



All the arts for all the students in L.A. County public schools

Learn about:

- Why arts education is important in L.A. County
- How *Arts for All* works
- How you can participate in *Arts for All*

Why arts education is important in L.A. County

***Arts for All* is the County-wide recognition of the importance of arts education to our students, families, communities and economy.**

As we enter the 21st century – the global information age – we must ensure our students are equipped to thrive in an environment that will require them to be able to shift their thinking, and remain open to learning throughout their lives. Flexibility, innovation, improvisation and the ability to communicate across diverse cultures are skills crucial to future success. The arts are the most efficient way to teach those skills

The arts are also central to the 21st century economy, particularly in our region. The creative industries are the second largest industry in Los Angeles County. Across Los Angeles and Orange Counties, they generate \$140 billion in sales and receipts, more than \$5.1 billion in state and local taxes and nearly 1 million in direct and indirect jobs. Contrary to popular perception, these jobs are not “starving artist” positions. Digital media, design, entertainment, fashion and the fine and performing arts figure prominently into the day-to-day economic engine of our County.¹

By working to include and sustain the arts as part of a comprehensive K-12 curriculum, we are not only allowing students to cultivate the crucial skills they will need to function in a 21st century world, we are also ensuring them access to one of the robust and defining economic sectors in Los Angeles County.

Arts for All's 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 of the 81 school districts in Los Angeles County 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: Los Angeles County Regional Blueprint for Arts Education* provides guidance and an outline of how to achieve this vision. It presents a comprehensive series of policy changes, educational initiatives, and establishment of a new infrastructure to promote systemic and balanced provision of the arts, and identifies the roles of key stakeholders.**

Visit www.lacountyarts.org to learn more.

How *Arts for All* works to ensure high quality arts education

Establish a Strong Foundation and Deepen School District Capacity to Implement Arts Education

When arts education is woven into the fabric of school districts, it is difficult to cut when times get tough. By starting with an adopted arts education policy and plan, *Arts for All* helps to combat the last forty years of piecemeal arts instruction and creates a common launch point for arts education to be implemented. School board adopted policies demonstrate commitment and articulate a vision of what arts education should look like, and adopted plans establish a shared road map. The on-going development of district leaders helps them to understand their role in removing barriers to quality arts education.

Improve Quality of Teaching and Learning

When we help build the skills, knowledge, and confidence of the people who provide arts instruction to students, they are able to translate district policies and plans into high quality student learning. Practical tools and partnership opportunities promote the collective responsibility of classroom teachers, arts teachers, and artists to deliver high quality arts education. The on-going development of teachers and artists increases their ability to raise the quality of arts education.

Create and Empower Advocates and Conduct Ongoing Research and Evaluation

When community members are organized, empowered, and informed, they publicly declare their values and beliefs about the importance of the arts to a well rounded education for all students. Engaged parents, civic and community leaders, artists and arts organizations, business leaders, and students build relationships with local education decision makers and are supportive partners for school districts for the delivery of high quality education for all students.

Ensure Sustainable Funding Partnerships for Arts Education

When a small group of funders comes together, big change happens. Funders ensure quality arts education by aligning guidelines with the Visual and Performing Arts Standards. Funders increase student access to the arts by pooling their resources, shifting from funding isolated programs to investing in county-wide collaboration. Funders leverage school district investment in arts education by providing matching grants and seed grants, impacting whole school systems.

¹Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation. *Report on The Creative Economy of the Los Angeles Region*. Los Angeles: Otis College of Art and Design, 2009.

Shared leadership and shared delivery are both necessary to achieve arts education in public schools

SHARED LEADERSHIP

No single agency, organization or interest group alone can ensure high quality arts education for all students.

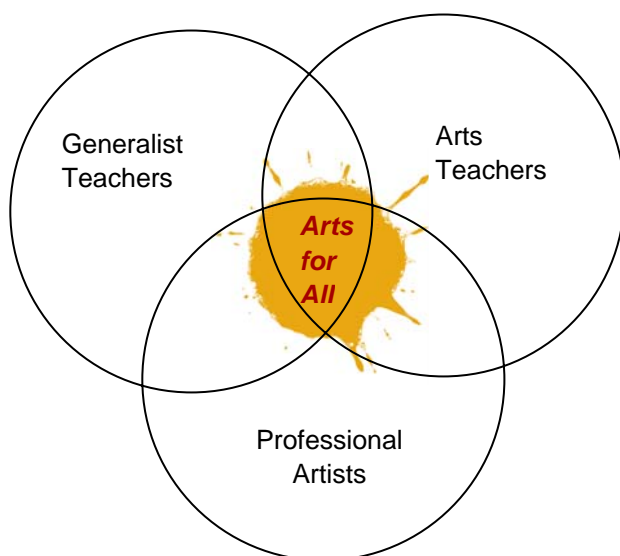
Systemic change can occur only through the cooperative participation of all stakeholders working together in partnership, including:

- policymakers,
- school district leaders and teachers,
- arts community,
- artists,
- advocates,
- funders,
- business leaders,
- parents,
- students, and
- community leaders.

SHARED DELIVERY

All the arts for all the students in L.A. County public schools comes about by

1. integrating the arts into core curriculum through training classroom teachers to utilize the arts to teach reading, math, history, etc.
2. teaching the arts as distinct subjects by credentialed arts teachers
3. bringing professional artists — both contracted through nonprofit arts organizations and independently — into the classroom to provide arts instruction



How you can participate in *Arts for All*

Arts for All is a collaboration embracing more than 100 partners guided by the strategic vision of an executive committee.

Four committees, one for each of the focus areas below, advance strategies to ensure high quality arts education.

1. Establish a Strong Foundation and Deepen School District Capacity to Implement Arts Education
2. Improve Quality of Teaching and Learning
3. Create and Empower Advocates and Conduct Ongoing Research and Evaluation
4. Ensure Sustainable Funding Partnerships for Arts Education

Working groups within each committee focus on specific projects.

To become an active member of *Arts for All* activities, please visit www.lacountyarts.org, click on “Arts Education: Arts for All,” then download and complete the shared leadership committee nomination form.

You can also obtain additional information on *Arts for All* by calling the Los Angeles County Arts Commission at 213.202.5858 or emailing artsforall@arts.lacounty.gov.

