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## **L.A. COUNTY ARTS EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE SINGLED OUT AS BEST IN NATION**

LOS ANGELES, CA.— *Arts for All*, Los Angeles County’s dynamic, countywide collaboration to restore standards-based arts education into the public school core curriculum, was awarded the 2011 Arts Education Award by the nation’s leading arts advocacy organization, Americans for the Arts (AFTA). The announcement was made June 16 at AFTA’s annual convention, this year held in San Diego, CA.

According to the 50-year-old Washington-based nonprofit, this year’s field of candidates, comprised of 18 nominations from around the country, was the most competitive ever evaluated in the judging process. In addition, Robert L. Lynch, President and CEO of Americans for the Arts, said that the *Arts for All* selection is all the more remarkable given California’s budget crisis.

“Particularly at a time when school districts face increasingly dire fiscal circumstances,” Lynch said, “*Arts for All’s* steady commitment and support has kept arts education at the forefront of school and community leaders’ consciousness in Los Angeles County.”

Alongside Los Angeles Unified School District’s own arts education initiative, 44 out of the 81 districts in L.A. County are now identified as *Arts for All* partners and committed to standards-based K-12 arts instruction. Funding for *Arts for All* comes from private foundations, corporations, federal grants and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. The collaborative has been widely recognized by scholars for its creative approach and accomplishment.

*Arts for All* impacts close to 950,000 students and has experienced an annual growth in district participation since it began in 2003 with six vanguard districts. *Arts for All* has used a pragmatic approach to assist school districts as they build the foundations that support quality, sequential, K-12 arts education in dance, music, theatre and visual arts. For many children, this ongoing instruction in the arts is their most memorable educational experience, often leading to jobs and careers in what experts call the “creative economy” of Los Angeles.

Last year the Otis (College) “Report on the Creative Economy of the Los Angeles Regions” stated that the creative industry “supported one out of six jobs in the region, generating an estimated \$127 billion in sales revenues and \$4.6 billion in state and local tax revenues.”

Referring to the **Arts for All** track record, Laura Zucker, the Executive Director of the LA County Arts Commission, said, “It is our hope that our work in L.A. County will provide a model for school districts across the country that are committed to including sequential, standards-based K-12 arts education in the core curriculum.”

**About Arts for All**

Established by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, *Arts for All* is the dynamic, County-wide collaboration working to create vibrant classrooms, schools, communities and economies through the restoration of all arts disciplines into the core curriculum for each of our 1.6 million public K-12 students. Visit [www.lacountyartsforall.org](http://www.lacountyartsforall.org) to learn more.

**About Americans for the Arts**

Americans for the Arts is the leading nonprofit organization for advancing the arts in America. With offices in Washington, D.C. and New York City, it has a record of more than 50 years of service. Americans for the Arts is dedicated to representing and serving local communities and creating opportunities for every American to participate in and appreciate all forms of the arts. Additional information is available at [www.AmericansForTheArts](http://www.AmericansForTheArts).