

Enriching Lives



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## **Los Angeles County leads national trend to restore arts education as *Arts for All* launches third year for County's 80 school districts**

■  
**Culver City USD, Norwalk-La Mirada USD, Pasadena USD, Rosemead SD and  
Los Angeles County Office of Education adopt arts education policies**

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**Beverly Hills USD, Burbank USD, Castaic Union SD, Compton USD, Hacienda-La Puente USD,  
Long Beach USD, Santa Monica-Malibu USD on board to adopt arts policy**

**Los Angeles**—The County of Los Angeles is launching the third year of *Arts for All*, a landmark effort to restore comprehensive arts education to all 80 county school districts and Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) classrooms. Los Angeles County's *Arts for All* leads a national movement to restore the arts to public education and develop broad community support to guarantee policy, plans with timelines, implementation and funding to give all children comprehensive, sequential, standards-based arts education from kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Planning for *Arts for All* began in October 2001 with the formation of an advisory group. From January-May 2002 community meetings were held with educators, parents, students, arts professionals, business leaders and elected officials to develop the *Arts for All* Blueprint to support the 80 school districts and LACOE in creating, implementing, funding and evaluating arts education programs.

**Laura Zucker**, Los Angeles County Arts Commission executive director said, "The value of arts education is recognized. *Arts for All* takes theory to practice. Culver City USD, Norwalk-La Mirada USD, Pasadena USD, Rosemead SD and the Los Angeles County Office of Education have adopted arts education policies. Beverly Hills USD, Burbank USD, Castaic Union SD, Compton USD, Hacienda-La Puente USD, Long Beach USD, Santa Monica-Malibu USD are next in line.

“Further, an arts education website [www.LAArtsEd.org](http://www.LAArtsEd.org) provides one-stop shopping for quality arts programs meeting California curriculum standards, 55 education, corporate, entertainment, government and community organizations support the effort, and we have measurable goals to return the arts to Los Angeles County classrooms. *Arts for All* is a model for arts education nation-wide.”

## **BACKGROUND**

Los Angeles is the largest and most populous county in the nation with 1,823 schools and 1.7 million (1,736,248) students, representing 28% of California’s 6.2 million (6,244,403) K-12 public school students and 3.5% of the nation’s 48 million K-12 public school students.

In 1978, California voters passed Proposition 13 reducing local property taxes. The immediate loss of this vital funding forced schools and other public agencies to eliminate programs and services. School districts slashed arts education, never fully restoring the arts to the core curriculum. With the value of arts education well-established, particularly for the multi-lingual, multicultural classroom (in Los Angeles County, 570,635 students, or 34%, are learning to speak English), school districts scrambled for arts education resources.

Arts agencies and organizations launched arts education programs to try to fill this gap with insufficient funding to reach all students.

Some school districts, notably LAUSD, adopted arts policies prior to the launch of the Blueprint. LAUSD is mid-way through implementation of its ten-year arts education plan.

## **VISION AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

In September 2002, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted *Arts for All: Los Angeles County Regional Blueprint for Arts Education*, a 10-year strategic plan to restore dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts to all Los Angeles County’s 80 school districts and LACOE classrooms in compliance with State of California Visual and Performing Arts Standards. The members of the executive committee of *Arts for All* (listed below) are spearheading the implementation of the Blueprint. *Arts for All* goals and achievements toward the goals include:

- **District Policy, Plan with Timeline, Budget for Arts Education**

**District training**—Since summer 2003, the **California Alliance for Arts Education** ([www.artsed411.org](http://www.artsed411.org)), a key Blueprint partner, has provided technical assistance to guide first-year school districts to develop and adopt arts education policies and long-range budgeted plans. Culver City USD, Norwalk-La Mirada USD, and Pasadena USD have adopted policies and long-range plans and Rosemead SD and the Los Angeles County Office of Education have adopted policies.

Santa Monica-Malibu USD is on track for completion. In 2004-05, Beverly Hills USD, Burbank USD, Castaic Union SD, Compton USD, Hacienda-La Puente USD and Long Beach USD begin policy/planning training.

- **Tools, Training and Resources**

**Arts Education website**—*Arts for All* launched [www.LAArtsEd.org](http://www.LAArtsEd.org), one-stop shopping for quality arts programs for schools. It is Los Angeles County's first-ever online resource directory providing a searchable arts education database meeting state education standards. Users may watch streaming video of program providers.

**Arts Educator Training on State Arts Standards**—*Arts for All* teaches artists and arts organizations how to incorporate California Visual and Performing Arts Standards in a K-12 setting. Approximately 200 providers have participated; graduates will apply to be listed on [www.laartsed.org](http://www.laartsed.org)

**University Teacher Training**- *Arts for All* executive committee and university, school district, and arts organization professionals have developed strategies to establish criteria, define best practices and coordinate teacher preparation (pre-service) and professional development (in-service) for Los Angeles County teachers.

- **Stakeholder Advocacy**

**Arts Education Performance Indicators Report (AEPI)**—First annual report documenting the status of arts education in each of the County's 80 school districts and LACOE evaluating a high quality, sequential K-12 education in dance, music, theater and visual arts measured by five critical success factors: a school board-adopted arts education policy, plan with timeline, district level arts coordinator, an arts budget of at least 5% and a student to credentialed arts teacher ratio no higher than 400:1. See: [http://www.lacountyarts.org/artsedu\\_AEPI\\_0504.pdf](http://www.lacountyarts.org/artsedu_AEPI_0504.pdf)

- **Pooled Fund to Support Implementation**

**Pooled Fund**—Established in February 2004 to support *Arts for All* strategies, the Fund includes The Entertainment Industry Foundation (\$500,000 over two years), Sony Pictures Entertainment (\$30,000), Creative Artists Agency (\$50,000 over two years), Jewish Community Foundation (\$25,000 over two years), J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation (\$25,000), and Warner Brothers (\$50,000 over two years). Others include: Dana Foundation, Los Angeles County and Target Corporation for support of Blueprint initiatives.

## FUTURE

*Arts for All* moves perception to practice by guiding Los Angeles County districts to adopt practical arts education plans for all students. In the next seven years, all Los Angeles County school districts are expected to participate in the *Arts for All* process to develop, implement and evaluate sequential, standards-based arts education curriculum programs for K-12 students.

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission will be making regular progress reports and keep educators, parents and the public aware of the gains and advances *Arts for All* is making to fully restore comprehensive arts education for all students in Los Angeles County.

## FIRST-YEAR ARTS FOR ALL SCHOOL DISTRICT PROGRESS

### **Culver City Unified School District**

Laura McGaughey, Ed.D., Superintendent

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Culver City Unified School District educates 6,500 pupils at five K-5 grade elementary schools, one 6-8 grade middle school, one 9-12 grade high school, one continuation high school, an independent study school and a community day school. Recognizing that a comprehensive curriculum includes sequential arts education for all students keyed to California's *Visual and Performing Arts Content Standards*, the district's Arts Team developed a three-year plan to implement arts education into the core curriculum. The Board of Education formally adopted the *K-12 Standards-Based Arts Education Plan* for all students **June 15, 2004**. The plan includes curriculum, instruction, professional development, technology, resources, partnerships and advocacy. Pending available funding, Culver City USD plans to appoint an Arts Education Leader to guide the process of implementation and assess district needs.

### **Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District**

Ginger Shattuck, Superintendent

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Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District educates 24,093 students at 18 K-5 grade elementary schools, seven 6-8 grade middle schools, three 9-12 grade high schools, one continuation high school, two adult schools, and one pre-school. The majority of students, 16,652, are Hispanic and 20% of district students are English Language Learners. The Board of Education formally adopted the *Arts for All* arts education plan **September 13, 2004**. The plan includes three phases each lasting two years. A key goal is the alignment of arts education with district-wide literacy goals and as the budget allows, arts components supporting district literacy goals will be added. As funds become available, other initiatives for Phase I include enhancing the music program with additional teaching staff and making more musical instruments available to students.

### **Pasadena Unified School District**

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Pasadena Unified School District educates 22,669 students, 12,337 at 24 K-5 grade elementary schools, 3,155 at three 6-8 grade middle school, 6,901 at four 9-12 grade high schools, 276 at one continuation school. The majority of students, 12,271, are Hispanic and 25.5% of all students are English Language Learners. The Board of Education adopted the *Arts for All* plan on **June 8, 2004**. The district goal is to devote 5% of the general fund to arts education by the end of the 7-10 years anticipated to implement a comprehensive arts education plan. Pasadena arts and cultural agencies have made a commitment to match that goal in providing a variety of programs and services to Pasadena schools. Further, independently, the City of Pasadena as part of its *Arts Nexus* planning identified arts education as the primary objective of all arts and cultural planning.

### **Rosemead School District**

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Rosemead School District is a K-8 grade public school district located in Rosemead, California, in the middle of the San Gabriel Valley. The district educates 3,439 students, 2,660 at four K-6 grade elementary schools and 779 at the 7-8 grade Muscatel Middle School. District students attend Rosemead High School, part of the El Monte Union High School District. Among students, 48% are Hispanic, 42% are Asian and 31% of all students are English Language Learners. Nearly 76% of Rosemead School District students are eligible for the free and reduced lunch program. The Board of Education adopted a district-wide arts education policy on **July 1, 2004** following a comprehensive review of arts education at Rosemead SD. The Arts Education Committee is determining the best use of staff, resources and procedures to implement an arts education plan and will present its findings to the Board at the February 3, 2005 meeting.

### **Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)**

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LACOE is developing a plan to coordinate arts education services for Los Angeles County's 80 school districts. Additionally, LACOE is creating an *Arts for All* plan for the 30,000 students it directly educates each year including 20,000 incarcerated youth, 6,000 students with severe disabilities from 55 of Los Angeles County's 80 school districts, and 3,500 students at high risk of dropping out of school and therefore enrolled in alternative education. In March 2004, LACOE's

Community Arts Team (CAT) - representing administrators, teachers, parents, artists, arts organizations, higher education, and community and business leaders - evaluated the status of arts education in LACOE-run schools and developed an arts education policy, adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Education on **August 17, 2004**. The *Arts for All* plan, to be presented to the Board for adoption in winter 2004, will be a five-to-seven year effort including a one-year sequential arts education pilot program involving classroom instruction and after-school performance/practice activities in six LACOE demonstration schools. Full implementation of the sequential plan will begin throughout LACOE-run schools in January 2006. To support this arts education plan, the Visual and Performing Arts (a core subject for graduation) will be the topic of LACOE's annual Juvenile Court and Community Schools' Academic Bowl in June 2005.

**Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District**

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Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District educates 12,789 students attending 11 K-5 grade elementary schools, three 6-8 grade middle schools, two comprehensive 9-12 grade high schools and one continuation high school. 90% of district students go on to institutions of higher learning following graduation from high school. On June 8, 2003, the *Arts for All* committee presented an Arts Education Policy to the Board of Education. The committee is currently completing the work of an Arts Education Plan that includes three phases over six years. The policy is now being revised and both the policy and the plan will be reviewed by the board on or before November 18th, 2004.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COUNTY TASK FORCE ON ARTS EDUCATION**

*Janice Pober, Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Sony Pictures Entertainment*

*Dr. Darline P. Robles, Superintendent, Los Angeles County Schools*

*Laurie Schell, Executive Director, California Alliance for Arts Education*

*Dr. Carl Selkin, Dean, College of Arts and Letters, California State University, Los Angeles*

*Mark Slavkin, Vice President of Education, Music Center*

*Gail Tierney, Deputy, Supervisor Don Knabe*

*Laura Zucker, Executive Director, Los Angeles County Arts Commission*