



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Contacts: Ann Bradley, Communications Consultant
323 660-1376 ann.bradley@sbcglobal.net

Linda Chiavaroli, Director of Communications
323 871-4554 lchiavaroli@lacountyarts.org

Lisa Bloom, Coordinator of Extended Learning, Castaic Union School District
661 257-4500 x538 bloom@castaic.k12.ca.us

Castaic Union School District is 10th to adopt Arts Education plan

The Board of Trustees of Castaic Union School District has approved and adopted a comprehensive arts education plan to give its 3,586 students attending three elementary schools and one middle school comprehensive, sequential K-12 arts education based on California's Visual and Performing Arts Standards. The board voted to adopt the plan at its **Thursday, March 9, 2006** meeting. A district-wide committee of administrators, teachers, parents and community members has been working on the plan since fall 2004.

Eight other county school districts and the Los Angeles County Office of Education have adopted plans to restore comprehensive arts education to the general curriculum since the County Board of Supervisors launched *Arts for All: Los Angeles County Regional Blueprint for Arts Education* in 2002. Arts for All is a 10-year strategic initiative to restore comprehensive sequential K-12th grade arts education at all 80 public school districts.

Castaic Superintendent **Beverly Silsbee** praised the committee for its commitment and diligence and the board for adopting the plan. "This was a joint effort of educators, parents, the board and our community to ensure an arts program to serve students. The dedication demonstrated by the arts education committee merited the confidence of our board. We are grateful to Arts for All for getting us involved and look forward to restoring comprehensive arts education for our students."

Through Arts for All, districts are guided through a strategic process to develop a permanent arts education infrastructure based on five essential foundation stones:

1. Arts education policy approved by the district Board of Education
2. Arts education implementation plan with a time line approved by the district Board of Education
3. A district-wide arts education coordinator to oversee and guide arts education implementation
4. 5% of the district's general fund spent on arts education (typically credentialed arts teacher salaries)
5. A ratio of at least one credentialed arts teacher to every 400 students

To help districts achieve these five elements, Arts for All places arts education coaches at districts to work with administrators, teachers, community leaders and board members to develop district-specific plans.

Eight other districts participated in Arts for All and adopted policies and plans: Beverly Hills, Burbank, Compton, Culver City, Norwalk-La Mirada, Pasadena, Rosemead and Santa Monica-Malibu, as well as the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE). Hacienda La Puente USD is reviewing its plan and five more districts – ABC, Alhambra, Inglewood, Little Lake City and Palos Verdes – began the Arts for All process last fall. Lawndale School District began a process to restore arts education in fall 2005 in partnership with P.S. Arts with support from the Herb Alpert Foundation.

Los Angeles County educates 1.7 million students, 34% of whom are English language learners. Arts education was slashed when California voters passed 1978's Prop 13 to reduce local property taxes. Since then, arts education has been irregular, even at the same school. Los Angeles Unified School District that educates 727,117 students is mid-way through a 10-year effort to restore arts education to all students.

Coaching in the districts is supported by the Arts for All Pooled Fund launched in February 2004 with a \$500,000 gift from the Entertainment Industry Foundation. The Fund also includes Creative Artists Agency, The Getty Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, Jewish Community Foundation, JPMorgan Chase Foundation, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Thelma Pearl Howard Foundation and Warner Bros. Entertainment. Boeing, The Dana Foundation, Los Angeles County Arts Commission, Target Corporation and Herb Alpert Foundation support specific Arts for All initiatives and are also members of the pooled fund.

ARTS FOR ALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Carlos Barron, *Immediate Past President, Los Angeles County Arts Commission*
Janice Pober, *Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Sony Pictures Entertainment*
Dr. Darline P. Robles, *Superintendent, Los Angeles County Schools*
Rita Hadjimanoukian, *Deputy, Supervisor Michael Antonovich*
Laurie Schell, *Executive Director, California Alliance for Arts Education*
Dr. Carl Selkin, *Dean, College of Arts and Letters, California State University, Los Angeles*
Mark Slavkin, *Vice President of Education, Music Center*
Gail Tierney, *Senior Deputy, Supervisor Don Knabe*
Laura Zucker, *Executive Director, Los Angeles County Arts Commission*

The **Los Angeles County Arts Commission**, Laura Zucker, Executive Director, provides leadership in cultural services of all disciplines for the largest county in the United States, encompassing 88 municipalities. The Arts Commission provides leadership and staffing to support the regional blueprint for arts education, *Arts for All*; administers a grants program that funds more than 250 nonprofit arts organizations annually; oversees the County's Civic Art Program for capital projects, funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Foundation, programs the John Anson Ford Theatres and supports the Los Angeles County Cultural Calendar on ExperienceLA.com. 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 60 free concerts each year in public sites. The 2005-06 President of the Arts Commission is Hope Warschaw.