



June 12, 2018

California State Legislature
 State Capitol Building
 Sacramento, CA 95829

Re: SB 840 (Mitchell) Budget Act of 2018 (As Amended June 10, 2018) – SUPPORT for Item 6100-134-0890, Provision 10, \$44,080,000 on a One-Time Basis for Grants Prioritized for 1) Enhancing Visual and Performing Arts Education

Dear California Legislator:

We support a \$44 million one-time budget appropriation included in SB 840 Budget Act of 2018 (As Amended June 10, 2018), Item 6100-134-0890, Provision 10, to support the “Arts for Every Student Act” (SB 933), which will provide California school districts with a “jump start” in arts education funding.

The vision for this request and program is found in Senator Ben Allen's Senate Bill 933 (Amended May 25, 2018) which has passed the Senate and is currently moving through the Assembly.

The California Education Code states that every K-12 student shall receive instruction in and access to arts education. Yet the California Arts Education Data Project concludes that only 39% of students in California public schools participate in the arts, and that access is significantly lower in low-income and rural schools. We know the arts prepare our youth to enter the workforce by fostering skills that include innovation, persistence and collaboration. In addition, the creative industries account for one out of every ten jobs in California and provide \$273 billion annually to our state's economy.

Access to arts education instruction should not be determined by where a student happens to live. But the data shows otherwise: in districts and schools in low-income communities, students are twice as likely not to receive the benefits of arts instruction when compared to more affluent communities. This inequity is unacceptable, and we strongly support this budget provision.



Joe Landon
Executive Director
CA Alliance for Arts Education



Colleen Andrews
Director of Arts Education
Angels Gate Cultural Center

Benjie Cushions

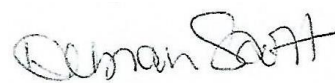
Benjie Cushions
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Art & Soul Music School

Julia E. Collins

Julia E. Collins
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Malissa Shriver
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Travis Clarke

Travis Clarke
Administrative Director
Young Imaginations

Patrick Martin

Patrick Martin
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**West Contra Costa Unified School District,
Visual and Performing Arts Department**

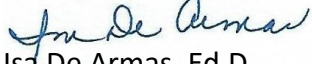
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Santa Barbara Unified School District

cc: Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Ms. Katie Hardeman, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Ms. Ellen Cesaretti, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
Ms. Elisa Wynne, Consultant, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Ms. Cheryl Black, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Ms. Camille Wagner, Legislative Affairs Secretary, Governor's Office
Mr. Jeff Bell, Consultant, Department of Finance