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13 ARTS FOR ALL DISTRICTS RECEIVE \$100,880 FOR ARTIST RESIDENCIES

LOS ANGELES, CA – SEPTEMBER 13, 2011 *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 13 districts will receive matching funds for artist residencies in district schools during the 2011-12 school year. Eligibility to apply for a Residency Grant is one of the benefits of being an *Arts for All* school district. There are currently 47 of the 81 County public school districts, with a total of 536,000 students, which have joined *Arts for All* with a commitment to arts education reform.

Below is a list of the 2011-12 district grantees with the artist residencies they have selected from the *Arts for All* Programs for Students Directory located on its Web site (www.lacountyartsforall.org). All arts providers listed on the directory meet *Arts for All's* criteria as presenters of high-quality, standards-based, sequential arts instruction:

Burbank Unified (24th Street Theatre)
Culver City Unified (Symphonic Jazz Orchestra)
Glendale Unified (Southwest Chamber Music)
Las Virgenes Unified (Karen Golden, Flights of Fantasy Story Theatre and Music Center Education Division)
Lawndale Elementary (P.S. Arts)
Los Nietos (L.A. Choreographers and Dancers)
Manhattan Beach Unified (Robert Gilliam)
Montebello Unified (Bluepalm: Art Culture Education)
Norwalk La Mirada Unified (Inner-City Arts)
Paramount Unified (Robin Kiss)
Pasadena Unified (Armory Center for the Arts and Aman Dance Educators)
Santa Monica-Malibu Unified (Contra Tiempo)
Wiseburn (Aman Dance Educators)

The residencies vary in duration, some involving six weekly lessons, others continuing throughout the year with as many as 28 sessions. The impact on student learning is not restricted to the specific arts discipline being taught (music, dance, theater or visual arts); district officials have found that the inclusion of arts instruction across a variety of platforms and disciplines has had a definite effect on student engagement in the classroom and behavior on the playground. Dr. Rose Dunn, Director of Instruction for Las Virgenes Unified, also cited the effect of the residencies on the classroom teachers,

*The **Arts for All** Residency Program has really helped us add relevance to our education experience by encouraging our teachers to reflect upon and use their own new learning and transferring their new found skills into the classroom. We appreciate **Arts for All's** focus upon the development of the whole child and the work you have done which allows us to continue our local commitment to the arts.*

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

- 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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