



WE ARE IN THIS
TOGETHER

A Survey of
Community
Arts Partners
in LA County
Public Schools

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

How are community arts partners serving Los Angeles County's 2,198 public schools?

Sequential, standards-based arts curricula taught during the school day by teachers who are credentialed in the arts discipline they teach is considered the gold standard of arts education. A large body of research shows that this kind of high quality arts education is associated with a wide range of benefits including improved academic performance, better standardized test scores, increased involvement in community service and lower dropout rates.

Partnerships with outside artists and arts organizations play an important role in supporting arts education in America's public schools. This is equally true in LA County, which is home to 81 public school districts and more than 2,198 schools, serving nearly 1.6 million students. These collaborations with community arts partners may include artist visits to the classroom, residencies, school assemblies and field trips.

In order to determine how much arts education was provided during the school day in 2012–13 in LA County public schools by community

arts partners, *Arts for All* conducted a survey of teaching artists and arts organizations in the winter of 2013–14. *Arts for All* is the LA County arts education initiative dedicated to making the arts core in K-12 public education. The LA County Arts Commission is the backbone organization of *Arts for All*, which works to increase the quantity, quality and equitable distribution of arts education for all public school students.

This survey found 139 arts organizations and 46 teaching artists providing arts education during the school day in 98 percent of all school districts and 53 percent of all schools in the County. While this is certainly an undercount of the total number of such arts organizations and teaching artists serving local public schools, it is a first step toward establishing a comprehensive list, and is the best data we have to date about this group of providers. It should also be noted that this survey did not seek to measure the quality of arts instruction provided by these outside artists and organizations, only the quantity of those services.

Among the key findings from this survey:

57 percent of all arts education provided by community arts partners was in visual art (32 percent) and music/opera (25 percent)

More than 77 percent of arts education provided by community arts partners occurred in elementary (K-8) grades. Arts education from community arts partners peaked in grades 3 through 5, and peak years varied by arts discipline

The four community arts partners providing the greatest amount of arts education in LA County were the Autry Museum, Broad Stage, Music Center and Skirball Cultural Center

Nearly half of all community arts partners charge schools for their services at least some of the time.

This study complements **data** collected by the California Department of Education on arts courses taught by credentialed teachers in the schools. To fully understand the role of community arts partners in arts education in

LA County, including the quality of the services they provide and their role in supporting sequential, standards-based arts curricula, further research is needed.

BACKGROUND

A large body of research shows that high quality arts education is associated with a wide range of benefits including improved academic performance, better standardized test scores, increased involvement in community service and lower dropout rates.¹

Sequential, standards-based arts curricula taught during the school day by teachers who are credentialed in the arts discipline they teach is considered the gold standard of arts education.

Analysis of data collected by the California Department of Education (CDE) has found that across the 81 school districts in LA County, between the 2005–06 and 2012–13 school years, the total number of arts education courses offered rose by more than ten percent, even as enrollment in arts classes fell by eleven percent. The median number of arts education classes per district also rose slightly, from 50 classes per public school district to 52. The total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) arts teachers fell by seven percent in that time. CDE data does not indicate whether or not these instructors were specialists credentialed

in the arts discipline they taught.²

In that same time period, by comparison, total enrollment in all classes in all school districts in the County fell by nine percent. The number of FTE instructors overall rose by one percent.

In LA County, as across the U.S., many school districts, schools and classroom teachers partner with outside artists and arts organizations to provide additional arts education opportunities. However, these partnerships are not reported to any centralized body. The CDE data reported above is a count of stand-alone classes, and therefore represents primarily arts education taking place in middle and high schools. To have a fuller picture of arts education across public schools in LA County, the amount of arts education supplied by those community arts partners must also be tallied.

¹ Catterall, James S. (1997). *Involvement in the Arts and Success in Secondary School*. Washington, D.C: Americans for the Arts.

² Los Angeles County Arts Commission. (2013). *Arts Education in LA County, 2005–13*.

Retrieved from <http://lacountyartsforall.org/tools-and-resources/arts-education-district-data>.

IN OTHER CITIES

Community artists and arts organizations are important partners in school districts across the U.S. The New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) collects and reports on this data each year, as does Chicago Public Schools (CPS), in partnership with Ingenuity, Inc.

In its most recent survey of public schools across the U.S., the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) found that 42 percent of elementary schools had partnerships with cultural or community organizations in the 2008–09 school year. Thirty-one percent of elementary schools reported partnerships or collaborations with individual artists or craftspeople. Among secondary schools, 44 percent reported partnerships with cultural or community organizations and 37 percent reported partnerships with individual artists or craftspeople.³

In New York City, data on community arts partners providing arts education in the district’s 1,590 schools is reported directly by each school through the *Annual Arts Education Survey*. Data collection in the 2012–13 school year found 492 “cultural arts organizations” partnered with 1,545 public schools in the city (97 percent response rate), an increase of 17 percent from 2008–09.⁴ Every year since 2008–09, more than 80 percent of all schools that responded to the survey reported a partnership

with at least one community arts partner. This varied by grade level: 91 percent of responding elementary schools, 73 percent of responding middle schools and 74 percent of responding high schools reported such partnerships in the 2012–13 school year.

Chicago Public Schools collect data directly from community arts partners that provide arts education in their 577 public schools, through an online data collection tool. In its first year of operation (2012–13), 415 such partners were identified, and this rose to 552 partners in 2013–14. Of these, 72 percent (n = 415) provided arts education in the schools in 2013. Fifty-two percent of them (n = 220) served a single school, while the rest served anywhere from two to more than 30 schools.⁵ Among schools with community arts partnerships, the average number of partners was four.

PURPOSE OF THIS SURVEY

Arts for All is the LA County arts education initiative dedicated to making the arts core in K-12 public education. *Arts for All* works to increase the quantity, quality and equitable distribution of arts education for all public school students. To this end, *Arts for All* supports school districts’ efforts to implement arts instruction through policy development; strategic planning; grants to improve teaching and learning; advocacy; research; and partnership building

³ Parsad, B. and Spiegelman, M. (2012). *Arts Education in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, 1999–2000 and 2009–10* (NCES 2012-014). National Center for Education Statistics, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC.

⁴ New York City Department of Education. (2014). *Annual Arts in Schools Report 2012–13*.

Retrieved from <http://schools.nyc.gov/offices/teachlearn/arts/ArtsCount/ArtsSurvey/2012-2013/2012-13%20AIS%20Report.pdf>.

⁵ Ingenuity, Inc. (2014). *State of the Arts in Chicago Public Schools: Progress Report 2013–14*.

Retrieved from http://www.ingenuity-inc.org/filebin/IngenuityProgressReport_FINAL.pdf.

among stakeholders. Established in 2001 by the LA County Board of Supervisors, *Arts for All* is a partnership between LA County Arts Commission and LA County Office of Education.

Arts for All sought to compile a list of community arts partners serving LA County public schools, and learn some basic information about the services they provide. No such list existed, nor did any comprehensive mechanism exist prior to this survey to collect information about them.

To achieve this goal, *Arts for All* conducted a survey of teaching artists and arts organizations working in LA County. Staff were aware throughout the project that it would be impossible to compile a full list through any single data collection activity, and this survey was seen as a first step toward developing that list. The fundamental research question driving this survey was:

How are community arts partners serving LA County's 2,198 public schools?

This was explored through the following sub-questions:

1. How much arts education is provided to LA County students by community arts partners?
2. Are community arts partners charging schools for their services?
3. In which grades and arts disciplines is arts education provided by community arts partners?
4. Which community arts partners are the largest providers of arts education in LA County public schools?
5. Is the arts education provided by community arts partners distributed equitably within LA County public school districts?
6. What non-arts factors are associated with the provision of arts education by community arts partners?
7. How interconnected are community arts partners and LA County public school districts?

It should be noted that this survey was not designed to measure the quality or intensity of arts education services being offered by the responding artists and arts organizations.

The services being measured here range from one-time field trips to a cultural institution to long-term artist residencies in the school.

METHODS

Arts for All staff administered a survey questionnaire⁶ online via SurveyMonkey, distributed by email to every arts organization and teaching artist on any LA County Arts Commission mailing list.

To supplement this, local, state and national membership organizations representing a variety of arts disciplines were contacted and asked to share the survey with their members, as were arts education advocacy organizations. Survey respondents were encouraged to share the survey with colleagues who provided similar services. The survey was left open for several months, to allow time for snowballing through the community of teaching artists and arts organizations across the County.

Incentives were offered to encourage survey completion. In addition, large arts nonprofits known to provide significant amounts of arts education were contacted directly and given an opportunity to submit their data in their own spreadsheet formats, to make this process easier for them.

This survey does not constitute a complete count of all arts education being delivered by community arts partners in LA County public schools. Moreover, it was not possible to sample from a known universe. Instead, *Arts for All*

was limited to convenience sampling. Because recipients were asked to forward this survey on to others, the number of individuals who received it is not known; therefore a response rate cannot be estimated. As a result, it is not possible to know to what degree the findings here represent the larger population of all community arts partners in LA County and their activities.

Nonetheless, this survey did capture arts education provided by the reporting community arts partners in 53 percent of all schools and across all but two school districts (98 percent).

Therefore, *Arts for All* believes the findings presented here offer a good sense of trends about which grades and arts disciplines receive the most arts education from community arts partners, how often these partners are paid for their services, and provide a measure of some of the largest community arts partners serving LA County public school districts. More research would be necessary for more reliable findings.

⁶ The survey questionnaire can be found in Appendix 3.

FINDINGS

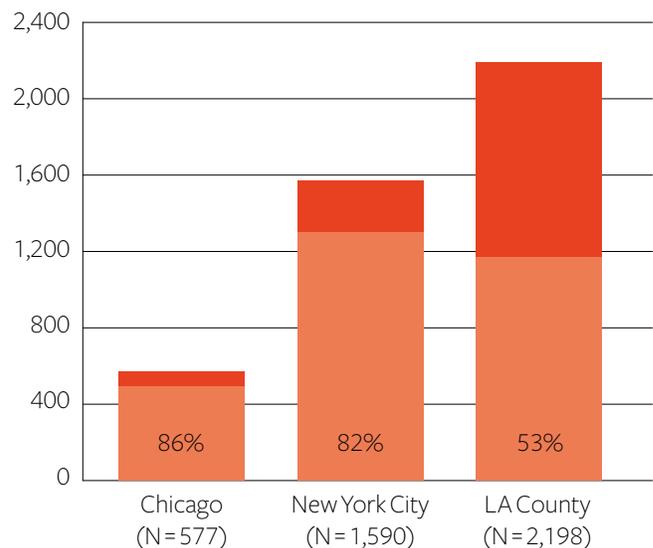
A total of 112 individual artists and 224 outside arts organizations responded to this survey.⁷

Of these, 46 artists (41 percent) and 139 organizations (62 percent) reported providing some arts education in public schools in LA County during the school day in the 2012–13 academic year. Combined, these 185 artists and organizations reported providing arts education services to 1,174 schools, serving 79 of LA County’s 81 school districts and one State Board of Education charter school.⁸ In other words, the 185 respondents served 53 percent of all public schools in LA County (N = 2,198) and 98 percent of all districts⁹ (N = 81).

Figure 1 shows how the share of schools in LA County found in this survey to have community arts partnerships compares to Chicago and New York City.

Findings from this survey are presented in this section as answers to the seven research questions listed above.

FIGURE 1: Share of all schools known to have community arts partnerships: Chicago, New York City, and LA County



⁷ It is possible that individual artists may have responded as well as the organization they worked for. However, based on a review of respondents, *Arts for All* believes any such double-counting to be minimal.

⁸ Many charter schools exist within the 81 school districts in LA County, and these were counted within the appropriate district. In addition, the State Board of Education oversees a set of charter schools across California. One of these appeared in the respondent data.

⁹ Keppel Union and Wilsona school districts did not appear in the respondent data.

How much arts education is provided to LA County students by community arts partners?

This survey of artists and arts organizations uncovered 7,168 instances of arts education provided in LA County public schools during the school day in 2012–13. Each “instance” is a single artist or arts organization providing arts education services in a single discipline and a single grade. Each instance may be a one-time event or multiple classes over a period of time. If more than one grade was served in a single event or class, each grade is counted separately. The instances of arts education break out as follows:

TABLE 1:
Instances of outside arts education in LA County public schools

DISCIPLINE	NO. OF INSTANCES	% OF TOTAL
Visual Art	2,255	31.5%
Music/Opera	1,766	24.6%
Theatre	1,564	21.9%
Dance	976	13.6%
Literature	336	4.7%
Media	271	3.8%
TOTAL	7,168	100%

Are community arts partners charging schools for their services?

In 53 percent of the instances of arts education reported, the artist or arts organization did not charge the school for their services. Alternatively, this can be measured by community arts partner. Twenty percent of them always charged for their services while about half never charged. A quarter of them charged some schools, though not all. Table 2 shows the breakdown for individual artists and arts organizations.

TABLE 2:
How artists and arts organizations charged for their services

	ARTS ORGS.		ARTISTS	
	NO.	%	NO.	%
Always charge	28	20.1%	16	34.8%
Sometimes charge	36	25.9%	7	15.2%
Never charge	69	49.6%	20	43.5%
Did not report	6	4.3%	3	6.5%
TOTAL	139	100%	46	100%

It should be noted that these data reflect whether a teaching artist or arts organization charged the school or district directly for arts education services. It is not a measure of whether or not individual artists who are employees or contractors of the arts organizations reporting here were paid. Arts organizations may secure grants or other funding to provide arts education to schools, and use those funds to pay the artists who work for them. Individual artists may receive grants to underwrite their work as well.

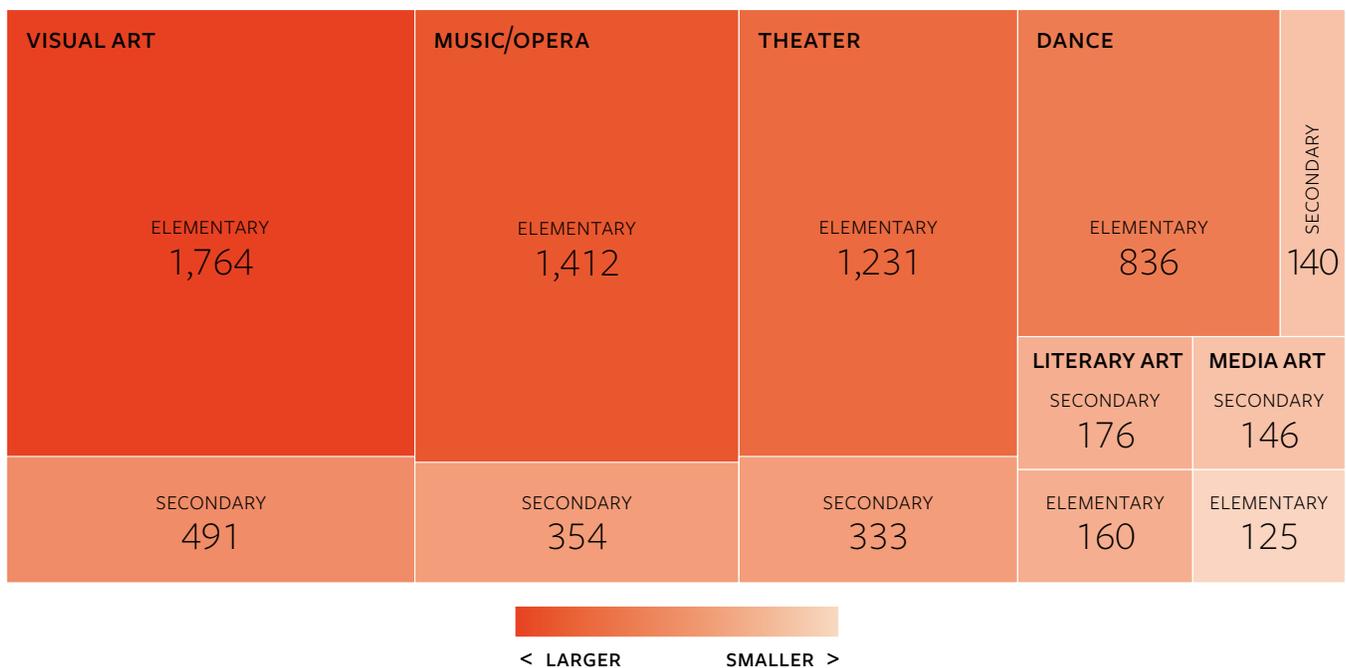
Looking at this data from yet another angle shows that nearly 60 percent of schools paid their community arts partners for their services at least some of the time. Table 3 shows a breakdown of how many schools paid for these services.

TABLE 3:
How often schools paid for arts education services from community arts partners

	NO. OF SCHOOLS	% OF SCHOOLS
Always pay	363	30.9%
Sometimes pay	335	28.5%
Never pay	475	40.5%
TOTAL	1,174	100%

Of the schools found in this survey, 28 percent paid some of their community arts partners but not all.

FIGURE 2:
Disciplines taught by community arts partners, by count of instances



In which grades and arts disciplines is arts education provided by community arts partners?

More than 77 percent of art education from community arts partners was provided in elementary (K-8) grades. This is perhaps not surprising, since individual arts courses generally are offered only at the secondary level.

Nearly one-third of all arts education from community arts partners was provided in visual art, followed by one-quarter of all arts education in music/opera. Figure 2 shows the relative size of the six arts disciplines by elementary and secondary grades.

Figure 3 shows this distribution in more detail. While the peak grade level for each arts discipline varied, it generally fell between grade 3 and grade 5. Grade 7 was the overall low point for arts education provided by community arts partners.

The clustering by grade can be seen more clearly in Figure 4, which shows that nearly 40 percent of all instances of arts education from community arts partners was provided in grades 3–5. Of particular note is the drop that occurred in grades 6–8.

FIGURE 3:

Arts education from community arts partners in LA County public schools, by grade and arts discipline

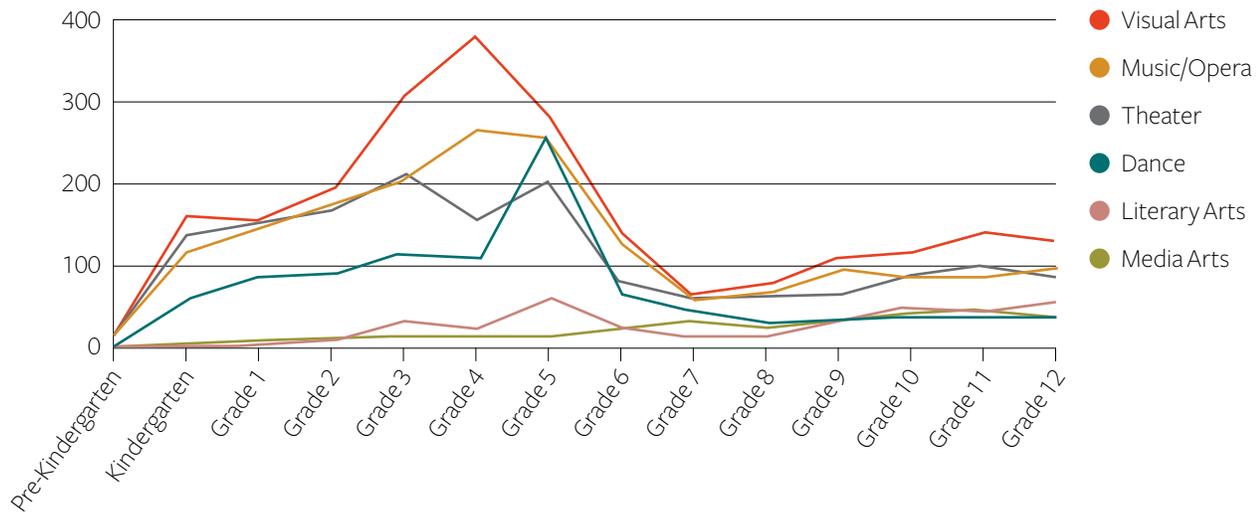
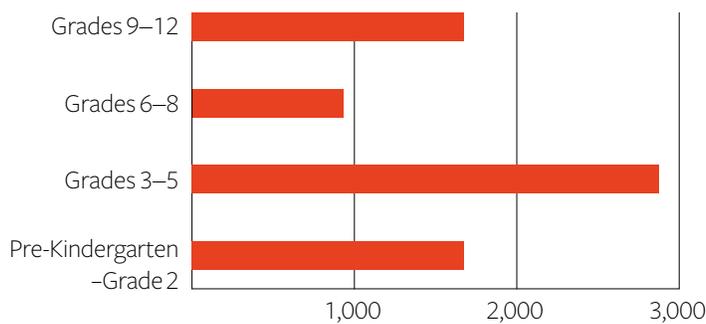


FIGURE 4:

Instances of arts education from community arts partners, by grade clusters



Appendix 1 shows a complete breakdown of each discipline by individual grade level.

Which community arts partners are the largest providers of arts education in LA County public Schools?

This can be measured in three different ways. One is by the number of instances of arts education provided by each community arts partner. The second is to measure the number of schools each community arts partner serves. The third is to measure the number of districts each community arts partner serves.

On the first measure, number of instances of arts education provided, the Music Center is at the top with nearly 20 percent of all 7,168 instances reported in this survey. The second largest arts education provider by this measure was the Autry Museum, constituting seven percent of the total. Table 5 shows the top ten community arts partners in LA County, in terms of the number of instances provided. Combined, these ten community arts partners provided nearly half of all the instances of education services reported.

TABLE 5:
Top ten community arts partners, by number of services

ARTS PROVIDER	NO. OF INSTANCES	SHARE OF TOTAL
The Music Center	1,428	19.9%
Autry Museum	502	7.0%
Skirball Cultural Center	271	3.8%
P.S. ARTS	242	3.4%
Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center	232	3.2%
Los Angeles Choreographers & Dancers	176	2.5%
CalArts Community Arts Partnership (CAP)	166	2.3%
Story Pirates	151	2.1%
LA Opera	139	1.9%
The Broad Stage	129	1.8%
TOTAL provided by the top 10	3,436	47.9%

The second way to measure this is by the number of schools served. Three arts organizations each provided education services in more than ten percent of the 1,174 schools that appeared in this data: the Autry Museum, Music Center and the Skirball Cultural Center. Table 6 shows the top ten community arts partners in terms of the number of schools served. It also shows the share of all 2,198 schools in LA County each provider served.

TABLE 6:
Top ten community arts partners, by schools served

ARTS PROVIDER	NO. OF SCHOOLS	% OF SCHOOLS
Autry Museum	343	15.6%
The Music Center	312	14.2%
Skirball Cultural Center	171	7.8%
The Broad Stage	61	2.8%
LA Opera	58	2.6%
Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum	54	2.5%
Los Angeles County Museum of Art	43	2.0%
Museum of Contemporary Art	43	2.0%
Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra	41	1.9%
Young Storytellers Foundation	37	1.7%

Table 7 shows this breakdown in a different way. Nearly half of all community arts partners served between two and ten schools. More than a quarter of them served a single school only.

TABLE 7:
Number of schools served by community arts partners

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS SERVED	NO. OF PARTNERS	% OF PARTNERS
Served more than 100 schools	3	1.6%
Served 11–100 schools	41	22.2%
Served 2–10 schools	91	49.2%
Served 1 school	50	27.0%

The third way to measure is to calculate the number of districts served. The largest community arts partners in LA County public schools by this measure can be seen in Table 8, along with the share of all districts in the County each one served.

TABLE 8:
Top ten community arts partners, by school districts served

ARTS PROVIDER	NO. OF DISTRICTS	% OF DISTRICTS ¹⁰
The Music Center	58	70.7%
Autry Museum	50	61.0%
Los Angeles Master Chorale	16	19.5%
Skirball Cultural Center	15	18.3%
Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum	15	18.3%
Museum of Contemporary Art	13	15.9%
Museum of Latin American Art	12	14.6%
Inland Pacific Ballet	10	12.2%
The Broad Stage	10	12.2%
Pasadena Conservatory of Music	9	11.0%

¹⁰ This percentage is based on 82 total districts in LA County because one school served by the responding arts organizations is a state-registered charter school, as described earlier, operating outside the 81 districts in LA County.

As above, Table 9 shows this breakdown from a different angle. More than half of all community arts partners served a single district. More than 40 percent served between two and ten districts. Only a very small number served more than ten districts.

TABLE 9:
Number of districts served by community arts partners

NUMBER OF DISTRICTS SERVED	NO. OF PARTNERS	% OF PARTNERS
Served 50 or more districts	2	1.1%
Served 11–49 districts	5	2.7%
Served 2–10 districts	78	42.2%
Served 1 district	100	54.1%

In total, nineteen different community arts partners appear on at least one of these top ten measures of the largest providers of arts education in LA County public schools. Four partners appear in the top ten by all three measures:

- Autry Museum
- Broad Stage
- Music Center
- Skirball Cultural Center

Another three community arts partners appear in the top ten on two of the three measures:

- LA Opera
- Museum of Contemporary Art
- Will Geer Theatricum Botanicum

Twelve community arts partners appear once each on one of the top ten measures.

Is the arts education provided by community arts partners distributed equitably within LA County public school districts?

School districts in LA County vary widely in size, from Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) with 937 school sites and more than 650,000 students, to Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union Elementary District with one school site and 253 students. The median number of schools per district among the 81 districts in LA County is twelve.

In nine of the 81 districts, community arts partners provided arts education services in all schools within the district. Each of these is listed alphabetically in Table 10, along with the number of schools in each district and the number of instances of arts education from those partners. It should be noted that all of these districts are smaller than the median in LA County, by number of schools.

TABLE 10:
Districts that had community arts partners in all schools

DISTRICT	NO. OF SCHOOLS	NO. OF INSTANCES
Culver City Unified	8	197
Gorman Elementary	2	13
Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union Elementary	1	2
La Canada Unified	4	14
Manhattan Beach Unified	7	35
Newhall	10	85
San Marino Unified	4	46
South Pasadena Unified	5	9
Sulphur Springs Union	9	118

Table 11 shows the same information for the next ten districts with the highest percent of schools served by community arts partners.

Also of particular interest are the two largest school districts in LA County. Table 12 shows how they compare to the top nine-

teen districts listed in the previous two tables. Eighteen different community arts partners served schools in the Long Beach Unified School District, while 123 served LAUSD.

Appendix 2 shows this data for all 81 school districts in LA County.

TABLE 11:

Top ten districts by the share of schools served by community arts partners (not including 100% districts, shown in Table 10)

	NO. OF SCHOOLS <small>with community arts partners</small>	TOTAL NO. OF SCHOOLS <small>in district</small>	SHARE OF SCHOOLS <small>in the district served</small>	NO. OF INSTANCES
Santa Monica-Malibu Unified	15	16	93.8%	215
Lawndale Elementary	9	10	90.0%	146
Duarte Unified	7	8	87.5%	49
Pasadena Unified	26	31	83.9%	250
Beverly Hills Unified	5	6	83.3%	64
Claremont Unified	10	12	83.3%	33
Downey Unified	16	20	80.0%	110
El Segundo Unified	4	5	80.0%	42
Los Angeles County Office of Education	26	33	78.8%	144
Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified	14	18	77.8%	89

TABLE 12:

How the two largest districts in LA County compare

	RANK	NO. OF SCHOOLS <small>with community arts partners</small>	TOTAL NO. OF SCHOOLS <small>in district</small>	SHARE OF SCHOOLS <small>in the district served</small>	NO. OF INSTANCES
Long Beach Unified	28	62	88	70.5%	249
Los Angeles Unified	31	604	937	64.5%	3,551

What non-arts factors are associated with the provision of arts education by community arts partners?

Basic tests of correlation (Pearson's rho¹¹) were run at the district level. As they are significant outliers from the remaining districts, both LAUSD and the Long Beach unified school districts (LBUSD) were removed.

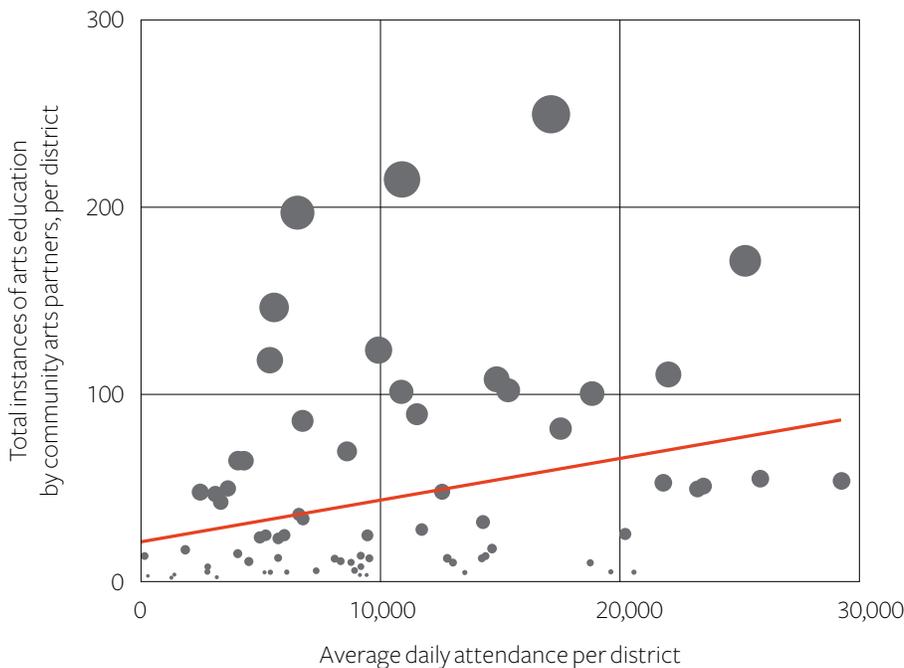
Very low correlation was found between the total amount of arts education being provided by community arts partners and any of the following characteristics of the district:

- Percent of students who are English language learners ($r = -0.06$)
- Percent of students on free or reduced lunch ($r = 0.14$)

- Percent of schools in the district achieving API targets ($r = 0.09$)

The factor that was mostly highly associated with more instances of arts education from community arts partners was the total size of the student body, as measured by the *average daily attendance (ADA)* in the district ($r = 0.30$). In other words, the larger the district student body, the greater the amount of arts education being provided by community arts partners. Figure 5 shows the relationship between average daily attendance and the total number of instances of arts education from community arts partners. In this figure, the size of each bubble represents the number of instances of community arts partner arts education in that district. The trendline in orange shows the moderate correlation found between these two factors.

FIGURE 5: Relationship between total instances of arts education provided by community arts partners and average daily attendance (ADA)



11 Pearson's Product Moment Correlation (Pearson's rho) measures how well two variables are correlated to each other, showing the linear relationship between two variables. A positive score means that as one variable increases, the other variable increases. A negative score means that as one variable increases, the other variable decreases. As a general guideline, a high correlation falls between 0.5 and 1.0 (or -0.5 to -1.0). A medium correlation falls between 0.3 and 0.5 (or -0.3 to -0.5).

The moderateness of this correlation suggests that other factors may be driving the total amount of arts education being provided by community arts partners.

There was a slight negative correlation between the *percent of the student body classified as minority* and the total amount of arts education from community arts partners offered in the district ($r = -0.21$). In other words, the larger the share of students who were classified as minority, the less arts education provided by these partners.

These same tests of correlation were run for each of the six arts disciplines, which found that *size of the student body* was the factor most highly correlated with the total number of instances of dance ($r = 0.30$), music/opera ($r = 0.32$) and visual arts ($r = 0.25$). The larger the student body, the more arts education from community arts partners in those disciplines.

However, the *percent of the student body classified as minority* was the factor most highly correlated with the total number of instances of literary arts ($r = -0.27$) and theatre ($r = -0.29$), and this correlation was negative. For dance, this showed the second highest level of correlation ($r = -0.29$). This suggests that districts with a larger share of minority students may have less arts education from community arts partners in those three disciplines.

How interconnected are community arts partners and LA County public school districts?

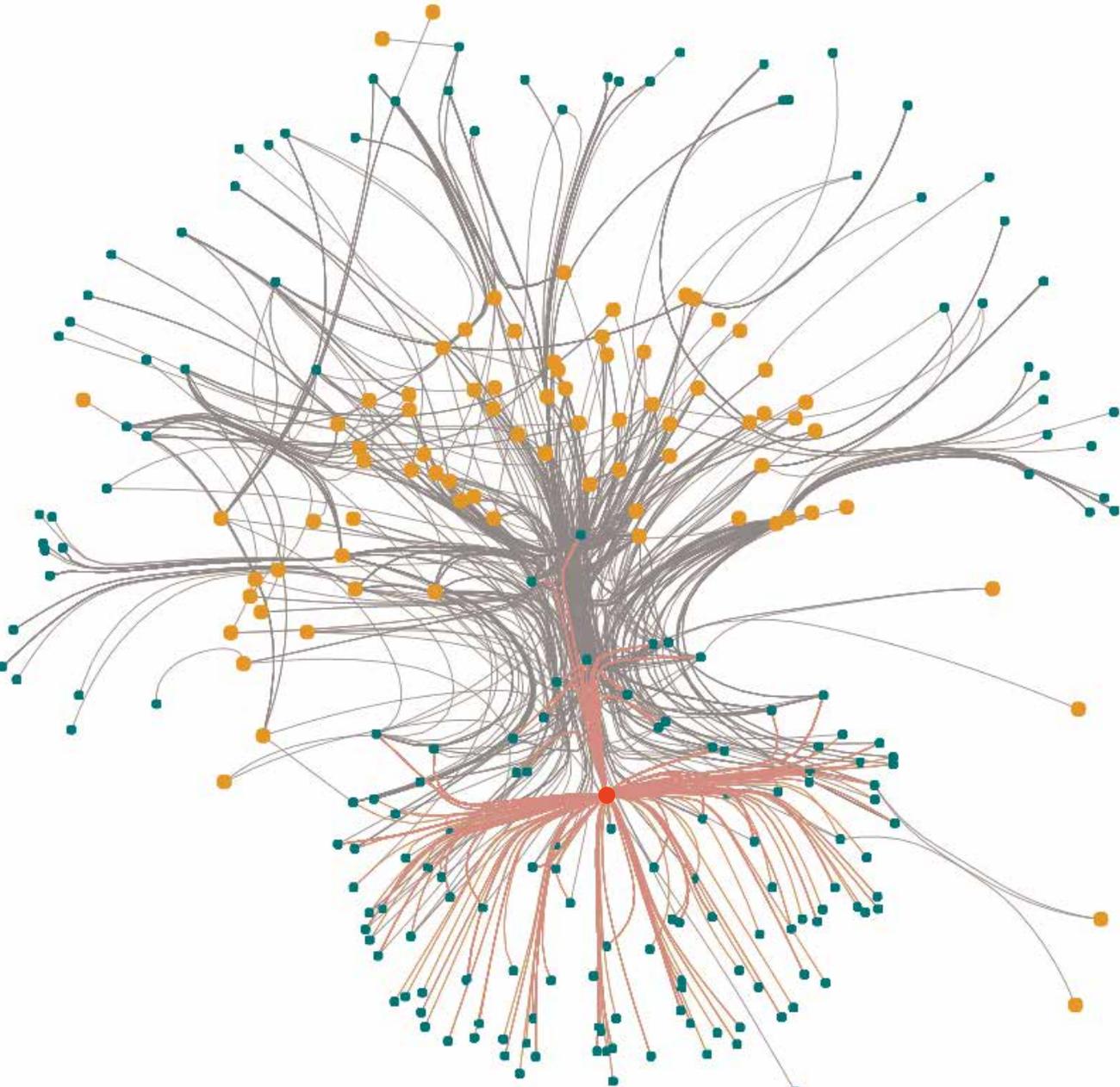
The diagram in figure 6 is a social network analysis (SNA) chart showing the relationships between LA County school districts and community arts partners. Each orange circle represents a single school district, while each blue circle is a community arts partner. The lines connecting the circles show the districts where each artist or arts organization provided services.

The more connections any district or arts provider had, the more centrally it is located within this diagram. Those with the fewest connections appear at the outside edges of the chart.

The small number of yellow dots at the center of the diagram represent those few community arts partners serving a very large number of districts. Most arts providers can be found at the outside edges, with a single line linking them to a single district. A small number of districts (blue dots) appear at the edge of the diagram, representing those districts that have few partnerships with community arts partners.

LAUSD, as the largest district in the County, has been highlighted here as a red dot. The pink lines stretching out from it highlight the network of 123 community arts partners serving schools in the district. This also shows very clearly a large cluster of community arts partners at the bottom of the chart that serve only LAUSD.

FIGURE 6: Social network analysis of the relationships between community arts partners and school districts



- School district
- Community arts partner
- A community arts partner serving a single district
- LAUSD
- A community arts partner serving LAUSD

DISCUSSION

This study identified a total of 185 teaching artists and arts organizations providing arts education to more than half of all LA County public schools in 2012–13, reaching all but two of the County’s 81 districts.

Four of these partners dominated the field. Collectively, these partners served more than 85 percent of all districts and 30 percent of all schools in the County.

In LAUSD, the County’s largest district with 937 schools, nearly 65 percent of schools were served by 123 different community arts partners. Many of these partners served only LAUSD.

Nearly 57 percent of all arts education provided by the 185 community arts partners who responded to the survey was in visual art or music/opera. Add theatre to the list, and more than three-quarters of all instances of arts education by these partners in LA County public schools is represented.

Arts education from community arts partners was more prevalent in elementary grades, rising in quantity from first through fifth grade, then falling off dramatically in grades six through eight. This was followed by a smaller rise in high

school. The California Department of Education (CDE) collects and reports on individual arts courses, but their data captures arts education data almost exclusively in grades eight through twelve. This study by *Arts for All* complements that data, providing insight into what may be occurring from pre-kindergarten through grade seven. This study confirms that in order to get a full picture of arts education in LA County’s public schools, additional data is needed beyond what is collected by CDE.

Within school districts, distribution of services from community arts partners was mixed. In ten districts, all of which are smaller than the median size for the County, all schools in the district were served by community arts partners. The share of schools served within a district ranged from all schools in the district to zero. These findings suggest there is room for many more community arts partnerships in LA County public schools.

In more than half of the instances of arts education reported on this survey, the individual artists and organizations were not paid by the school or district for their work. Either these community arts partners have other sources of funding to underwrite their teaching, or they offer it on a pro-bono basis. This suggests that philanthropic giving is helping to underwrite arts education in LA County public schools. Further research would be needed to determine the extent of this support.

More research is needed to understand what kinds of districts utilize community arts partners, as well as the factors that drive their distribution within districts. School attendance—a proxy for the size of the district—is the most strongly associated factor. This suggests that the larger the student body, the greater quantity of arts education provided by community arts partners.

At the same time there is some evidence suggesting that the more minority students there are in a school, the less arts education is provided by community arts partners, particularly in two arts disciplines, though the data is far from conclusive. Additional research is required to determine the strength of the correlation, and what other factors are associated with greater volume of arts education.

This study did not look at the quality or intensity of the services provided by the survey respondents. Additional research would be needed to determine quality. Further research would be needed to determine whether outside providers are being used either to *supplement* or to *replace* sequential, standards-based arts curricula provided by credentialed arts instructors.

In both New York City and Chicago, data on the quantity, quality and distribution of arts education is gathered in partnership with the local government body that oversees a single school district. LA County, by comparison, is home to 81 independent districts. While *Arts for All* has no regulatory authority over them, *Arts for All* is committed to collecting data that will inform policymakers, educators, parents and others in the community about the status of arts education for public schools across the County. To that end, *Arts for All* is currently reviewing its data collection tools as well as those used by other school districts, in order to improve the collection and analysis of arts education data in LA County, and to communicate more effectively about it.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

If you are a **school district** seeking to improve your arts education, contact the LA County Arts Commission to find out about becoming an *Arts for All* district.

If you are a **teacher or school administrator** seeking to increase your community arts partnerships, search our directory of teaching artists and arts organizations.

www.students.lacountyartsforall.org

If you are a **teaching artist or arts organization** and want to identify schools that need community arts partners, visit the Arts for LA Cultural Assets Map.

www.map.artsforla.org

If you are a **parent** and want to know what community arts partners serve a particular school, look it up on the Arts for LA Cultural Assets Map.

www.map.artsforla.org

APPENDIX 1:

Count of arts education instances reported by community arts partners, in LA County public schools, by grade level and discipline. (N = 7,168)

DANCE

GRADE	NO.
Pre-Kindergarten	1
Kindergarten	57
Grade 1	86
Grade 2	93
Grade 3	110
Grade 4	108
Grade 5	250
Grade 6	64
Grade 7	39
Grade 8	28
Grade 9	33
Grade 10	37
Grade 11	35
Grade 12	35
TOTAL	976

LITERARY ARTS

GRADE	NO.
Pre-Kindergarten	0
Kindergarten	0
Grade 1	3
Grade 2	8
Grade 3	28
Grade 4	22
Grade 5	54
Grade 6	20
Grade 7	13
Grade 8	12
Grade 9	35
Grade 10	46
Grade 11	43
Grade 12	52
TOTAL	336

MEDIA ARTS

GRADE	NO.
Pre-Kindergarten	0
Kindergarten	2
Grade 1	3
Grade 2	7
Grade 3	12
Grade 4	13
Grade 5	16
Grade 6	24
Grade 7	27
Grade 8	21
Grade 9	28
Grade 10	40
Grade 11	42
Grade 12	36
TOTAL	271

MUSIC/OPERA

GRADE	NO.
Pre-Kindergarten	24
Kindergarten	115
Grade 1	146
Grade 2	171
Grade 3	203
Grade 4	260
Grade 5	254
Grade 6	123
Grade 7	54
Grade 8	62
Grade 9	89
Grade 10	84
Grade 11	84
Grade 12	97
TOTAL	1,766

THEATER

GRADE	NO.
Pre-Kindergarten	16
Kindergarten	133
Grade 1	148
Grade 2	168
Grade 3	209
Grade 4	157
Grade 5	202
Grade 6	76
Grade 7	62
Grade 8	60
Grade 9	63
Grade 10	88
Grade 11	96
Grade 12	86
TOTAL	1,564

VISUAL ARTS

GRADE	NO.
Pre-Kindergarten	16
Kindergarten	159
Grade 1	157
Grade 2	193
Grade 3	304
Grade 4	376
Grade 5	281
Grade 6	140
Grade 7	62
Grade 8	76
Grade 9	109
Grade 10	115
Grade 11	139
Grade 12	128
TOTAL	2,255

APPENDIX 2:

Share of schools in each district served by the 185 outside arts providers who responded to our survey

DISTRICT	NO. OF SCHOOLS REPORTED SERVED	TOTAL NO. OF SCHOOLS IN DISTRICT	SHARE OF SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT SERVED	NO. OF INSTANCES
ABC Unified	8	30	26.7%	25
Acton-Agua Dulce Unified	1	4	25.0%	1
Alhambra Unified	10	18	55.6%	81
Antelope Valley Union High	1	14	7.1%	4
Arcadia Unified	7	11	63.6%	24
Azusa Unified	3	17	17.6%	3
Baldwin Park Unified	5	22	22.7%	12
Bassett Unified	5	7	71.4%	64
Bellflower Unified	3	14	21.4%	9
Beverly Hills Unified	5	6	83.3%	64
Bonita Unified	3	14	21.4%	12
Burbank Unified	15	21	71.4%	108
Castaic Union Elementary	2	4	50.0%	7
Centinela Valley Union High	3	5	60.0%	24
Charter Oak Unified	1	10	10.0%	4
Claremont Unified	10	12	83.3%	33
Compton Unified	13	38	34.2%	49
Covina-Valley Unified	5	17	29.4%	47
Culver City Unified	8	8	100.0%	197
Downey Unified	16	20	80.0%	110
Duarte Unified	7	8	87.5%	49
East Whittier City Elementary	2	13	15.4%	9
Eastside Union Elementary	1	5	20.0%	1
El Monte City Elementary	3	15	20.0%	3
El Monte Union High	3	7	42.9%	13
El Rancho Unified	4	14	28.6%	7
El Segundo Unified	4	5	80.0%	42
Garvey Elementary	3	10	30.0%	4
Glendale Unified	20	32	62.5%	171
Glendora Unified	3	9	33.3%	5
Gorman Elementary	2	2	100.0%	13
Hacienda la Puente Unified	2	36	5.6%	4
Hawthorne	3	11	27.3%	11
Hermosa Beach City Elementary	1	4	25.0%	3
Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union Elementary	1	1	100.0%	2
Inglewood Unified	12	26	46.2%	27
Keppel Union	0	7	0.0%	0
La Canada Unified	4	4	100.0%	14
Lancaster Elementary	3	21	14.3%	4
Las Virgenes Unified	11	15	73.3%	101

APPENDIX 2: (continued)

DISTRICT	NO. OF SCHOOLS REPORTED SERVED	TOTAL NO. OF SCHOOLS IN DISTRICT	SHARE OF SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT SERVED	NO. OF INSTANCES
Lawndale Elementary	9	10	90.0%	146
Lennox	7	10	70.0%	23
Little Lake City Elementary	2	9	22.2%	10
Long Beach Unified	62	88	70.5%	249
Los Angeles County Office of Education	26	33	78.8%	215
Los Angeles Unified	604	937	64.5%	3551
Los Nietos	1	4	25.0%	16
Lowell Joint	1	6	16.7%	1
Lynwood Unified	6	19	31.6%	31
Manhattan Beach Unified	7	7	100.0%	35
Monrovia Unified	3	11	27.3%	12
Montebello Unified	12	30	40.0%	53
Mountain View Elementary	1	12	8.3%	4
Newhall	10	10	100.0%	85
Norwalk-La Mirada Unified	20	28	71.4%	100
Palmdale Elementary	3	27	11.1%	9
Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified	14	18	77.8%	146
Paramount Unified	12	19	63.2%	102
Pasadena Unified	26	31	83.9%	250
Pomona Unified	20	42	47.6%	54
Redondo Beach Unified	10	13	76.9%	69
Rosemead Elementary	3	5	60.0%	4
Rowland Unified	4	22	18.2%	17
San Gabriel Unified	5	9	55.6%	24
San Marino Unified	4	4	100.0%	46
Santa Monica-Malibu Unified	15	16	93.8%	215
Saugus Union	11	15	73.3%	123
SBE - New West Charter	1	1	100.0%	1
South Pasadena Unified	5	5	100.0%	9
South Whittier Elementary	1	7	14.3%	1
Sulphur Springs Union	9	9	100.0%	118
Temple City Unified	6	8	75.0%	22
Torrance Unified	11	31	35.5%	50
Valle Lindo Elementary	1	2	50.0%	1
Walnut Valley Unified	4	15	26.7%	13
West Covina Unified	4	17	23.5%	5
Westside Union Elementary	2	11	18.2%	10
Whittier City Elementary	2	12	16.7%	4
Whittier Union High	2	7	28.6%	12
William S. Hart Union High	11	20	55.0%	52
Wilsona	0	3	0.0%	0
Wiseburn Elementary	4	6	66.7%	47

APPENDIX 3

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

1. Are you an Individual Artist or Arts Organization? *
2. What is your name?*
3. What is your legal name? (If same as above, just enter “same”)
4. What is your address? *
5. Your FEIN number (for organizations only)
6. Your County vendor number (for individuals only, if applicable)
7. Did you provide arts education services to any public or charter schools in the 2012–13 school year? * *This includes only services provided directly to students during the school day, either at the school site or offsite.*
8. Which districts did you provide arts education services in? * *Please include only those districts where you provided services directly to students during the school day, either at the school site or offsite.*
9. If you or your organization do not want to be identified publicly as providing arts education in the schools you serve, please check below.*
10. Choose a district you want to report on.* *When you have completed one district, you will have the opportunity to report on all districts you or your organization provided arts education services in.*
11. Choose the first school to report on.* *After you report on each school you will be prompted to report on other schools in this district.*
12. For each discipline, select all the grades where you provided arts education services at this school.*

DISCIPLINE	PRE-K	K	1	2	3	4	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Dance													
Literary Arts													
Media Arts													
Music/Opera													
Theater													
Visual Arts													

13. Did you or your organization charge the school or district for the arts education services you provided?*

*Required questions



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Researched and prepared by
Bronwyn Mauldin, Research and Evaluation
Manager, LA County Arts Commission

Designed by Picnic Design

Our thanks to the following reviewers for
their very helpful comments on an earlier
draft of this report:

Jay Phillip Greene
*College of Education and Health
Professions, University of Arkansas*

Scott Jones
Arts Education Partnership

Nick Rabkin
reMaking Culture

Lynn Tuttle
*Director of Arts Education,
Arizona Department of Education*