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**Los Angeles County's Arts for All trains artists for the classroom**  
**Dana Foundation sponsored training beginning January 18 in Culver City**  
*Special program to increase the number of teaching artists in area schools as part of  
County's 10-Year strategy to restore comprehensive arts education*

On Wednesday, January 18, the Los Angeles County Arts Commission launches a special program in Culver City to train local artists to use their talents in dance, drama, music and the visual arts to incorporate the arts in the core curriculum for all 80 Los Angeles County public school districts. The New York-based **Dana Foundation** is subsidizing the program that would typically cost \$880 per participant; the commission is making the course available for \$100. About 30 artists and arts administrators are expected to participate.

The two-part training brings area artists together with expert arts education professionals from the Pasadena-based **Armory Center for the Arts** and the **Music Center of Los Angeles County** to provide artists with in-depth training keyed to California's Visual and Performing Arts Standards and teach them to mentor district teachers to integrate the arts in the curriculum.

Initial training is 1-4 p.m. on Wednesdays from January 18 to February 22 at the **Culver City USD** staff development office behind the warehouse at 4034 Irving Place. Next, on Thursday afternoons from March 9 to April 27 participating artists will observe mentor teaching artists at both El Rincon Elementary School and Culver City Middle School. Finally, on Thursday afternoons from May 4 to June 8 throughout district elementary and middle school classrooms, participating artists will teach while being observed and coached.

Culver City Unified School District is in its third year of arts curriculum implementation and considered one of the County's vanguard *Arts for All* districts. To celebrate the district's accomplishments, CCUSD was chosen as the pilot laboratory district to receive residencies by master artists, who simultaneously will be teaching the students, acting as models for the course participant artists and developing arts integration skills with the classroom teachers.

This training program is part of the Arts Commission's 10-year *Arts for All* program to restore comprehensive sequential arts education from kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade graduation based on California's Visual and Performing Arts Curriculum Standards. Launched in September 2002 by the County Board of Supervisors, *Arts for All* is a hands-on effort to take districts from theory to practice. The Culver City-based courses begin the third year of training courses for artists and arts administrators sponsored by *Arts for All*. This is the first time individual artists and arts administrators will be trained together, as well as the most intensive and hands-on approach delivered to date.

"Training of artists and arts administrators is a crucial part of *Arts for All's* mission," said Arts Commission Executive Director **Laura Zucker**. "Not only do we want arts education restored to County school districts, we also want to ensure that the services provided by the arts community to the districts is of the highest quality and dovetails with the school curriculum. We are indebted to the Dana Foundation for supporting a program to train teaching artists."

Instructors include **Lorraine Cleary Dale**, Director of Professional Development at the Pasadena-based Armory Center for the Arts, **Susan Cambigue-Tracey**, Director of Curriculum and Teaching Artist Development at the Music Center of Los Angeles County, and four master teaching artists including La Crescenta ceramicist **Eiko Amano**, Los Angeles visual artist **Alvaro Asturias**, Woodland Hills mime **Sharon Diskin** who with husband Keith Berger form the Chameleons and drummer **Andrew Grueschow** of Newhall-based *Hands On'Semble* a hand drumming quartet.

Participants will learn the fundamentals of child development, explore effective teaching strategies and ways to serve varied learning styles, develop effective lesson plans and classroom management techniques, and learn to incorporate the arts within a variety of curriculum and interdisciplinary models. They will also learn effective assessment strategies. Participating artists will observe teaching artists in schools and have coaching and mentoring sessions with professional teaching artists. Participants will also teach a six-week sequential arts education lesson to a class with a mentor artist observing and evaluating their performance.

The primary funding for this artists training program is provided by the Dana Foundation. Additional Funding for Arts for All is provided by The Entertainment Industry Foundation (EIF), National Endowment for the Arts, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Warner Brothers, Creative Artists Agency, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, Target, Jewish Community Foundation, The Getty Foundation, Herb Alpert Foundation, Irvine Foundation, Rosalind and Arthur Gilbert Foundation and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.