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**Palmdale Elementary School District adopts Arts Education Plan
Becomes 17th Los Angeles County district to restore comprehensive arts education
through L.A. County's *Arts for All* Initiative**

Last night the Palmdale Unified School District's Board voted to adopt a comprehensive arts education plan to give its 22,500 students attending 5 middle schools, 21 elementary schools and one pre-school sequential arts education. The vote makes Palmdale the 17th Los Angeles County school district to adopt a budgeted plan to restore comprehensive arts education to the general curriculum since the County Board of Supervisors launched *Arts for All: Los Angeles County Regional Blueprint for Arts Education* in 2002.

Administered by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, the *Arts for All* initiative seeks to return comprehensive arts education in dance, music, theatre and visual arts to the County's 80 school districts. Arts education was cut from California classrooms in 1978 when passage of Proposition 13 reduced property taxes and consequently local public school funding. *Arts for All* guides districts to make the arts commensurate with the other core subjects.

In addition to Palmdale Elementary School District, the following districts have adopted arts education plans through the County's *Arts for All* initiative: ABC USD, Alhambra USD, Beverly Hills USD, Burbank USD, Castaic SD, Compton USD, Culver City USD, Hacienda La Puente USD, Inglewood USD, Little Lake City SD, Norwalk-La Mirada USD, Palos Verdes Peninsula USD, Paramount USD, Pasadena USD, Rosemead SD, Santa Monica-Malibu USD and the Los Angeles County Office of Education that educates special populations.

Ten additional districts are currently engaged in the *Arts for All* process and working toward plans. These include Bassett USD, East Whittier City School District, Lancaster Elementary SD, Montebello USD, Mountain View Elementary SD, Pomona USD, Redondo Beach USD, Saugus USD, South

Pasadena USD and Wiseburn SD. The Los Angeles Unified School District that educates 700,000 of the County's 1.7 million students adopted an arts education plan prior to *Arts for All*.

Arts for All is supported by the *Arts for All* Pooled Fund; members include Boeing, The Angell Foundation, The Getty Foundation, The Jewish Community Foundation, The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, Sony Pictures Entertainment, The Target Corporation and Warner Bros. Entertainment. The Dana Foundation and Los Angeles County Arts Commission are also members of the Pooled Fund for support of specific Arts for All initiatives. Pooled Fund member the Herb Alpert Foundation formed a partnership with P.S. ARTS to restore comprehensive arts education at Lawndale Elementary School District.

More information about *Arts for All* can be found at www.lacountyarts.org. The initiative's 5th Year Review is at http://lacountyarts.org/artsed/docs/handout_070529.pdf

ARTS FOR ALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

Dr. Darline P. Robles, *Superintendent, Los Angeles County Schools*

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

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

Gail Tierney, *Senior Deputy, Supervisor Don Knabe*

Hope Warschaw, *Immediate Past President, Los Angeles County Arts Commission*

Laura Zucker, *Executive Director, 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 the Arts Commission providing leadership and staffing to support the regional blueprint for arts education, *Arts for All*, the Arts Commission administers a grants program that funds more than 250 nonprofit arts organizations annually, oversees the County's Civic Art Program for capital projects, funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Foundation, 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 2007-08 President of the Arts Commission is Rosalind Wyman.