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Turning Student Dreams into Creative Careers

Creative Professionals Share Insight into “A Day in the Life” as part of Student Voices Summit

March 30, 2017 – Los Angeles - This year’s **Student Voices Summit & Screening**, the culmination event for a year-long campaign engaging middle and high school students in filmmaking, advocacy and leadership in their local school district will feature an opportunity for students to gain insight into how their creative pursuits can lead to creative careers. An inspiring panel of professionals will share their stories and then meet with students for more personal conversations and questions. Featured on the “A Day in the Life” panel will be representatives from the world of film, TV, music and fashion with professionals from Dreamworks, Boeing and General Motors.

In Los Angeles alone, creative industry fields produced more than 418,000 jobs from 2009 to 2015. Research also points to the fact that K-12 participation in media, architecture and product design classes is growing. Our Creative Career Mentors will share their stories and offer students insight into what made a vital difference in their success. The goal is to introduce young people to a variety of creative careers, to give them strategies to pursue them and to allow them to see themselves in these roles. The team of professionals features people of color, women and others who are underrepresented in this field.

The “Day in the Life” panel will be moderated by **Priska Neely**, Arts Education Reporter, 89.3 KPCC, Southern California Public Radio. Sharing insight into what they do and how they got there are **Elizabeth Frances**, Actress; **Philip June**, Senior Manager, Boeing Commercial Airplanes; **Patricia Villetto**, Dreamworks: Writer, Director & Actor; **Chelsey Semidey**, General Motors; **Ramona Alcantara**, Fashion; and **Amilcar Welton**, Digital Music Production. (Bios below)

Additional workshops throughout the day will focus on animation, filmmaking, zine-making and advocacy.

The **Student Voices Summit & Screening** is the culminating event for the 2016 Student Voices Campaign, which empowers students to make their voices heard in their local school district. Students take part in a video advocacy campaign that offers them a real-world opportunity to author content, communicate creatively and practice civic engagement.

The Student Voices Campaign

In California, students are guaranteed a voice in planning and budgeting for their school district. The

Local Control Funding Formula, or LCFF, requires that districts consult with students, parents, teachers and community members each spring to create an official plan for the coming years. The Student Voices Campaign is a creative way for young people to make their voices heard in their local school districts. Students in grades 7-12 are invited to create videos that show what inspires their creativity, imagination and passion, and share them with their local school board by April 1, 2017.

Over 100 students from all over the state will be in attendance at this free event which provides young people with opportunities to practice civic engagement and the creative process. The event will also introduce young people to a variety of creative careers, empower them to see themselves in these roles and give them strategies to pursue them.

The Student Voices Summit and Screening is presented with support from The Boeing Company, California Arts Council, California Film Commission, Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation, Rosenthal Family Foundation, Sony Pictures Entertainment and Stuart Foundation.

Media are invited to attend. Finalists will be announced on April 10, 2017.

What: Student Voices Summit and Screening

When: Saturday, April 29, 2017

Where: Plaza de la Raza, Cultural Center for the Arts & Education
3540 North Mission Road, East Los Angeles, CA 90031

Hosts: [California Alliance for Arts Education](#), [Arts for LA](#), [Arts for All](#), [CalArts Community Arts Partnership](#), and [Plaza de la Raza](#)

Who: Students grades 7-12, their teachers, teaching artists, parents and friends from across California and especially Los Angeles

Online: <http://studentvoicescampaign.org/>

Social: #CAStudentVoices @artsed411



Elizabeth Frances, Actress

The daughter of a marine corps father, she was born on a military base in Okinawa, Japan. Frances' family settled in San Diego, where she began doing local theatre at a young age. After receiving her degree from Cal Arts, she began her professional career both regionally and in Los Angeles, working with such notable theaters as Center Theater Group, La Jolla Playhouse, Los Angeles Theatre Center, Shakespeare Santa Cruz, Native Voices, and the Kirk Douglas Theatre. After being selected for ABC Networks' talent showcase, Frances starred in *Drunktown's Finest*, which was produced by Robert Redford and premiered at Sundance Film Festival. She has also appeared in the Emmy®-nominated series *Her Story*, in NBC's *Heartbeat*, as Lilly on Netflix's *Love* from producer Judd Apatow, and *Prairie Flower* on AMC's *The Son*

starring Pierce Brosnan.



Philip June, Senior Manager, Twin Aisle Airframe Engineering Customer Support, Commercial Aviation Services, Boeing Commercial Airplanes

Philip attended the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. Following graduation Philip was hired by Boeing in Philadelphia and worked as a structures analyst on various programs and platforms including the CH-47 Chinook and Space Shuttle. Philip is currently structures senior engineering manager in Customer Support Engineering responsible for Twin Aisle airplanes including the 747, 767, 777 and Heritage airframes.



Chelsey Semidey, Lead Digital Sculpture, General Motors

Chelsey has worked for General Motors for nearly 10 years. After a couple years working on production car interiors in Michigan, she transferred to the North Hollywood Advanced Design studio, here in Los Angeles where she is currently a Lead Digital Sculptor. Her recent projects include concept show cars and advanced vehicles unseen by the public.



Priska Neely, Arts Education Reporter, 89.3 KPCC, Southern California Public Radio, Moderator

Priska reports on education in music, dance, performing and visual arts, as well as community arts programs. She examines innovation, equity and integration in arts education and strives to include the voices of children in every story she tells. Her stories appear on Southern California Public Radio — KPCC 89.3 and online at KPCC.org.



Patricia Viletto, Writer, Director & Actor: Panelist

Patricia has worked at DreamWorksTV since 2015 on the animation shows *Swamp Talk with Shrek and Donkey*, *Po and Mei Mei*, *King Julien's Stand Up*, and *Puss In Boots*. She was head writer for DreamworksTV's sketch show, *OMG* and currently writes for *Goldie Blox: Toy Hackers*. You can see her regularly as a writer/performer at Second City Hollywood, iO west, and The Nerdist. She graduated from the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland, where she studied acting and playwriting.



*The **California Alliance for Arts Education** advocates for high quality arts education for all students by providing policy expertise and by mobilizing a statewide network of advocates and allied partners. The Alliance is in its*

fifth decade of working to build a brighter future for our state by making the arts a core part of every child's education. A statewide leader and convener, the Alliance galvanizes California's educators and other experts in arts and culture to increase access to quality arts education and improve the quality of arts education. <http://artsed411.org>



*The **California Alliance for Arts Education's Arts Now California** campaign spotlights opportunities for schools, districts, and counties around the state to establish and advance creative education. **The campaign celebrates districts taking a leadership role in prioritizing arts education and encourages other districts to prioritize arts education.** Recent Summits in San Diego, Humboldt and Napa have provided*

guidance, expertise, and inspiration to those working in the field.

***CalArts Community Arts Partnership (CAP)** is in its 27th year providing tuition-free, imaginative, in-depth programs in the visual, performing, literary, and media arts for youth ages 6-18 at dozens of locations throughout Los Angeles County. CAP is a partnership between California Institute of the Arts and community-based arts and youth organizations, public schools, and social service agencies, and is committed to sustaining long-term, mutually beneficial relationships with many communities. CAP also provides professional development for classroom teachers in arts integration. CAP translates the innovative curriculum and pedagogy to young artists through project-based and student-centered teaching and learning, and trains over 200 CalArts students as instructors each year. www.calarts.edu/cap*

***Arts for All** is the Los Angeles County initiative dedicated to making the arts core in K-12 public education. Established in 2002 by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Arts for All is a partnership between the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and the Los Angeles County Office of Education. Arts for All currently works with 65 of 81 Los Angeles County school districts, plus four new charter networks, to implement policies and plans that support high quality arts education for the 1.5 million public school students in the County. www.lacountyartsforall.org*

***Plaza de la Raza** - Founded in 1970, Plaza de la Raza Cultural is a private nonprofit community arts venue that provides after-school arts education programs to 4,100 children, teens and adults each year. Our mission is to foster enrichment of all cultures bridging the geographic, social, artistic and cultural boundaries of Los Angeles and beyond. Our School of Performing & Visual Arts offers 450+ classes and workshops each year, taught by local teaching artists in beginning to advanced level dance, music,*

theater and the visual arts. In addition, the center attracts more than 25,000 visitors each year with free or low cost cultural programs, and manages almost 300 community volunteers. www.plazadelaraza.org.

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