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PRESS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alliance for Arts Education Unites Local Leaders

(Anaheim CA) – A group of Orange County civic leaders, educators, and businesspeople have been invited to a special meeting Friday February 19, 2010 7:30-9:30 a.m. to discuss the state of arts education and what it means to the community. The meeting is organized by the California Alliance for Arts Education, and spear headed by Jose Solorio, State Assemblyman, 69th District and Brian O'Neal, President, Board of Trustees, Anaheim School District.

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.

Michael Buss, organizer for the local Anaheim Alliance for Arts Education, says, "We have a message to share: The arts are an essential part of providing a quality education for our students and building a vibrant community that attracts business and jobs."

The community organizing effort in Orange County 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 at 213.713.6885.