



PRESS RELEASE

Contact:
Patricia Wayne
Deputy Director
Arts Orange County
714-556-5160, ext. 12
pwayne@artsoc.org



The Orange County Arts Education Collaborative Fund Awards \$66,000 to Eight School Districts

(Santa Ana, Calif. – April 6, 2012) – The Orange County Arts Education Collaborative Fund—a collaboration between the Orange County Community Foundation and Arts Orange County—recently presented grants totaling \$66,000 to 8 Orange County School Districts. Grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000 were made possible by funding from The Boeing Company and the Orange County Community Foundation.

The primary purpose of the Orange County Arts Education Collaborative Fund is to support Orange County school districts that have adopted a formal arts education plan for implementation, are a member of Orange County Department of Education's **Arts Advantage program** and have the support of their community through an active Local Arts Network (LAN) education alliance.

An arts education plan is defined as one that addresses the areas of standards-based, sequential curriculum for all grade levels, professional development for teachers, district leadership and coordination, materials, facilities, and community partnerships. "Learning in the arts has taken on increased importance as arts education is widely believed to be key in developing 21st century work skills and creative thinking", said Sarah Murr, community investor for Boeing. "Collaborative funds of this nature assist districts in addressing creativity and innovation through arts education, and ultimately benefit our community and companies like Boeing by developing a creative workforce".

Grant recipients included:

- Anaheim Union High School District
- Huntington Beach City School District
- Irvine Unified School District
- Newport-Mesa Unified School District
- Oceanview School District
- Saddleback Unified School District
- Santa Ana Unified School District
- Westminster School District

All grants were approved by the Board of Directors of the Orange County Community Foundation on March 27, 2012. Any business or individual who would like more information about how to participate in the fund can contact, Pat Wayne at pwayne@artsoc.org or 714-556-5160.

About Arts Advantage

A program of the Orange County Department of Education, this initiative provides leadership, resources and advocacy so that a comprehensive, sequential, standards-based arts education that includes dance, music, theatre and visual arts is available to all students. For more information, contact Jim Thomas, Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator, OCDE, jthomas@ocde.us or 714-966-4128.

About the Local Arts Networks (LANS)

The California Alliance for Arts Education is in its fourth decade of working to build a brighter future for our state by making the arts a core part of every child's quality education. By collaborating effectively with the state's leading education and parent engagement agencies and providing an anchor for policy expertise at the state and local levels, the Alliance is the leader in promoting the arts in schools and enriching the lives of children, families and communities. There are now thirteen Local Arts Alliances in Orange County with the purpose of building public understanding and support for the critical role of arts education in the development of every student. For more information on these alliances, go to www.sparkoc.com/alliances or contact Pat Wayne at pwayne@artsoc.org.

About the Orange County Community Foundation

Founded in 1989, the mission of the Orange County Community Foundation is to encourage, support and facilitate philanthropy in Orange County. OCCF works with donors, strengthens the capacity of local nonprofit organizations, and incubates new solutions that address our community's unmet needs. The foundation has granted more than \$150 million since its inception. For more information, visit www.oc-cf.org or call 949.553.4202.

About Arts Orange County

Founded in 1995, Arts Orange County is the leader in building appreciation, participation and support for the arts and arts education throughout Orange County, producing the annual Imagination Celebration and Orange County Arts Awards, and serving as the official local arts agency of the County of Orange and state-local partner of the California Arts Council. For more information, visit www.artsoc.com.

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About The Boeing Company

The Boeing Company is the world's leading aerospace company and the largest manufacturer of commercial jetliners and military aircraft. With customers in more than 90 countries, Boeing is a leading global corporate citizen driving positive change in communities around the world through its community engagement and employee volunteers' efforts. For more information, visit <http://www.boeing.com>.

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