



### **Context**

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) has become a national leader in restoring arts education, a critical component to a complete public education. For the past ten years, LAUSD has invested in expanding arts learning for all students as part of the core curriculum including, recruiting, training, and supporting arts specialists in music, dance, theatre, and visual arts. In addition to direct arts instruction for students, the District has provided essential professional development for classroom teachers and served as a critical lineage to the wonderful community arts resources in Los Angeles. The School Board has been steadfast and unanimous in sustaining these important efforts.

California's fiscal crisis continues to impact school districts throughout the state. Facing a 500-million dollar deficit, LAUSD has proposed to eliminate 50% of Elementary Arts Teachers, or 173 of 345 teachers, for the 2010-2011 school year, which amounts to approximately 3% of the deficit.

If arts teachers are lost, students will be denied access to a comprehensive education. It could take decades to rebuild this essential instructional foundation.

### **Arts Education**

The purpose of public education is to equip students, regardless of socio-economic status, with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in society.

Known as the Creative Capital of the United States, one-in-six jobs in Los Angeles is directly related to the creative industry.

This industry requires a creative workforce that has the capacity for strategic thinking, emotional intelligence and social interaction and collaboration to function. Arts education provides these critical skills, preparing our students for success in work, in life and in our society.

The future prosperity of our region requires a workforce capable to fulfilling the demands of our creative industries.

Arts education is a critical component to a complete education.

### **Advocacy Effort**

Arts for LA is enlisting business, civic and creative leaders to voice support of arts education in LAUSD, the second largest school district in the nation. The goal of the campaign is to win board support to maintain the integrity of LAUSD's Arts Education program by retaining its elementary arts teachers at the current 2010 level.

Coalition members are invited to endorse the campaign (complete the form below), author an op ed letter, recruit additional leadership, participate in media events and attend meetings with school board members and District leadership.

### Endorsement

Recognizing the importance of arts education as a critical component to a complete education, I/we give Arts for LA permission to use our name as an endorser of the campaign to retain the integrity of LAUSD’s arts education program by retaining specialized arts teachers at the 2010 level.

Name (as you would like it to appear)
Website
Statement (25-50 word statement if applicable)

### Leadership

_____	_____	_____
First Name	Last Name	Title
_____	_____	_____
Phone	Email	Twitter

### Staff

_____	_____	_____
First Name	Last Name	Title
_____	_____	_____
Phone	Email	Twitter

### Special Instructions

--

### Timeline *(Subject to change)*

January - Committee Hearings  
February - State Projections  
March - Budget Revisions

April - Final Budget Proposal  
May - Board Hearings  
June - Budget Ratified

Please select activities in which your business/organization is interested in engaging.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Op Ed                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Open Letter          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting with School Board member | <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership Coalition |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Media Event                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____          |

Click the mouse to submit this form via email, along with your company/organizational logo to Camille Schenkkan, Development and Operations Manager: [Advocate@ArtsForLA.org](mailto:Advocate@ArtsForLA.org), or fax to (213) 225-7581.