



VISION

Every public school student in Los Angeles County will receive a high-quality K-12 education of which the arts are an intrinsic part of the core curriculum. Each County school district will acknowledge that exposure to and participation in the multiple arts disciplines:

- strengthens a child's academic growth and development as an individual;
- prepares a child to feel part of and make a positive contribution to the community; and
- ensures a creative and competitive workforce to meet the economic opportunities of the present and future.

Thus, sequential instruction in the multiple arts disciplines will be scheduled into the school day and included in the budget of every County school district.



REALIZING THE VISION

Arts for All envisions that every public school student in Los Angeles County will receive a high-quality K-12 education of which the arts are an intrinsic part of the core curriculum. While the present economic challenges are presenting formidable obstacles to making this vision a reality, L.A. County school districts continue to make significant strides in delivering arts education to students. Arts for All is doing more to help school districts achieve greater impact at the classroom level and strengthen advocacy. Arts education in the County is at a historic juncture. Turning back is not an option.

ARTS EDUCATION AND THE FISCAL CRISIS

For the past seven years, *Arts for All* has concentrated on building infrastructure within school districts to support sequential, quality arts education in dance, music, theatre and visual arts. The decision to concentrate on infrastructure — a school board-adopted policy, plan and budget, school district level arts coordinator and student to credentialed arts teacher ratio no higher than 400:1 — was driven by the belief that, if arts education were woven into the fabric of the school district, it would be more difficult to cut when times got tough. This supposition has proved to be true. With the U.S. economy in crisis and the state of California facing deep fiscal challenges, school boards are being forced to make very difficult decisions. In the *Arts for All* districts, arts education programs experienced budget cuts, but, this time around, they have been part of across-the-board belt tightening rather than the total elimination of arts education programs and staff. School districts' foundation stones of arts education infrastructure have played a significant role in changing the environment for arts education in Los Angeles County.

Los Angeles County school districts are showing significant improvement in arts education for the first time in more than a generation. In February 2009, the latest Arts Education Performance Indicators (AEPI) report was released. Based on self-reported data from superintendents, assistant superintendents, directors of curriculum and/or district arts coordinators in 72 of the County's 81 school districts, this AEPI showed sizeable increases in the number of school districts adopting policies and plans and establishing arts coordinator positions. This data indicates school districts are working toward a long-term commitment to improving arts education.

ARTS FOR ALL ENTERS A NEW PHASE

Arts for All has become a national model for how community-wide efforts can advance arts education. In October 2008, **The Wallace Foundation** awarded a **\$1.2 million grant** to *Arts for All* to propel the initiative forward. The foundation chose Los Angeles County's *Arts for All* after conducting a nationwide scan to identify communities with noteworthy efforts coordinating resources to improve arts learning, with committed school district personnel and representatives of cultural organizations and the demonstrated support of local funders. **The Wallace grant is enabling *Arts for All* to build on the achievements of its first six years by expanding its ability to bring arts education to more children, make its distribution more equitable and elevate the quality of arts instruction.** Through new programs enabled by this funding, *Arts for All* is deepening its relationships with the 28 Los Angeles County school districts that joined the initiative from 2003 to 2008 as well as strengthening advocacy for arts education and developing models and tools to assess quality, access and equity.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROGRESS TO DATE

GOAL 1

Each of the 81 school districts in Los Angeles County enacts a policy, adopts a plan with timeline, and approves a budget to implement sequential K-12 arts education.

To date, 31 school districts have achieved this goal, 6 are in the process of developing plans and two are beginning the planning process. *Arts for All* has carefully monitored the impact of the fiscal crisis in the 34 school districts that have been developing plans as part of the initiative from 2003 to 2009. As of September 2009, arts education in those school districts had not suffered cuts out of proportion to other subject areas and 19 of the 21 arts coordinators who had been hired in these school districts are still in place. This data is testament to the concept that building infrastructure must be the first step to creating systemic change for arts education in the County's schools. Also, despite the economy, school districts continue to join the initiative. As of September 2009, **39 L.A. County school districts representing 517,531 students** have committed to achieving the goals of *Arts for All*.

The five critical success factors for a strong infrastructure to sustain quality, sequential arts education are a school board-adopted policy and plan, a budget of at least 5% of general budget, the hiring of a district level arts coordinator and a student to credentialed arts teacher ratio no higher than 400:1. The California Alliance for Arts Education (CAAE), the lead partner for Goal 1, provides coaching to *Arts for All* school districts to develop their policies and plans. The plan is a vital document that provides the blueprint to make arts education a reality in the classroom. Its quality affects outcomes. *Arts for All* staff now provides additional planning assistance that dovetails with the work of the CAAE coaches. School districts crafting a plan for the first time or revisiting an existing plan receive help in the development and training of Community Arts Teams, the establishment of quality standards and reviewing arts education plan drafts, as well as additional guidance toward a sound, effective plan appropriate for the school district.

Policies and plans of *Arts for All* school districts may be found through the search mechanism on the Tools & Resources section of the LAArtsEd.org Web site at www.LAArtsEd.org.

There has been progress in arts education in Los Angeles County overall, not just in the *Arts for All* districts. The Arts Commission's most recent **Arts Education Performance Indicators (AEPI)** report, released in February 2009, showed significant improvement in arts education for K-12 in Los Angeles County for the first time in more than a generation. The report is based on a survey of County school districts to track their progress achieving the five critical indicators for an infrastructure for quality, sequential arts education. The new report showed gains since 2005 in the number of districts with policies (64% up from 37%), plans (61% up from 35%) and arts coordinators (39% up from 12%). There is an overall trend toward increasing and building a strong infrastructure for arts education in local school districts. The data also shows that districts receiving technical assistance through *Arts for All* have a greater likelihood of adopting arts policies and plans. Since 2003, 96% of districts that received coaching assistance through *Arts for All* adopted arts education policies and plans and the other 4% are working toward plans. Only 50% of non-*Arts for All* school districts adopted policies and plans.

GOAL 2

Implementers and policy makers have sufficient tools, information and professional development to achieve sequential K-12 arts education.

The realization of Goal 2 is receiving an enormous boost from activities funded by The Wallace Foundation grant. New *Arts for All* components have been created and existing ones have been expanded and honed to assist implementation of plans in the *Arts for All* school districts. Innovations and developments include:

Analysis of decision making in school districts: In preparation for developing a Leadership Fellows Program for *Arts for All* school district leaders and administrators, *Arts for All* conducted an analysis of decision-making processes in the 28 school districts that joined the initiative from 2003 to 2008 and held a follow-up Leadership Forum. Key points to guide *Arts for All* in deepening its work with school districts emerged. A monograph on the findings will be published in 2010.

Arts Education Roundtable: The roundtable — a place where arts education organizations, teaching artists and advocates can advance the work and knowledge of the field, network, and share best practices — was re-tooled in May 2009. Informed by previous experience, roundtable events are now built around one of three formats: community conversations, the teaching artist learning community and LA Arts Ed Happy Hours. Content is now guided by an advisory board representative of the arts education field.

Artist Residency Grant Program: The program reached 19.8% more students in 2008-09 — 7,264 — than during the previous school year. The artist residencies, which are funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, address key priorities of *Arts for All* school districts' long range plans, enrich the classroom curricula and help in the student learning process. The school districts apply for matching funds from the Arts Commission to hire artists and arts organizations that are listed on the County's online arts education directory www.LAArtsEd.org.

The *Arts for All* training programs continue to build a cadre of arts organizations and artists partnering with school districts to provide programming based on the California Visual and Performing Arts Standards.

The *Arts for All* Executive Committee commissioned case studies of the first 11 school districts to commit to the goals of *Arts for All* to assess the successes and challenges in implementation and identify what kinds of technical assistance are needed from *Arts for All* to bring quality arts education to more students. ***Arts for All: The Vanguard Districts – Case Studies from the First Five Years 2003-2008*** provides new information to the field about arts education efforts. There is a robust and rigorous body of research on the impact of arts education on learners but there is sparse research on the effective strategies for implementing, sustaining and stewarding arts education efforts. The case studies can be found at www.lacountyarts.org/artseducation.html.

GOAL 3

In each of the 81 school districts, an active coalition of advocates will be mobilized to establish, sustain and support sequential K-12 arts education.

The non-profit organization **Arts for LA** is *Arts for All*'s primary advocacy partner. Advocacy has been made a great deal more effective by the development of the www.artsforla.org Web site. It went active in May 2008 and in April 2009 added a component that allows advocates, for the first time, to connect easily online with local level politicians. (Other existing arts advocacy sites connect to federal and state officials only.) Action on issues happens quickly. The site also provides the latest news in the arts field and the opportunity for groups to create sub-sites for communicating with each other. Arts for LA has also continued to track and survey candidates in school board elections.

GOAL 4

Funding policies of public and private funders support and align with vision and mission of this plan.

The *Arts for All* Pooled Fund is the mainstay in supporting coaching assistance to *Arts for All* school districts. The fund is comprised of contributions from the entertainment industry, foundations and corporations and helmed by Goal 4 lead partner Sony Pictures Entertainment. Since the Pooled Fund's founding in 2004, over \$2 million has been committed to the fund, matched by \$1.9 million from participating school districts.

Arts for All school districts for the first time are receiving assistance in identifying funding sources for arts education both internally, within the school system, and from external private and public sources. The school districts are encouraged to diversify their arts education funding to make them less vulnerable in tough economic times.

7TH YEAR REVIEW

ARTS FOR ALL MISSION

To bring about systemic change in the 81 school districts of Los Angeles County in order to implement comprehensive, sequential K-12 arts education for every public school student in the County, adopting curricula in alignment with the State Board of Education-approved Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Framework and Standards. Such systemic change will require the mobilization of diverse stakeholders, including policy makers, implementers and recipients of arts education.

In September 2002, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted *Arts for All: Los Angeles County Regional Blueprint for Arts Education*, a strategic plan to restore arts education — in dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts — to the 1.7 million students in Los Angeles County’s 81 school districts. The *Arts for All* Executive Committee, with more than 100 partners and managed by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, leads this effort. The initiative, having completed its seventh year, has made great strides, detailed in this report.

BACKGROUND

Arts for All had its origins in a meeting of Arts for LA, a consortium of leaders of Los Angeles County arts institutions, large and small, that took place in the late 1990s. The object of the gathering was to identify issues that could be addressed only by the arts community as a whole, rather than by just one or a few organizations, no matter how influential. Arts education was one of the issues identified. The ad hoc Los Angeles Arts Education Task Force convened by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission met for the first time in 1999 and commissioned a study on the state of arts education in County K-12 public schools. *Arts in Focus: Los Angeles Countywide Arts Education Survey*, released in May 2001, was the first comprehensive look at arts education in the nation's most populous county.

The findings were sobering. *Arts in Focus* revealed a crazy quilt of arts education activity across the County, with some good things happening in a few places but many structural impediments at the district level. There was no centralized body to focus on arts education and coordinate a comprehensive effort to deliver a high-quality education that included the arts for every K-12 student in the County. The study provided the baseline data needed to move forward.

In response to *Arts in Focus*, and seeded by a California Arts Council grant, the Los Angeles County Arts Commission hired arts education staff and formed a Los Angeles County Arts Education Advisory Group to develop the Blueprint's goals and strategies through an eighteen month planning process. To help guide the development of and garner broad support for the Blueprint, eight community forums were held early in 2002 with 150 policy makers, implementers and recipients of arts education. The Blueprint proposes that systemic change can occur only through the cooperative participation of all stakeholders and by working to develop supportive policy and action at each level of involvement. Four major goals were developed and partners identified to help implement each goal.



Arts for All's Teaching Artists Training Program provides real-life classroom experience. See page 12.

Photo: Ed Krieger

GOAL



Each of the 81 school districts in Los Angeles County enacts a policy, adopts a plan with timeline, and approves a budget to implement sequential K-12 arts education.

Infrastructure is crucial to quality, sequential arts education

Starting in 2003-04, the *Arts for All* Executive Committee invited selected school districts to receive multi-year technical assistance to achieve five critical success factors for establishment of an infrastructure for arts education through coaching provided by the California Alliance for Arts Education (CAAE), lead partner for Goal 1. These factors are a board-adopted policy, implementation plan with timeline, district level arts coordinator, 5% district budget allocation and at least a 400:1 ratio of students to credentialed arts teachers.

As school districts work toward and achieve the five critical success factors, commitment to what the arts can contribute to the educational process deepens. Crafting and approving a policy creates consensus on a vision. Developing and passing a plan requires buy-in at the highest level of leadership and produces a road map to achieve goals. Including arts education in the general budget reflects the value the school district places on the arts. The arts coordinator provides pivotal leadership to drive implementation. The student to arts teacher ratio is a measure of quality classroom instruction. All combined, once these success factors are met, arts education becomes fully integrated into the school day rather than an add-on.

To date, 31 school districts have achieved this goal, 6 are in the process of developing plans and two are beginning the planning process. Policies and plans of *Arts for All* school districts may be found through the search mechanism on the Tools & Resources section of www.LAArtsEd.org.

***Arts for All* moving forward despite fiscal crisis**

Arts for All has carefully monitored the impact of the fiscal crisis in 34 school districts that have been part of the initiative from 2003 to 2009. As of September 2009, arts education in these districts had not suffered cuts out of proportion to other subject areas and 19 of the 21 arts coordinators who had been hired in those districts are still in place. This data and the findings of the most recent Arts Education Performance Indicators

report (see page 10) are testament to the concept that building infrastructure must be the first step to creating systemic change for arts education in the County's schools.

Despite the fiscal crisis, Los Angeles County school districts continue to join *Arts for All* and commit to working toward its goals. Four new districts have signed on for the 2009-10 school year. As of September 2009 the initiative is working with **39 school districts representing 517,531 students**. This number represents **54%** of the County public school population minus Los Angeles Unified School District, which has a separate initiative. The *Arts for All* school districts are

2003–04 Culver City, Los Angeles County Office of Education, Norwalk-La Mirada, Pasadena, Rosemead and Santa Monica-Malibu

2004–05 Beverly Hills, Burbank, Castaic, Compton and Hacienda La Puente

2005–06 ABC*, Alhambra, Little Lake City and Palos Verdes Peninsula

2006–07 Inglewood, Mountain View, Paramount and Wiseburn

2007–08 Bassett, East Whittier City, Lancaster, Montebello, Palmdale, Pomona, Redondo Beach, Saugus Union and South Pasadena

2008-09 Glendale, Lawndale, Lynwood, Manhattan Beach, San Marino and Temple City

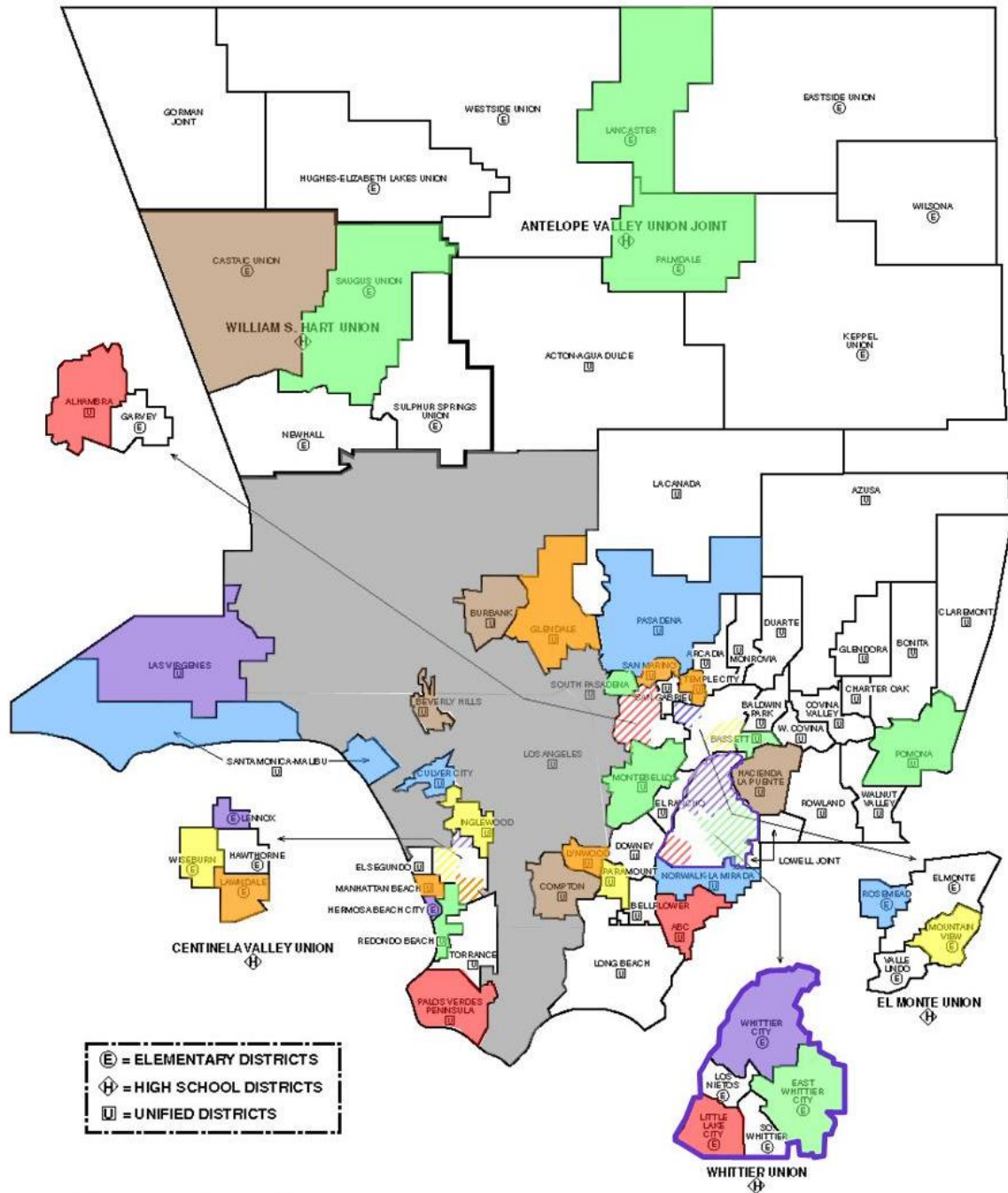
2009-10 Hermosa Beach, Las Virgenes, Lennox, Whittier City Elementary and Whittier Union High School

*serves the cities of Artesia, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, as well as portions of Lakewood, Long Beach and Norwalk.

Greater emphasis on planning

One of the five critical success factors for an arts education infrastructure, a school district's arts education plan is a vital document that makes arts education a reality in the classroom. Its quality affects outcomes. This fact was underscored by the case studies of the first 11 school districts to sign on for *Arts for All*

ELEMENTARY, HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIFIED DISTRICTS LOS ANGELES COUNTY



ARTS FOR ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS 2003-10

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2003-04 2004-05 2005-06 2006-07 2007-08 2008-09 2009-10 Sister Initiative : LAUSD in 9th year of 10 year plan | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ABC USD 2. Alhambra USD 3. Bassett USD 4. Beverly Hills USD 5. Burbank USD 6. Castaic Union ESD 7. Compton USD 8. Culver City USD 9. East Whittier City ESD 10. Glendale USD 11. Hacienda La Puente USD 12. Hermosa Beach City ESD 13. Inglewood USD 14. LACOE | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Lancaster ESD 16. Las Virgenes USD 17. Lawndale ESD 18. Lennox ESD 19. Little Lake City ESD 20. Lynwood USD 21. Manhattan Beach USD 22. Montebello USD 23. Mountain View ESD 24. Norwalk La Mirada USD 25. Palmdale ESD 26. Palos Verdes Peninsula USD 27. Paramount USD 28. Pasadena USD | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 29. Pomona USD 30. Redondo Beach USD 31. Rosemead ESD 32. San Marino USD 33. Santa Monica-Malibu USD 34. Saugus Union ESD 35. South Pasadena USD 36. Temple City USD 37. Whittier City ESD 38. Whittier Union HSD 39. Wiseburn ESD |
|--|--|--|--|

(see page 13). As a result, *Arts for All* has strengthened its planning assistance to the school districts. School districts crafting a plan for the first time or revisiting an existing plan receive help in the development and training of Community Arts Teams, the establishment of quality standards and reviewing arts education plan drafts, as well as additional guidance toward a sound, effective plan appropriate for the school district. *Arts for All* planning assistance dovetails with the work of the CAAE coaches.

Arts coordinator position pivotal

The presence of an arts coordinator at the school district level is integral to a strong arts education infrastructure. Of the 34 school districts that joined *Arts for All* 2003-09, 19 have arts coordinators in place. The majority of these positions were a direct result of *Arts for All* Pooled Fund support. Pooled Fund grants were matched by district funds.

Arts for All district arts coordinators

ABC: Deborah Gonsalves
Beverly Hills: Dana Findlay
Burbank: Peggy Flynn
Castaic: Lisa Bloom
Compton: Lanette White
Culver City: Inez Bush
East Whittier: Jan Stone, Debbie Green
Hacienda La Puente: Barbara Ricchio
L.A. County Office of Education: Tina Vartanian
Lancaster: Angela Boone
Lynwood: Victor Cervantes
Montebello: Leonard Narumi
Norwalk-La Mirada: Karen Calhoun
Palos Verdes Peninsula: Julie Beckman
Pasadena: Marshall Ayers
Paramount: Julianne Kosareff
Pomona: Vicki Tessier
Santa Monica-Malibu: Tom Whaley
Wiseburn: Peggy Burt

2008 AEPI report shows gains in arts education in L.A. County for the first time in a generation

The 2008 Arts Education Performance Indicators (AEPI) report marks a milestone in arts education in Los Angeles County. Since the last AEPI report in 2005, significant progress has been made toward

building infrastructure to support sequential K-12 arts education in the 81 school districts in the County. This is the first such improvement since 1978 when the passage of Proposition 13 reduced property taxes and districts lost local funding setting off a steady decline of arts education in California schools. The data provided in this report gives a County-wide picture of the status of arts education infrastructure in 2008. It shows remarkable forward movement not only in *Arts for All* school districts but across the County, including Los Angeles Unified School District which has been implementing an arts education initiative that predates *Arts for All* by three years.

Overall progress includes:

- 64 percent of districts report having an arts education policy, compared to 37 percent in 2005.
- 61 percent of districts report a board-adopted arts education plan or indicated they are developing one, compared to 35 percent in 2005.
- 39 percent of districts report having an arts coordinator, compared to 12 percent in 2005.
- 16 percent report having a 400 to 1 ratio of students to credentialed arts teachers, compared to 10 percent reporting that ratio in 2005.
- 98 percent of districts report using general fund budgets to support arts education programs (sources of arts ed budgets were not included in previous surveys).

The data also shows that districts receiving technical assistance through *Arts for All* are significantly more likely than other districts in the region to adopt arts education policies and plans and establish arts coordinator positions. Between 2005 and 2008 *Arts for All* districts adopted policies at 2.5 times the rate of other districts and plans at 1.6 times the rate of other districts. The number of arts coordinators in *Arts for All* districts increased by 44 percent versus a 15 percent increase in other school districts.

The 2008 AEPI Report is based on self-reported data from superintendents, assistant superintendents, directors of curriculum and/or district arts coordinators. Of the 81 school districts, 72 responded. The full report is available at www.lacountyarts.org/artseducation.html.

GOAL

2

Implementers and policy makers have sufficient tools, information and professional development to achieve sequential K-12 arts education.

Through the \$1.2 million grant from The Wallace Foundation to the Arts Commission, lead partner in Goal 2, *Arts for All* is taking a quantum leap in supporting the implementation of arts education plans in *Arts for All* school districts. New components have been created and existing ones have been expanded and honed.

Analysis of decision making in school districts

In preparation for developing a Leadership Fellows Program for *Arts for All* school district leaders and administrators, *Arts for All* conducted an analysis of decision-making processes in the 28 school districts that joined the initiative from 2003 to 2008 and held a follow-up Leadership Forum. Key points to guide *Arts for All* in deepening its work with school districts emerged. These include the importance of the assistant superintendent and the alignment of the superintendent, assistant superintendent and arts coordinator; the delicate balance between school districts and local educational foundations; and the critical need for collecting data on students and the progress of implementation, evaluation training for arts coordinators and assessing the leadership capacity and commitment of school districts that consider joining *Arts for All*. A monograph on the findings will be published later in 2009.

LAArtsEd.org expands professional development component

The LAArtsEd.org Web site added a major component that was launched nationally in February 2009. *Designing the Arts Learning Community: a Handbook for K-12 Professional Development Planners* is an interactive online tool pioneering a new approach to arts education professional development. The handbook represents a move away from the one-day workshop or summer course to a systemic, ongoing collaborative approach that yields powerful results for students' learning in the arts. It demonstrates how to establish, grow and sustain a learning community that comes together to improve arts instruction. The handbook has a national perspective, drawing on the experiences of arts education professional development programs from across the United States. It is designed for online use but also offers options to print out sections or the entire

handbook. (Go to www.LAArtsEd.org)

The handbook is one link in a chain of online resources on LAArtsEd.org that guide the arts education implementation process. The chain starts with the model plans in the Tools & Resources section of the Web site (www.LAArtsEd.org) and continues with the handbook on how to build the arts learning community. The next link is under construction and scheduled to go on line in April 2010: a searchable database of vetted, high quality professional development providers in Los Angeles County.

LAArtsEd.org was launched in 2004 with the Arts Education Program Directory, a searchable database of arts education programs that meet the California Visual and Performing Arts standards; the directory now includes 247 programs offered by 89 arts education service providers. The site's Tools & Resources component, introduced 2007, contains in its searchable database, in addition to policies and plans, a broad range of resources including information on budgets, assessment, curriculum, partnerships and collaborations, evaluation and advocacy.

Arts Education Roundtable revived and retooled

These gatherings are forums for arts education organizations, teaching artists and advocates to advance the work and knowledge of the field, network and share best practices. The roundtable was re-tooled in May 2009. Informed by previous experience, roundtable events are now built around one of three formats: community conversations, the teaching artist learning community and LA Arts Ed Happy Hours. The May 2009 program for arts education service providers focused on practical solutions to dealing with the economic downturn. The June roundtable was a lesson planning clinic with master teaching artists, and in July a happy hour gathering provided a more casual networking opportunity. The September roundtable explored student assessment in arts education.

Roundtable content is now guided by an advisory board, a network of peers representative of the field of arts education in Los Angeles County. Advisory board

members collaborate on the design of the roundtable curriculum and instruction to deepen the value, relevancy and quality of convenings.

The Arts Education Roundtable Listserv, moderated by the Arts Commission, provides an opportunity for L.A. County-based arts education providers to share information. With over 500 members, the listserv is the place to learn about jobs, events and new resources in the L.A. Arts Education community. Subscribe to the Arts Education Roundtable listserv by sending an e-mail to: arts_ed_roundtable-subscribe@yahoo.com.

Arts for All Residency Grant Program reaches more students

In 2008-09, its third year, the program increased the number of students reached by 19.8% over the previous year. The program was created to directly support the priorities school districts outlined in their long range plans and is managed by the Arts Commission as lead partner. *Arts for All* school districts with school board-adopted plans apply to the Arts Commission for matching funds to hire artists and arts organizations that are listed on the County's online arts education directory LAArtsEd.org. During the 2008-09 school year, 235 residencies led by 40 artists and 243 teachers reached 7,264 students in 48 schools (39 of them on the elementary level) in 9 school districts. Participating districts included Alhambra, Bassett, Burbank, Culver City, Inglewood, Palos Verdes Peninsula, Paramount, Pasadena and Wiseburn. In 2008-09 matching funds came from a \$70,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and an equal amount from the Arts Commission.

Training programs build standards-based arts education services

The number of arts organizations and teaching artists offering programming based on the California Visual and Performing Arts Standards to area schools continues to increase. To date 437 artists and arts organizations have completed training programs offered by *Arts for All* in partnership with the Music Center of Los Angeles County, the Armory for the Arts and the Arts Council of Long Beach. The programs have trained local arts education administrators and artists to use their capabilities and experience in dance, theater, music and the visual arts to deepen and enrich the classroom experience by partnering with school district educators. Participants study the VAPA Standards and fundamentals of child development, and explore

effective teaching strategies, 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 also learn effective assessment strategies.



A dialogue writing program offered by the Music Center is one of 247 arts education programs found on LAArtsEd.org. See page 11.
Photo: Rosylyn Rhee, Music Center

The innovative Teaching Artist Training Program includes real world experience. Participating artists have the opportunity to receive coaching and mentoring sessions with master teaching artists. In the last phase of training, participants teach a six-week sequential arts education lesson to a class with a mentor artist observing and evaluating their performance. Instructors for the program, based in the *Arts for All* Culver City Unified School District, are expert arts education professionals from the Armory Center for the Arts and the Music Center of Los Angeles County (key partners in *Arts for All*) as well as Music Center master teaching artists. The Arts Commission manages the program as the lead partner. Funding for the training, which is made available to participants at a fraction of its real cost, is provided by the Dana Foundation.

Arts Education Leadership Series for arts coordinators

The series invited arts coordinators from all 81 County school districts to participate in opportunities in networking, mentoring and professional development activities. The 2008-09 sessions included an interactive assessment workshop led by a national teaching artist from the Kennedy Center, presentation of model L.A. County arts education programs in dance and music including best practices, a summary of brain research findings that demonstrate why the arts are crucial to prepare students for success in the 21st century and a

retreat focusing on best practices in arts education programs in theatre and visual arts. A new format for arts coordinator professional development is being introduced in 2009-10.

Case studies from Arts for All districts fill knowledge gap about arts education efforts

The true test of *Arts for All* lies in what is happening in the classroom and to that end the *Arts for All* Executive Committee commissioned a study of the first 11 school districts to commit to the initiative’s goals to find out how much progress had been made, identify the barriers to reaching goals and how technical assistance could best be used to effect implementation. *Arts for All: The Vanguard Districts – Case Studies from the First Five Years 2003-2008* provides new information to the field about arts education efforts. There is a robust and rigorous body of research on the impact of arts education on learners but there is sparse research on the effective strategies for implementing, sustaining and stewarding arts education efforts.

Publication of the case studies is especially timely in light of the findings of the recently released National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) in the Arts report that arts education in America is “mediocre” and “lackluster.” As U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said, the report “should challenge all of us to make K-12 arts programs more available to America’s children.” Not since Arts Education Partnership’s (AEP) *Gaining the Arts Advantage* (1999) has there been a



Arts for All training programs teach artists and arts administrators about the California Visual and Performing Arts Standards.
Photo: Ed Krieger

comprehensive study of how school districts animate the arts in their schools. The case studies and subsequent cross-case analyses offer new insights about the differences between planning to restore arts education and making that plan a reality. As a result of the findings of these case studies, *Arts for All* is responding to the needs of school districts by providing more targeted professional development and technical assistance. The case studies may be found at www.lacountyarts.org/artseducation.html.

GOAL 3

In each of the 81 school districts, an active coalition of advocates will be mobilized to establish, sustain and support sequential K-12 arts education.

Mobilization made easier through Arts for LA Web site

Since 2007, advocacy for *Arts for All* has been carried out in partnership with Arts for LA, a nonprofit organization. The lead partner for Goal 3, Arts for LA is committed to increasing support, in all forms, for the arts and cultural life of Los Angeles. The Arts for LA Web site — www.artsforla.org — has been revamped into a state-of-the-art advocacy tool. It went active in

May 2008 and in April 2009 added a component that allows advocates, for the first time, to connect easily online with local level politicians. (Other existing arts advocacy sites connect to federal and state officials only.) The Web site makes it very easy to marshal comment and action on issues quickly. It features the latest news in the arts field, forums on a variety of issues, blogs and opportunities for groups to create sub-sites for communicating with each other.

Tracking school board elections raises awareness of arts education

Arts for LA regularly tracks school board elections by surveying candidates about their support of school-based arts education and publishing responses for community constituents and on its Web site. Responses have shown

many candidates were not aware of their school district's arts education initiatives and requested copies of adopted policies and plans. For the fall 2009 elections, 145 candidates for school board seats in *Arts for All* school districts are being surveyed.

TAKE ACTION

ADTCS&LA

Parents Patrons Artists Arts Admin Educators Institutions Students

HOME
TAKE ACTION
 ARTS ED
 RESOURCES
 CALENDAR
 MEMBERS
 NEWS
 ABOUT
 FORUM
 GROUPS
 BLOGS
 JOIN
 CONTACT US
 SITE INTRO

Arts for All School District Campaign

Tell your local representative you support arts education in our district.

Together, we can use our collective voice to raise awareness of the powerful role arts education plays in lives of Los Angeles County students.

Being an advocate is easy! Customize the letter below and click "send." If you or your child has a favorite arts education experience you'd like to share, please feel free to do so. Your representatives care about the health and well-being of their constituents, and we know that arts education is a vital part of every child's development.

Your email or fax will be sent straight to your local representatives. It's easy, fast and makes a big impact.

For more information about current legislation affecting arts education, [click here](#).

To learn about your representatives, [click here](#).

1 Read & Edit the Message
 September 08, 2009

Subject:

Dear Assemblymember:

I'm writing to encourage you to support the current legislation regarding arts education. As a constituent in your district, my life and the lives of those around me have been shaped and strengthened by exposure to many different forms of art.

During a budget crisis, funding for arts in schools is often one of the first line items to be eliminated. I believe this is a short-term "solution" that will prevent our children from having access to the arts learning experiences that enable them to become creative problem-solvers, empathic individuals and self-aware citizens.

The arts are essential classroom elements. I encourage you to support the school board's decision to pledge level funding for our district's arts education programming during FY 09/10.

We will add your signature from the information you provide.

2 Sign & Send the Message

First Name*

Last Name*

Email*

Street*

Street 2

City*

State/Province*

Zip/Postal Code*

Send an Email
 Send a Fax

GOAL 4

Funding policies of public and private funders support and align with vision and mission of this plan.

***Arts for All* Pooled Fund underwrites coaching**

The *Arts for All* Pooled Fund continues to be the mainstay of funding coaches to facilitate the building of arts education infrastructure in *Arts for All* school districts (see page 8). The fund is comprised of contributions from the entertainment industry, foundations and corporations and helmed by Goal 4 lead partner Sony Pictures Entertainment. Since the Pooled Fund's founding in 2004, over \$2 million has been committed to the fund, matched by \$1.9 million from participating school districts.

Members of the Pooled Fund also underwrite specific *Arts for All* projects. In 2008-09 Boeing Corporation gave \$100,000 to support the building of the final two searchable databases on LAArtsEd.org, funding and research, as well as the creation of a dedicated *Arts for All* Web site and *Arts for All* spokesperson training.

Development guidance for *Arts for All* districts

Arts for All school districts for the first time are receiving assistance in identifying funding sources for arts education both internally, within the school system, and from external private and public sources. The school districts are encouraged to diversify their arts education funding to make them less vulnerable in tough economic times.

ARTS FOR ALL POOLED FUND

Pooled Fund members for 2008-09 include Boeing Corporation, Sony Pictures Entertainment, The Angell Foundation, The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, and the Getty Foundation. The Dana Foundation, Los Angeles County Arts Commission,

National Endowment for the Arts and the Herb Alpert Foundation each support specific *Arts for All* initiatives.

Previous members include Creative Artists Agency, Entertainment Industry Foundation, The Jewish Community Foundation, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, The Target Corporation, Warner Bros. Entertainment, The James Irvine Foundation and The Thelma Pearl Howard Foundation.



In many *Arts for All* school districts the Pooled Fund supports the positions of arts coordinators, shown here in an idea-sharing session.
Photo: Ed Krieger



ARTS FOR ALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Danielle Brazell, *Executive Director, Arts for LA*

Lupe Delgado, *Assistant Superintendent Educational Services, Los Angeles County Office of Education*

Betty Haagen, *Commissioner, Los Angeles County Arts Commission*

Janice Pober, *Senior Vice President, Corporate Social Responsibility, Sony Pictures Entertainment*

Dr. Darline P. Robles, *Superintendent, Los Angeles County Office of Education*

Laurie Schell, *Executive Director, California Alliance for Arts Education*

Mark Slavkin, *Vice President of Education, Music Center*

Gail Tierney, *Senior Deputy, Supervisor Don Knabe*

Laura Zucker, *Executive Director, Los Angeles County Arts Commission*

ARTS FOR ALL STAFF

At the Los Angeles County Arts Commission

Ayanna Hudson, *Director of Arts Education*

Kimberleigh Aarn, *Senior Planning Manager*

Rebecca Borden, *Senior Implementation Manager*

Talia Gibas, *Arts Education Coordinator*

Megan Kirkpatrick, *Implementation Manager*

Sofia Klatzker, *Senior Advocacy and Development Manager*

Elisha Wilson Beach, *Implementation Coordinator*

At the Los Angeles County Office of Education

Geraldine Walkup, *Visual and Performing Arts Consultant*

This report can be downloaded at www.lacountyarts.org