Los Angeles Regional Plan for Arts Education

Established by the Board of Supervisors in 2002, the LA County Arts Education Collective (formerly Arts for All) currently includes 68 of the County’s 81 school districts, five charter school networks, more than 100 arts organizations and teaching artists, dozens of funding partners and hundreds of community advocates working collaboratively to advance arts education in all LA County public schools. Implemented as a partnership between LA County’s Arts Commission and the LA County Office of Education, the Arts Ed Collective has to date:

- Guided 70 LA County school districts and charter school networks in developing policies and strategic plans for arts education, which were subsequently adopted by each local school board;
- Developed large-scale teacher professional development strategies, including the Teacher Professional Development Grant Program which provided $330,000 in funding to twelve school districts over three years; the Teaching Creativity series which has been offered annually since 2011 and received the California School Board Association’s Golden Bell Award in 2015; and Technology Enhanced Arts Learning (TEAL) which has offered face-to-face instruction alongside online learning for both current teachers and college students receiving their teaching credentials since 2015. Together, these strategies have provided professional development in the arts to more than 6,000 educators over the past seven years;
- Established the LA County Arts Education Leadership Council – comprised of arts, education, business and philanthropic leaders – to guide the initiative;
- Established the LA County Arts Education Funders Council, which has raised more than $11.6M in funds for arts education since 2004;
- Provided $4.6M in grant funding to school districts to advance arts education in their schools since 2004;
- Consistently conducted research to inform and guide the work, as well as track the status of arts education in school districts across LA County.
In April 2017, the Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted the Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative which included thirteen recommendations for expanding access to arts and culture for residents across LA County. Four of these recommendations specifically address arts education and the need to build pathways to careers in the arts and the creative economy for youth across the County. In April 2018, LA County became the first local government in California to formally adopt the Declaration of Students’ Rights to Equity in Arts Learning, recognizing the importance of arts education for all students regardless of race, culture, religion, national origin, place of residence, socio-economic or legal status. With a renewed focus on equity and inclusion and a continuing vision that high quality arts instruction be provided as an essential part of a well-rounded public education, the Board of Supervisors identifies the need for an updated regional plan for arts education that reflects the current priorities and educational landscape of LA County.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors acknowledges:

- The initial Arts for All: Regional Blueprint for Arts Education has been a guiding framework for expanding arts education in LA County school districts since adoption by the Board of Supervisors in 2002;
- The LA County Arts Commission released the Arts Ed Profile, a research project designed to measure the quality, quantity and equity of arts education provided in public schools across LA County, in December 2017;
- Particular groups of students continue to experience significant barriers to participation in arts learning and that these barriers are directly linked to historical, persistent and pervasive inequities in our educational system.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS direct the Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, to report back to the Board in writing in 30 days with a process, plan and budgetary needs for producing an updated Los Angeles County Regional Plan for Arts Education.

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