

Enriching Lives



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FIVE VANGUARD SCHOOL DISTRICTS WILL PLAN FOR ARTS EDUCATION

*The program is part of Los Angeles County's ARTS FOR ALL,
the Regional Blueprint for Arts Education.*

LOS ANGELES, September 16, 2003 – *ARTS FOR ALL*, Los Angeles County's Regional Blueprint for Arts Education, calls for five of the 82 school districts in Los Angeles to adopt an arts education policy, plan and budget each year. The goal of the technical assistance component of the 10-year blueprint is to build the capacity of districts and key community stakeholders to lay these critical foundation stones to implementation of a meaningful arts education program. At today's Board of Supervisors meeting the first five districts to receive technical assistance were acknowledged for taking this important step. They are: **Culver City Unified** (Dr. Laura McGaughey, Superintendent), **Norwalk-La Mirada Unified** (Dr. Ginger Shattuck, Superintendent), **Pasadena Unified** (Dr. Percy Clark, Jr., Superintendent), **Rosemead School District** (Dr. Amy Enomoto-Perez, Superintendent), and **Santa Monica-Malibu Unified** (Dr. John Deasy, Superintendent). These districts, one in each County Supervisorial district, represent varying sizes and levels of readiness.

Grants from **Sony Pictures Entertainment** (\$6,000 per district or \$30,000 total) and the **National Endowment for the Arts** (\$4000 per district or \$20,000 total) support the work in these districts during the 2003-2004 school year. These funds allow the California Alliance for Arts Education, a key partner in the blueprint, to hire a team of consultants brought in to support the work of the Districts Arts Team in assessing the status of arts education in the district and develop a budgeted strategic plan based on this data. Laurie Schell, Executive Director of the California Alliance for Arts Education, will spearhead the activity in the districts, beginning in early October.

The Blueprint outlines a massive effort to realize the vision of arts education for every Los Angeles County public school student K-12. It was adopted by the Board of Supervisors, the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and the Los Angeles County Board of Education in 2002. *ARTS FOR ALL* can be downloaded at www.lacountyarts.org. Copies may also be obtained from the Arts Commission, 374 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, (213) 974-1343.

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission, headed by Executive Director Laura Zucker, provides leadership in cultural services of all disciplines for the largest county in the United States, encompassing 88 municipalities. The Arts Commission, in addition to its grants program that funds more than 200 nonprofit arts organizations annually, funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Trust and programs the John Anson Ford Theatres. The Commission recently published a regional blueprint for arts education. The Commission also produces free community programs, including the L.A. Holiday Celebration broadcast nationally and a year-round music program that funds more than 100 free concerts each year in public sites. The 2003-2004 President of the Arts Commission is Laurel Karabian.