

createCA

California's Statewide
Arts Education Coalition



May 5, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor
State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

As a coalition of arts, education and entertainment industry organizations and leaders, we the undersigned are grateful to you for your steady leadership during this unprecedented time, and we are committed to supporting your administration and your Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery in navigating how best to invigorate California's economic recovery.

California's creative economy generates 2.7 million jobs. If we do not provide students access to arts education, we sideline millions of young people soon to enter the workforce and endanger the future of the world's fifth-largest economy.

Research consistently shows that the arts play an integral part in the economic vitality of California and, equally important, in the health and well-being of children. In particular, students are experiencing everything from obstacles to learning, increased homelessness, food shortages and increased mental health challenges as a result of this pandemic. **Our students, communities and economy need to heal, and arts education is necessary to the solution.**

We know the economic devastation caused by COVID-19 will translate into hard decisions for the state of California and its schools. The crisis has also made even more apparent the serious inequities faced by many of our student populations. In addition to closing the digital divide, we

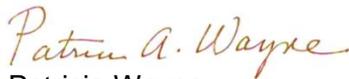
have an important moment in time to bridge other glaring gaps as well, including the gap between those who have little or no access to the arts and those who do. Whether through virtual or physical classrooms, providing a comprehensive arts education is vital to both the academic and overall success of our students and critical support for our teachers and education leaders.

Multiple research studies show **arts education not only decreases feelings of anxiety, depression, and isolation, but also positively impacts all-around academic performance.** Students with an arts education are:

- 5 times more likely to stay in school,
- 3 times more likely to get a bachelor's degree, and
- 4 times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement.

At this moment, we are focused more than ever on the health and well-being of our state and all of its citizens. As a collective of organizations and leaders committed to arts education, we stand together to offer our support to you, your staff and the Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery. California's economy and the wellbeing of our students depend on our state's ability to offer a comprehensive arts education to every student.

Sincerely,



Patricia Wayne
Project Director
Create CA

California Alliance for Arts Education
California Department of Education
Services Association
California State PTA
California Arts Council



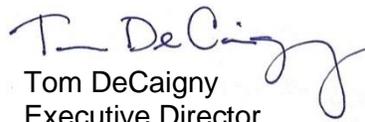
Meg Spriggs
Board Chair
ArtCare, Friends of the San Francisco
Art Commission



Gustavo Herrera
Executive Director
Arts for LA



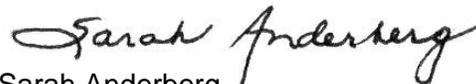
Meryl Goldberg, Professor
Director of ART=OPPORTUNITY at
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California Art Education Association



Sarah Anderberg
Director, CCSESA Statewide Arts Initiative
California County Superintendents
Educational Services Association



Kim Hoj
Co-President
California Dance Education Association



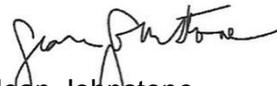
Michael J. Despars
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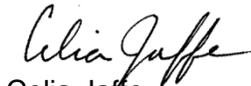
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President
California Music Educators Association



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Teaching Artists Guild



Celia Jaffe
President
California PTA



Tiffany Siart
Executive Director
Turnaround Arts:CA

cc: Mr. Tom Steyer, Co-Chair, Governor's Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery
Ms. Anne O'Leary, Co-Chair, Governor's Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery
Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Assemblymember Marie Waldron, Assembly Minority Leader
Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins
Senator Shannon Grove, Senate Minority Leader
Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis
Assembly Education Committee, Chair and Members
Senate Education Committee, Chair and Members
Joint Committee on the Arts, Chair and Members
Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond