund quality arts education*

The Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles County Arts Commission today announced a collaboration to fund more than 150 arts residency programs serving approximately 4,000 K-12<sup>th</sup> grade students in 14 Los Angeles County public school districts. The *Arts in Schools!* Giving Circle launched by JCF's Family Foundation Center seeks to raise \$100,000 from individual donors by the end of 2006 for arts education.

The Giving Circle will supply matching funds to school districts that have adopted arts education policies and plans as participants in the L.A. County's *Arts for All*, the 10-year initiative to restore dance, music, theater and visual arts to all 80 public school districts. These matching funds will enable eligible districts to hire arts educators who are listed on the County's online arts education directory [www.LAartsed.org](http://www.LAartsed.org). *Arts for All* is the first county-wide effort to restore comprehensive arts curriculum since California schools slashed arts education when passage of Proposition 13 in 1978 reduced local funding.

Seeded by a grant from the Nathan Cummings Foundation, the *Arts in Schools!* Giving Circle is the first opportunity for individual donors to participate in the *Arts for All* Pooled Fund, a consortium of foundations and corporations that provide private funding for *Arts for All*. The Giving Circle dovetails with two \$85,000 grants awarded to *Arts for All* to fund artist residences: this year's largest National Endowment for the Arts "Learning in the Arts" grant and a matching grant from the Los Angeles County Productivity Investment Fund.

Types of artist residencies available to districts include 18<sup>th</sup> Street Arts Center visual artists who illuminate marine biology and California history through drawing and map making; Math in A Basket's woven basket program that teaches students about measurement, fractions, decimals and geometry; Enrichment Works interactive performance of Homer's *Odyssey*; and Daniel Slosberg's presentation of Lewis and Clark's expedition through the music and stories of the real-life boatman-fiddler who accompanied them.

Lauding the collaboration Jewish Community Foundation president and chief executive **Marvin I. Schotland** said, “Having long emphasized the importance of arts education The Foundation is pleased to support the great work of the Arts Commission. This is The Foundation’s first Giving Circle and it offers a unique opportunity for donors to pool their funds to make a lasting and far-reaching impact on arts education in L.A. County public schools.”

Los Angeles County Arts Commission executive director **Laura Zucker** said, “The Jewish Community Foundation is a valued *Arts for All* partner and an *Arts for All* Pooled Fund founder. The Foundation’s support is helping districts build arts education infrastructure. The Giving Circle is a wonderfully innovative extension of the Pooled Fund that allows individuals to support quality arts education for all students.”

The Jewish Community Foundation of Los Angeles encourages philanthropists who want to support quality arts education for all students to participate in the Giving Circle. Suggested contribution levels begin at \$1,500. The Family Foundation Center will provide staff support and administer Giving Circle funds. For further information, individuals may contact senior program officer Amelia Xann at 323-761-8714 or [axann@jewishfoundationla.org](mailto:axann@jewishfoundationla.org).

#### **About *Arts for All* and LAArtsEd.org**

The *Arts in Schools!* Giving Circle supports a vital part of the delivery system for sequential arts education envisioned by the County’s *Arts for All* initiative. The three-pronged system includes arts specialists teaching the arts, generalist classroom teachers integrating the arts into the curriculum and professional artists to enhance classroom instruction. L.A. County school districts that join *Arts for All* by adopting arts education policies, plans and budgets will be eligible to receive Giving Circle funding to hire arts educators listed on the County’s online arts education directory [www.LAArtsEd.org](http://www.LAArtsEd.org). All LAArtsEd.org programs are vetted by arts education experts and comply with the state education standards for the visual and performing arts.

#### **About The Foundation**

Established in 1954, the Jewish Community Foundation is the largest manager of charitable assets and the leader in planned giving solutions for Jewish philanthropists in Greater Los Angeles. The Foundation currently manages assets of \$600 million and, according to the National Foundation Center, ranks among the ten largest Los Angeles foundations (based on assets). In 2005, The Foundation and its 1,000-plus donors distributed \$57 million in grants to more than 1,300 organizations with programs that span the range of philanthropic giving.

#### **About 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. The Arts Commission provides leadership and staffing to support the regional blueprint for arts education, *Arts for All*; 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 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.

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