

November 19, 2012

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the California Alliance for Arts Education I want to thank you for the leadership you demonstrated, leading to the passage of Proposition 30. This was the first time the Alliance has endorsed a ballot initiative, and the forty organizations represented on our policy councils were engaged in supporting the measure throughout the state. We recognized that this was a moment when our shared commitment to arts education needed to be seen within the broader context of education funding. We share your sense of accomplishment, along with the people of California, who have expressed their commitment to our schools and the education our children receive.

At the same time that we celebrate this victory, we recognize the road we've been on for the past decades, in which arts education has steadily been disappearing from our schools, with particular impact on our neediest schools. We understand that one ballot measure cannot reverse that trend. Our hope is that we can begin build upon this moment, as we look ahead with a renewed sense of the learning opportunities the arts offer across the curriculum, both through instruction in the discreet subjects of dance, music, theater and visual arts, as well as through arts integration, career technical education, and other aspects of a comprehensive educational system.

We look forward to working with you and would like to raise two critical policy questions:

How can we modify the framework for school accountability to encourage, not undermine, expansion of access to learning in and through the arts?

Should the state move away from categorical funding programs, what financial incentives will be offered to encourage that visual and performing arts will flourish in all districts and be an integral part of each district's educational experience?

Again, our congratulations and best wishes. We hope to collaborate with you to ensure that every child in California receives the benefits of quality visual and performing arts education.

Sincerely,



Joe Landon

Executive Director