



arts for all

6th
year review

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
REGIONAL BLUEPRINT
FOR ARTS EDUCATION**

October 2008

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 the child to feel a 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.



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 sixth year, has made great strides.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ARTS FOR ALL RECOGNIZED AS NATIONAL MODEL

Arts for All has become a national model and has been recognized most recently as

- one of only six collaborative arts education efforts in the nation included in a RAND study released in June 2008. *Arts for All* was cited as an outstanding example of “how organizations that pool resources and coordinate activities can make it possible for more children to benefit from arts learning.”
- the focus of the very first Americans for the Arts’ Knowledge Exchange, “District-Wide Change in Arts Education,” October 27-28, 2008 at the Music Center of Los Angeles County, hosting 100 national arts, business, education, and government leaders to explore *Arts for All* through interactive workshops and conversation.

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 objective 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.

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.

Starting in 2003-04 *Arts for All* began inviting districts to participate in the initiative. The California Alliance for Arts Education (CAAE), the lead partner for Goal 1, coaches districts to build a strong infrastructure to sustain quality, sequential arts education including a school board-adopted policy, plan and budget as well as the hiring of a district level arts coordinator and a student to credentialed arts teacher ratio no higher than 400:1. Currently *Arts for All* is working in **31** districts; **19** of which have hired arts coordinators.

Supporting the building of infrastructure in *Arts for All* districts is the Artist-in-Residence program started in 2007. Funds from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Arts Commission, which districts must match, are used to hire artists and arts organizations listed on the County’s online arts education program directory, www.LAArtsEd.org. Arts residencies address key priorities of long range plans, enrich the classroom curricula and help in the student learning process.

GOAL 2

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

Created and managed by the Arts Commission, the lead partner for Goal 2, the **www.LAArtsEd.org** web site continues to be developed as a resource. The site was launched in 2004 with the Arts Education Program Directory comprised of programs that meet the California state standards, the first such resource in the region. The Tools & Resources component (launched 2007), is a searchable library of model documents, including arts education policies and plans. In October 2008, **Designing the Arts Learning Community: A Handbook for K-12 Professional Development Designers** was added to Tools & Resources, offering school districts information and criteria

to help them develop a high-quality professional development program in the arts for all teachers. It also synthesizes promising professional development practices in the field and literature from throughout the nation.

Recognizing the vital role of district level arts coordinators in implementing arts education plans, the Arts Commission and the L.A. County Office of Education started the **Arts Education Leadership Series** in 2007 to give arts coordinators from all 81 districts opportunities in networking, mentoring and professional development.

The Arts Commission, in partnership with the Music Center, the Armory for the Arts and the Culver City Unified School District, began a **Professional Training** program to increase the number of arts organizations and teaching artists offering standards-based programming to area schools. The program was deepened in 2006 to include real classroom experience. Now participating artists observe teaching artists in schools, receive coaching from professional teaching artists, and teach a six-week arts education lesson to a class. To date 420 artists have completed the program.

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.

Advocacy for *Arts for All* is carried out in partnership with Arts for LA, a new nonprofit organization. Following an advocacy plan developed in 2007, Arts for LA tracks and surveys candidates in school board elections. At www.artsforla.org arts advocates can find advocacy tools, the latest arts news and communicate with each other.

Periodically the Arts Commission surveys County school

districts to track their progress in achieving the five critical indicators for an infrastructure to support quality, sequential arts education: an arts education policy, plan, budget, district level arts coordinator and a student to teacher ratio no higher than 400:1. Alameda County recently adopted these five success factors to assess its initiative and is working with *Arts for All* to establish the factors as a statewide standard. In its most recent **Arts Education Performance Indicators (AEPI)** survey *Arts for All* expanded the number of questions to generate more detailed budget information from the districts; the results of that survey will be released in mid-November 2008.

GOAL 4

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

Since 2003, the Arts Commission's Organizational Grant Program guidelines have required applicants to demonstrate how their education program meets the state VAPA standards. Funded arts education programs in schools require matching money from school districts.

Arts for All coaching assistance to school districts is supported by the Arts for All **Pooled Fund**, 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, close to \$2 million has been committed to the fund, matched by \$1.6 million from participating school districts.

Support for *Arts for All* since its inception in 2002, including all contributions, totals nearly \$4 million.

GOAL 1

“It truly changed the way I thought dance should be taught and helped me to see things from an academic point of view. I came into this program as an artist but I finished as a “teaching” artist and I now know the difference.”
—Participant, Professional Artist-in-Residence Training Program

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.

449,345 County students in *Arts for All* districts

The emphasis of *Arts for All* is building the infrastructure in the County’s school districts to support comprehensive, quality arts education based on the California Visual and Performing Arts standards. The five critical success factors of this infrastructure 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.



Artist-in-residence program, Culver City

Starting in 2003-04, the *Arts for All* Executive Committee invited selected school districts to receive multi-year technical assistance, to achieve the critical success factors through coaching provided by the California Alliance for Arts Education, lead partner for Goal 1. Districts pay a fee, based on student population, for the coaching, which is subsidized by the *Arts for All* Pooled Fund. As of fall 2008, **thirty-one districts** are committed to the goals of *Arts for All*. These districts represent 449,345 K-12 public school students (47% of the County public school population minus Los Angeles Unified School District and Lawndale Elementary School District, which have separate initiatives).

More district level arts coordinators

An arts coordinator position at the district level is integral to *Arts for All*’s five-part strategy. Of the **31** current *Arts for All* districts, **19** now have arts coordinators in place. The majority of these positions were a direct result of Pooled Fund support. All these grants are matched by district funds.

Arts for All District Arts Coordinators

Alhambra: Lynn Snowden
Beverly Hills: Dana Berk
Burbank: Peggy Flynn
Castaic: Robn Floyd
Compton: Lanette White
Culver City: Inez Bush
East Whittier: Jan Stone
Glendale: Joan Shoff
Hacienda La Puente: Barbara Ricchio
L.A. County Office of Education: Tina Vartanian
Montebello: Leonard Narumi
Norwalk-La Mirada: Karen Calhoun
Palos Verdes Peninsula: Julie Beckman
Pasadena: Marshall Ayers
Paramount: Julianne Kosareff
Pomona: Vicki Tessier
Rosemead: André Sauvageau
Santa Monica-Malibu: Tom Whaley
Wisburn: Peggy Burt

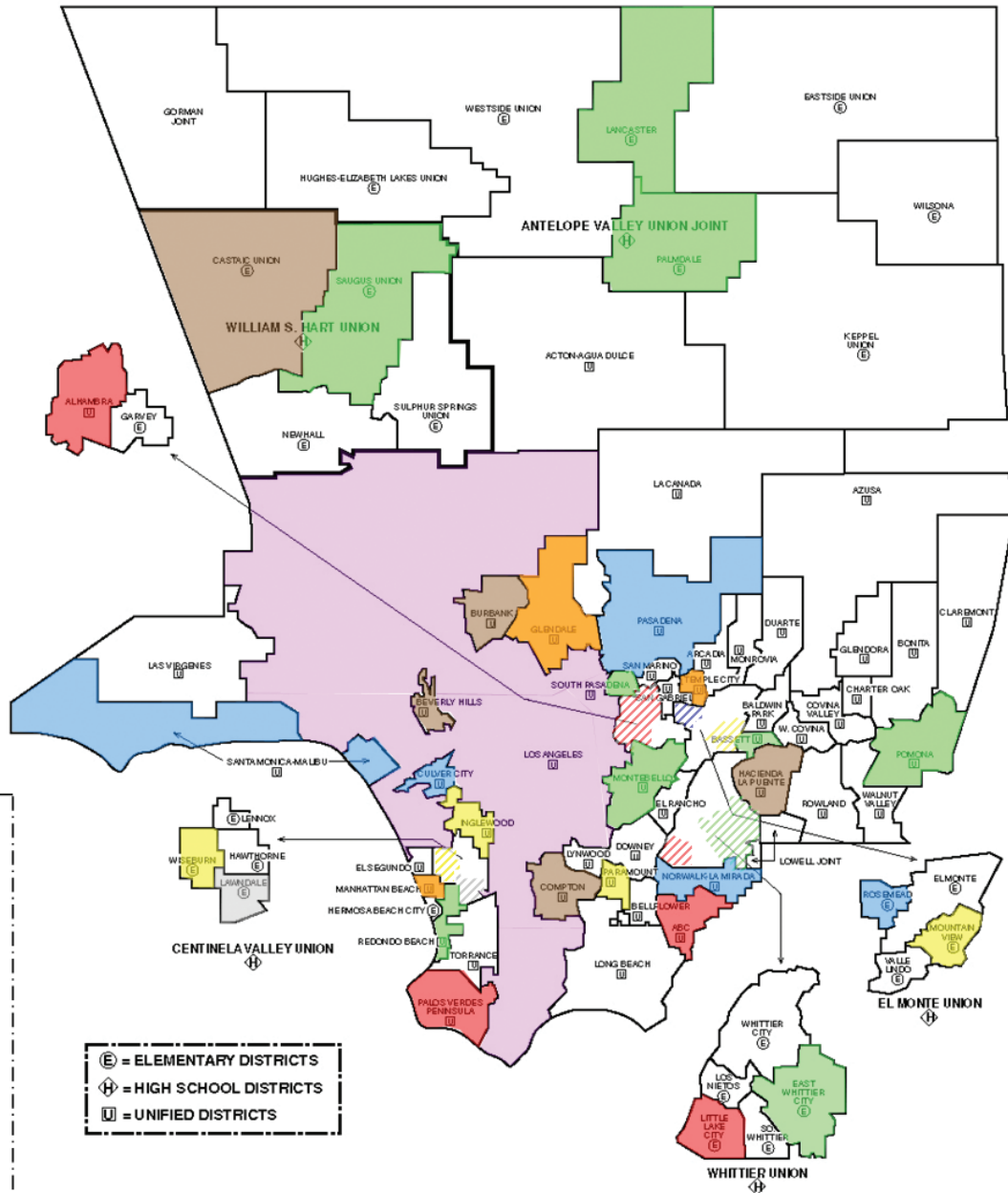
The Arts Education Leadership Series to build capacity of arts coordinators was launched in 2007.
(See Goal 2 for more information)

Artists-in-Residence Program reaches more students

In its second year, the Artists-in-Residence Program (AIR), through which *Arts for All* school districts apply for matching funds to hire artists and arts organizations that are listed on the County’s online arts education directory www.LAArtsEd.org, nearly tripled the number of students reached. The AIR program was created to directly support the priorities of school districts outlined in their long range plans and is managed by the Arts Commission as the lead partner. In the 2007-08 school year, program residencies reached more than 6,063 students in 59 schools (48 of them on the elementary level) in 11 districts, compared to 2,500 students in 31 schools (26 elementary) in 6 districts in the previous school year. In 2007-08, Beverly Hills, Culver City, Paramount and Inglewood joined the AIR districts from the first year — Alhambra, Burbank, Compton, Norwalk, Palos Verdes, Pasadena and the classrooms operated by the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE).

The Artists-in-Residence program in 2007-08 was supported by \$120,000 in grants awarded to the Arts Commission from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Los Angeles County Productivity Investment Fund. The districts must match the funds received one-to-one.

ELEMENTARY, HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIFIED DISTRICTS LOS ANGELES COUNTY



- ARTS FOR ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS**
1. ABC
 2. Alhambra
 3. Basset USD
 4. Beverly Hill
 5. Burbank
 6. Castaic
 7. Compton Unified
 8. Culver City
 9. East Whittier City SD
 10. Glendale
 11. Hacienda LaPuente
 12. Inglewood Unified
 13. LACOE
 14. Lancaster SD
 15. Little Lake
 16. Manhattan Beach
 17. Montebello USD
 18. Mountain View
 19. Norwalk La Mirada
 20. Palmdale SD
 21. Palos Verdes
 22. Paramount
 23. Pasadena
 24. Pomona USD
 25. Redondo Beach USD
 26. Rosemead
 27. Santa Monica Malibu
 28. Saugus Union SD
 29. South Pasadena USD
 30. Temple City
 31. Wiseburn

E = ELEMENTARY DISTRICTS
H = HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICTS
U = UNIFIED DISTRICTS

- ARTS FOR ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS**
- 2003/2004 VANGUARD DISTRICTS
 - 2004/2005
 - 2005/2006
 - 2006/2007
 - 2007/2008 Multi-level districts
 - 2008/2009 Multi-level districts

- ADDITIONAL DISTRICTS PURSUING ARTS EDUCATION REFORM**
- LAUSD—AS OF 2008, IN 8th YEAR OF 10 YEAR PLAN
 - LAWNDALE—AS OF 2008, IN 3rd YEAR OF 5 YEAR PLAN PS ARTS AND THE HERB ALPERT FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

GOAL 2

“(The) session empowered me to stand up for certain issues in my district. It helps to hear from others who have worked against the grain and made progress.”

—Participant, Arts Education Leadership series

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

Professional Development component enhances LAArtsEd.org

In 2004 the Arts Commission launched the first online program directory of arts education providers in the region—www.LAArtsEd.org—funded by Los Angeles County.

The first phase of LAArtsEd.org, the **Arts Education Program Directory**, was created to provide teachers and administrators with one-stop shopping for arts education programs in Los Angeles County that meet the California state content standards for visual and performing arts and have been vetted by a panel of experts. Currently the directory includes 82 providers and 225 programs.

A second component, **Tools & Resources**, was added in 2007. Designed for educators, community stakeholders and policy makers, it is a searchable reference library providing centralized access to 100 tools, including models of arts education policies, plans, and budgets; arts coordinator job descriptions; assessment, evaluation and advocacy tools; arts education curriculum standards; and information on partnerships and curriculum development.



Arts Education Leadership series session

coordinators in departments of education and school districts, and supports the needs of educators, community stakeholders and policy makers. The handbook was developed in partnership with Cultural Initiatives Silicon Valley and the San Francisco Arts Commission, with funding from Boeing Corporation, Flora Family Foundation, Los Angeles County and the Walter and Elise Haas Fund.



Sample page from *Designing the Arts Learning Community* handbook

In October 2008, Tools & Resources was expanded to include **Designing the Arts Learning Community: A Handbook for K-12 Professional Development Designers**. The handbook offers school districts information and criteria to help them develop a high-quality professional development program in the arts for their teachers. *Designing the Arts Learning Community* synthesizes promising practices in the field and literature

regarding professional development and arts education and includes a searchable library of outstanding models across the nation. It is a rich resource for directors of curriculum and arts

Arts Education Leadership Series

An arts coordinator at the district level is an essential part of the arts education infrastructure. In 2007 *Arts for All* launched the Arts Education Leadership Series to

- to build arts coordinators’ capacity to implement district arts education plans, as well as opportunities to learn the skills necessary to strengthen arts education their districts
- create a learning community for arts coordinators to collaborate, strategize, mentor, share and support one another in achieving goals
- receive professional development in key areas

A collaboration of the Arts Commission and the Los Angeles County Office of Education, the four leadership sessions during the 2007-08 school year featured leadership skills, integration of the arts into the school curriculum, impact of state level actions on arts education and strategizing in key areas of plan implementation. Guest speakers provided valuable expertise in these areas.

Arts coordinators are often the only representatives of arts education at the district level. The leadership series provides a much-needed opportunity for peer networking, collaboration,

mentoring, sharing and relationship-building. The sessions welcome arts coordinators from all County districts.

Innovative training for artists in the classroom continues

In 2003 *Arts for All* began a program to increase the number of arts organizations and teaching artists offering standards-based programming to area schools. The program has trained local arts administrators and artists to use their talents in dance, theater, music and the visual arts to incorporate the arts in the core curriculum of school districts. Participants learn the fundamentals of child development, explore effective teaching strategies and 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.

The program was deepened in 2006 to include real world experience and now 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.

To date, 420 artists have completed the program. 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.

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.

Advocacy for *Arts for All* is carried out in partnership with Arts for LA, a new nonprofit organization. Arts for LA is committed to fostering a healthy environment in which arts and culture may thrive and be accessible to all in Los Angeles County. Key goals of the advocacy plan adopted in 2007 are to:

- Develop content and format for arts education advocacy materials
- Deliver advocacy information to the field
- Build an effective communications infrastructure
- Organize and coordinate media efforts
- Develop recognition award opportunities
- Empower existing arts education stakeholders
- Develop and orient coalitions in all L.A. County school districts
- Create alliances among municipal, school district and nonprofit arts organizations

Advocacy activities have moved forward on several fronts:

Tracking School Board Elections

Twenty *Arts for All* school districts held school board elections in October 2007. Arts for LA tracked each election, surveyed candidates about their awareness of school-based arts education and published responses for the press and on its website.

Responses showed many candidates were not aware of their school district's arts education initiatives and requested copies of adopted policies and plans.

Online meeting place

In 2008, Arts for LA, in partnership with *Arts for All*, developed www.artsforla.org featuring advocacy tools, the latest news in the arts field, and the opportunity for groups to create sub-sites for communicating with each other. The site creates an efficient, service-orientated communications infrastructure.

Arts Education Performance Index as a statewide template

Through its Arts Education Performance Index (AEPI) survey, *Arts for All* periodically tracks how all districts in the County, not just those committed to the goals of *Arts for All*, measure up against the five critical success factors for arts education:

- an arts education policy adopted by the school board
- an arts education plan adopted by the school board
- a district level arts coordinator
- an arts education budget of at least 5% of the district's total budget
- a student to credentialed arts teacher ratio no higher than 400:1.

Alameda County Office of Education has adopted these measures to get a picture of an infrastructure for arts education in their region. This is the first step toward the adoption of the AEPI critical success factors as a statewide standard. Currently there are no common standards for assessing an arts education infrastructure across the state.

In its 2008 AEPI survey, *Arts for All* expanded the questions to include the sources of funding that comprise the districts' arts education budgets, how the 2007-08 Arts and Music Block Grant money was allocated, as well as classroom-based arts student enrollment numbers and anticipated credentialed arts staffing needs. The full survey is included below. The results of the 2008 AEPI survey will be released in mid-November.

1. Has your district adopted a K-12 arts education policy (comprised of dance, music, theatre and the visual arts)?
2. If yes, what year was it adopted?
3. Has your district adopted a written plan for implementing arts education?
4. If yes, what year was it adopted?
5. Does your district have an arts coordinator?
6. If yes, is the position full or part-time?
7. How many credentialed arts teachers in each discipline are currently teaching in your district (by discipline)?
8. Looking forward, how many credentialed arts teachers do you anticipate needing to hire in the next five years (by discipline)?
9. How many students are currently enrolled in your district?
10. How many students participate in classes and programs taught by arts specialists (by discipline)?
11. How many elementary school students receive regular, standards-based instruction in visual or performing arts activities during the school day?
12. How many middle school students are enrolled in visual or performing arts courses?
13. How many high school students are enrolled in visual or performing arts courses?
14. How many high school students are enrolled in visual or performing arts classes to fulfill the UC/CSU graduation requirement?
15. In which discipline(s) does your district have arts curricula?
16. Did your district develop the arts curricula internally?

17. If no, which curricula did your district purchase?
18. Approximately what percentage of your district's general budget is allocated for arts education?
19. What is your district's budget for arts education?
20. Approximately what percentage of your district's arts spending is controlled by the district versus local school site decisions?
21. What funding sources make up your arts education budget?
22. How did your district allocate the ongoing funds from the Arts and Music block grant during the 2007/2008 year?
23. Of the 2006-07 Arts, Music and Physical Education One-Time Equipment Grants, how much of and for what purpose(s) did your district allocate for arts education?
24. If you have a policy or plan (as defined in the previous questions), did the block grant or one-time money support the implementation of your district arts education policy and/or plan?

The screenshot shows the Arts for All website interface. At the top, there's a navigation menu with links like HOME, TAKE ACTION, ARTS ED, RESOURCES, MEMBERS, NEWS, ABOUT, FORUM, GROUPS, JOIN, and CONTACT US. The main content area features a forum post titled "Great Strides Are Being Made in Arts Education in Los Angeles" by user "mattzyler". The post discusses LAUSD's efforts to restore sequential arts education in Los Angeles. To the right, there's a user login section with fields for Username and Password, and a "Log in" button. Below the forum post, there are sections for "Forums..." and "In the blog...". The footer contains contact information for Arts for All, including the address, phone number, and website URL.

Arts for LA web site www.artsforla.org

GOAL 4

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

In 2003, the Arts Commission changed its Organizational Grant Program guidelines to include a requirement for arts organizations applying for funding to demonstrate how their education program meets the Visual and Performing Arts Standards for California Public Schools and requires matching funds from school districts for school-based projects.

Arts for All is supported by the Pooled Fund, a committee of funders established in 2004 with a \$500,000 gift from the Entertainment Industry Foundation (EIF) and fostered by the leadership of Sony Pictures Entertainment. The Pooled Fund supports coaching assistance training, key components of districts' plans, and *Arts for All's* centralized administration. Close to \$2 million has been committed, matched by \$1.6 million from participating school districts.

ARTS FOR ALL POOLED FUND

Pooled Fund members for 2007-08 include Boeing, The Angell Foundation, The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, Sony Pictures Entertainment, The Target Corporation, and Warner Bros. Entertainment. 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 Getty Foundation, The Jewish Community Foundation, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation and The Thelma Pearl Howard Foundation.

Pooled Fund members have a strong commitment to *Arts for All* and have increased their support over the years. In some cases members have taken ownership of aspects of *Arts for All*. Warner Bros. Entertainment, for example, spearheaded the creation of the Burbank Arts Education Foundation, a permanent endowment fund to support arts education in the Burbank Unified School District.





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This report can be downloaded at www.lacountyarts.org.