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**THE INNER CITY EDUCATION FOUNDATION (ICEF),
SULPHUR SPRINGS UNION, ROWLAND UNIFIED, WEST COVINA UNIFIED AND ARCADIA
JOIN ARTS FOR ALL**

ICEF IS FIRST CHARTER SCHOOL NETWORK TO JOIN COUNTY ARTS ED COLLABORATIVE

LOS ANGELES, CA – OCTOBER 12 *Arts for All*, L.A. County's arts education collaborative working to include the arts in the curriculum of all County public schools, announced today that the **Inner City Education Foundation (ICEF)** is the first charter school network to join *Arts for All*. Also joining the collaborative are **Sulphur Springs Union, Rowland Unified, West Covina Unified and Arcadia School Districts**, bringing the total number of *Arts for All* districts to 49; there are 81 public school districts in Los Angeles County.

ICEF also represents the first opportunity for *Arts for All* to work with its partner, LAUSD, in the implementation of quality arts instruction in area public schools. ICEF has 14 K-12 schools serving nearly 4,500 students and is located in South Los Angeles. With the additional commitment of Sulphur Springs Unified (5,783), Rowland Unified (16,000), West Covina (14,665) and Arcadia (9,800) the total student population in the County's *Arts for All* districts for the 2011-12 school year is 560,465.

This past June, Americans for the Arts honored *Arts for All* with its 2011 National Arts Education award and, more recently, cited its "research-based, groundbreaking work" in evaluating the quality, access and equity of district arts instruction, as one of the best ways to keep the arts in public schools (<http://blog.artsusa.org/2011/08/26/the-top-10-ways-to-support-arts-education/>).

Among the benefits for districts participating in *Arts for All* are:

- Matching funds for artist residencies.
- Increased access to standards-based arts instruction.
- Personalized coaching by *Arts for All* staff in developing a district arts education policy and plan.
- Professional development and training for generalist classroom teachers.
- Research-based evaluation of the quality, access and equity of district-wide arts instruction.

The announcement coincides with **National Arts in Education Week (September 11-17)** which was designated by the U.S. House of Representatives in July 2010 to increase the nation's awareness that "[...] arts education, comprising a rich array of disciplines including dance, music, theatre, media arts, literature, design, and visual arts, is a core academic subject and an essential element of a complete and balanced education for all students." L.A. County Board of Supervisors followed suit today with a resolution acknowledging Arts in Education Week.

ADDITIONAL FACTS REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF ARTS EDUCATION

- Cognitive neuroscientists at seven major universities have found strong links between arts education and cognitive development (e.g. thinking, problem solving, concept understanding, information processing and overall intelligence), and that children motivated in the arts develop attention skills and memory retrieval that also apply to other subject areas.

- Research has also indicated that students from under-resourced environments who are highly involved in the arts have better grades, less likelihood of dropping out, have more positive attitudes about school, and are more likely to go on to college.
- The Conference Board, a global, independent association of business executives dedicated to creating and disseminating knowledge about management and the marketplace, concludes in its 2007 *Ready to Innovate* report, "U.S. employers rate *creativity/innovation* among the top five skills that will increase in importance over the next five years, and *stimulating innovation/creativity and enabling entrepreneurship* is among the top 10 challenges of U.S. CEOs."
- Overwhelmingly, both the superintendents who educate future workers and the employers who hire them agree that creativity is increasingly important in U.S. workplaces (99 percent and 97 percent, respectively), and that arts training—and, to a lesser degree, communications studies—are crucial to developing creativity. Findings indicate that most high schools and employers provide such training and studies only on an elective or "as needed" basis.
- Characteristics of a sought-after job applicant in today's economy, as defined by an industry spokesperson, include "inquisitive, communicative, creative, collaborative, analytical, innovative, problem-solving, self-confident, self-starting, flexible and adaptable to change"- all attributes of student learning in high-quality, standards-based, sequential arts instruction.
- *2010 Otis Report on the Creative Economy of the Los Angeles Region* reports that the art, design and entertainment industries accounted for one out of six jobs in 2009, "generating an estimated \$127 billion in sales revenues and \$4.6 in state and local tax revenues."

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 to learn more.

About Los Angeles County Arts Commission

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission, Laura Zucker, Executive Director, provides leadership in cultural services of all disciplines for the largest county in the United States, encompassing 88 municipalities. In addition to providing leadership and staffing for ***Arts for All***, the Arts Commission administers a grants program that funds more than 300 nonprofit arts organizations annually, oversees the County's Civic Art Program for capital projects, programs the John Anson Ford Theatres and supports the Los Angeles County Cultural Calendar on ExperienceLA.com. The Arts Commission also produces free community programs, including the L.A. Holiday Celebration broadcast nationally, and a year-round music program that funds more than 40 free concerts each year in public sites. The 2011-12 President of the Arts Commission is Ollie Blanning. For more information please consult the Arts Commission online press kit: <http://lacountyarts.org/page/pubnewspress>.

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