

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

September 10, 2024

Bolstering Arts Education During Arts Education Week and Beyond

In 2002, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors launched the Arts Education Collective in partnership with five school districts to ensure students in every part of Los Angeles County have access to arts education. Since then, under the stewardship of the Department of Arts and Culture, the Collective now boasts membership from 75 out of 80 school districts and five charter school networks countywide.

Through the Arts Education Collective, participating members receive customized coaching to implement and update their unique strategic plans for arts education based on the needs and goals of their schools. Based on data, districts create actionable steps, complete with a budget and timeline, to implement arts education programming with the input of their own local committee and their school sites. Educators and district leaders are also able to access professional development workshops and convenings. Membership in the collective makes way for collaboration and networking between districts and community arts partners to share best practices, tips, and resources. By taking part in the Arts Ed Collective, districts increase the visibility of their successes and help tell the holistic story of arts education in every part of the County.

In addition, the Department of Arts and Culture also offers matching grants to Arts Education Collective member districts through the Advancement Grant Program up to \$25,000 a year. Underwritten by the Funders Council, the grants help recipients expand programming in visual arts, theatre, music, media arts, and dance. In the 2023-24 grants cycle, the Arts Ed Collective distributed \$743,440 in financial support to 33 school districts.

While the Arts Ed Collective has achieved membership from most districts countywide, not all members are accessing the available resources as often as others. This is especially apparent in some districts that serve more students in need. For example, in the Fifth District, Keppel, Los Angeles, Charter Oak, Duarte, Lancaster, Westside, and Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes districts have not received updated strategic planning services since before the COVID-19 pandemic. To stay connected and keep their strategic plans relevant post-pandemic, it's important that the Department of Arts and Culture continues to proactively engage with school districts and actively pursue connectivity with the five remaining school districts who haven't joined yet with an ultimate goal of 100 percent participation.

--- MORE ---

MOTION

SOLIS _____

MITCHELL _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

HORVATH _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

September 10, 2024

Page 2

The Department of Arts and Culture also continues its support of young artists after high school graduation through its Arts Internship Program for college students. Each year, students are assigned to local arts nonprofits, with their salaries fully paid for by the County, to get hands-on experience in the arts and culture sector. Students can explore a variety of arts disciplines and explore jobs in arts education, marketing, production, event planning, fundraising, administration, and more. During the 2023 session, the County allocated \$1.5 million to pay 224 arts interns across 155 nonprofit organizations.

In addition to the work of the Department of Arts and Culture, Los Angeles County's cultural institutions maintain their own arts education programming. The Hollywood Bowl, The Ford, The Music Center, La Plaza de Cultura y Artes, The Natural History Museums (NHM), and Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) all offer initiatives for youth. Every County venue and museum has free admission days and memberships designated for youth and families. Additionally, The L.A. Philharmonic's Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles, LACMA's Arts and Wellness and Fiber Makers' Circle, and The Music Center's Studio: Creative Futures programs all provide hands-on arts instruction for young people. The Music Center's annual Spotlight program celebrates and cultivates young artists across the county, offering coaching from professionals and cash scholarships to students. Multiple institutions also offer off-site programming for youth out in the community, such as LACMA's mobile classrooms and film programs, NHM's mobile museums, and The Music Center's Performing Artists in Schools and Neighborhoods performances and Arts Integration Partnerships. La Plaza also offers trainings for arts educators through their Ethnic Studies Educator Institute and The Music Center offers professional development for teachers.

Residents across Los Angeles County and California have made their investment in arts education clear. In November 2022, voters overwhelmingly passed Proposition 28, the "Arts and Music in Schools Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act," with more than 64 percent of the vote statewide and 70 percent of the vote countywide. The initiative designated nearly \$1 billion for arts education in public schools. The proposition directs one percent of State education funding to the arts, 80 percent of which must go to hiring arts educators. The funding took effect during the 2023-24 school year and school districts have three years to strategize their funding plan. While data collection on the rollout is still in the preliminary stages and most feedback is anecdotal, the California Department of Education should have more concrete input and outcomes at the beginning of 2025. The Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture currently has a landing page with resources for schools navigating the Prop 28 implementation process on their website. The Department also hosts quarterly meetings with both its School District Arts Coordinator Network and its Arts Ed Collective Funders Council and has standing Prop 28 items on both groups' agendas. It's important that Los Angeles County stays engaged in these conversations and lends its support to school districts during the Prop 28 implementation process.

--- MORE ---

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

September 10, 2024

Page 3

On a national scale, arts education continues to be in the spotlight. Through House Resolution 275, Congress has declared National Arts Education Week annually during the second week of September since 2010. Congress' resolution cites that arts education, across all disciplines, is an "essential element of a complete and balanced education for all students" and recognizes that the arts help students "develop critical thinking and problem solving skills, imagination and creativity, discipline, alternative ways to communicate and express ideas, and cross-cultural understanding, which supports academic success across the curriculum as well as personal growth outside the classroom." The resolution also highlights that students who participate in the arts have better grades, higher graduation rates, improved attitudes about school, and a higher likelihood of going to college.

Los Angeles County has illustrated its commitment to arts education thus far. It's important that the County continues to pave the way in the years to come in partnership with school districts, nonprofit organizations, community members, and other levels of government to further strengthen arts education efforts.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Declare September 9 to 13, 2024 as Arts Education Week in Los Angeles County and encourage County departments to share arts education resources on their websites, newsletters, and social media platforms.
2. Direct the Department of Arts and Culture to engage with the school districts that are not yet part of the Arts Education Collective, including La Cañada, Bonita, Bellflower, Long Beach, and El Segundo, to explore joining to access the funding, networking, and coaching opportunities that would become available to them, and to reengage with districts they have not actively connected with in the last few years.
3. Direct the Department of Arts and Culture to lead conversations about Prop 28, the "Arts and Music in Schools Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act," and explore further opportunities to gather data, host convenings, and offer resources to school districts related to the use of Prop 28 funding and report back to the Board in 60 days on potential next steps.
4. Direct the Chief Executive Officer to explore philanthropic funding streams through the Center for Strategic Partnerships to support the arts education programming underway by the Department of Arts and Culture and the County's cultural institutions and nonprofit partners.

#

KB:ges