

Enriching Lives



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ARTS COMMISSION RELEASES FIRST ARTS EDUCATION PERFORMANCE INDICATORS REPORT FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY SCHOOLS

Data shows a decline in district infrastructure for arts education from 2000 to 2003.

LOS ANGELES, CA – February 11, 2004 – Self-reported data from Los Angeles County school districts demonstrates an erosion in the critical success factors for sequential K-12 arts education from 2000 to 2003. Los Angeles County's first Arts Education Performance Indicators Report (AEPI), released today, uses five factors to measure arts education in County schools:

an arts education policy

an arts education plan

a district arts education coordinator

an arts education budget of at least 5 percent of the total district budget

a student to arts teachers ratio no higher than 400:1.

These factors are based upon numerous reports and studies, most notably *Arts in Focus: Los Angeles Countywide Arts Education Survey* (Los Angeles County Arts Commission, 2001) and *Gaining the Arts Advantage: Lessons from School Districts That Value Arts Education* (Presidents Committee on the Arts and Humanities and Arts Education Partnership, 1999), and create the cornerstone of the foundation for quality, sustainable arts education. The AEPI report shows that in 2000 only 2% of all students attended school districts meeting all of the five critical success factors. The percentage dropped to zero in 2003, a decline that is consistent with what happens when there is no infrastructure to support arts education at the district level.

“What the report says to us is that arts education is needed more than ever,” said Dr. Darline P. Robles, Superintendent, Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE). “The *Arts for All County Blueprint for Arts Education* lays the foundation stones for sequential arts education. LACOE is proud to play a key role in addressing these needs through my recent appointment of Janet Addo as Arts for All Project Director. We know what works in arts education. The commitment of our office is to provide leadership in working with districts to help them develop the tools to meet the five critical success factors.”

The County’s ARTS FOR ALL Blueprint for Arts Education calls for establishing sequential arts education in all 82 County school districts over 10 years. The County announced five vanguard districts – Culver City, Norwalk-LaMirada, Pasadena, Rosemead and Santa Monica-Malibu - in September 2003 who are committed to gaining board of education approval of a policy, plan and budget by the end of the school year in June. A mid-school year progress report indicates that these districts are on track to accomplish the goals. The County’s plan is for five districts to be chosen each year to receive technical assistance to establish the key factors for success in arts education.

The AEPI report, which will be released annually in the future, is a way to measure the progress of the Arts for All Blueprint. It is also a first step in seeing the arts as fundamental to the general education of all students.

The report contains a district-by-district comparison of the five factors from 2000 to 2003 as well as an analysis of that data. The 2000 data is from the *Arts in Focus* report, the County’s first study of arts education, which was the basis for the *ARTS FOR ALL* Blueprint. The 2003 data is from a mail survey conducted in spring 2003. The full report is available online at www.lacountyarts.org. Copies may also be obtained by contacting the Arts Commission at **213 974-1343**.

The report is published by the Executive Committee of the County Task Force on Arts Education. Members of the committee include Dr. Darline P. Robles; Mark Slavkin, Vice President of Education, Music Center; Dr. Carl Selkin, Dean, College of Arts and Letters, California State University, Los Angeles; Laurie Schell, Executive Director, California Alliance for Arts Education; Janice Pober, Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Sony Pictures Entertainment; Del Huff, Deputy, Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke; Gail Tierney, Senior Deputy, Supervisor Don Knabe; Alis Clausen, Member, Los Angeles County Arts Commission; and Laura Zucker, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

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