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PRESS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alliance for Arts Education Unites Local Leaders

(Huntington Beach, CA) – A group of Huntington Beach civic and business leaders, parents, educators, and representatives of local arts organizations have been invited to a special meeting February 18, 2010, 7:30-9:30 a.m. to discuss the state of arts education in Huntington Beach schools and what it means to the community. The meeting is organized by the California Alliance for Arts Education, and spearheaded by Cathy Green, Mayor, City of Huntington Beach, Steve Bone, President/CEO, Huntington Beach Marketing and Visitor Bureau and Ralph Bauer, Ph.D, Bauer Investments.

The purpose of the gathering is to activate a core group of local leaders committed to the principle that arts education is an essential component of a quality education. Recent cuts to education, have created disparities in access to arts education in schools throughout the state.

In the midst of California's current budget crisis and the consequences for public education, the Alliance is focused on ensuring that every child receives a complete education that includes instruction in the arts.

"We know that the arts foster the creativity, collaboration and problem-solving skills that kids will need to succeed," says parent and local organizer, Laurie Pechulis, "I want to make sure that arts education remains a valued part of education here, for my kids and all students."

The community organizing effort in Huntington Beach is part of a large initiative by the California Alliance for Arts Education to build support for arts education throughout the state. At the event, the Alliance will present evidence of the benefits students draw from arts education, including better school attendance, overall improvement in performance in all academic disciplines, lower dropout rates, and the development of skills such as critical thinking, flexibility and innovation required for future economic success.

"We know the arts are fundamental to a well-rounded education and help students develop vital 21st century workforce skills that will serve them for decades to come," says Laurie Schell, Executive Director of the California Alliance for Arts Education.

Press interested in attending, contact: Sibyl O'Malley 213.713.6885