

Los Angeles County

Arts education in Los Angeles County is robust and reflective of our diverse 1.3 million students. The arts have been such a necessary part of a whole-child education in promoting the social, emotional, and mental health of our students and educators.

- **Debra Duardo, Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools**



Los Angeles County Office of Education ■ Contact: Jeannine Flores, Flores_Jeannine@lacoed.edu

The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) provides leadership and support for quality arts programs in 80 school districts serving 1.3 million students within the county. Our work in providing classroom strategies, professional development, and an infusion of innovative arts programs, has created a new level of engagement and creativity among teachers, administrators, and staff throughout LACOE's massive county educational system. Since 2020, we have looked to the arts to support student well-being, mental health, and engagement in creative and meaningful ways. The Arts and Music in Schools Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act has given districts needed resources to implement programs, and LACOE has been a lead support in systems change.

LEVERAGING THE POWER OF THE ARTS FOR STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS

A creative Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education (AWARE) grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is the newest federal grant awarded to LACOE's Center

for Distance and Online Learning (CDOL). The project will build on existing CDOL programs and Technology Enhanced Arts Learning (TEAL) that integrates social and emotional learning (SEL) and Suicide Prevention Ongoing Resiliency Training (SPORT). These are culturally/linguistically relevant arts, media arts, and content strategies for English Learners. SPORT provides training, support, and resources to implement a sustainable system to deliver culturally inclusive suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention to teachers, administrators, and school-based mental health support staff. In tandem, the AWARE grant will help districts and their schools create sustainable mental health and suicide prevention programs to support all students, and stem the tide of major increase in behaviors leading to suicide, especially among high-risk youth.

LACOE's CDOL in the Division of Curriculum and Instructional Services received a Learning Communities for School Success Program grant to support the Promising Learners Project (PLP). PLP provides school and district staff training that significantly



increases pupil engagement, improves school climate, expands evidence-based, non-punitive practices, and establishes partnerships with community-based organizations. This three-year grant supports four local school districts in creating positive learning experiences through a multi-tiered system of support using SEL and the arts at a total of 18 school sites and grade TK-6 classrooms. This grant focuses on supporting youth in foster care and youth that are homeless, and assists in creating systems of support through engaging environments.

The Engaging California English Learners through the Arts (ECELA) project is a federal grant awarded by the Office of English Language Acquisition to LACOE's CDOL and Multilingual Academic Support

units. The ECELA project provides research and evidence-based professional development and family literacy programs that integrate arts in the content areas with strategies that increase literacy for English learners and support social emotional learning. ECELA will provide professional development to support improvement in classroom instruction for English learners. In addition, this project creates greater equity and inclusion for English learners to participate in the arts aligned with the California English Learner Roadmap, CA Standards for English Language Arts and English Language Development.



LACOE hosted two Proposition 28 Planning Bootcamps to support systems change in response to the passing of the Arts and Music in Schools Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act. Co-hosted by LACOE's CDOL and Create CA, districts were led through a process of action planning based on their respective visions, assets and challenges, and measurable next steps. An Arts Education Funding Community of Practice (CoP) developed out of the bootcamps and will nurture school district arts program implementation through a lens of equity and access. The CoP is led by LACOE with support from the LA Department of Arts and Culture, the Greater LA Education Foundation, and Create CA.



HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS, LACOE AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMS, AND COMPETITIONS

The Los Angeles County High School for the Arts (LACHSA), run by LACOE in partnership with California State University, Los Angeles, sits proudly on the university campus, and offers a tuition-free specialized program combining college-preparatory academic instruction and conservatory-style training in the visual and performing arts. Recognized as one of the premier public arts high schools in the country, LACHSA is the recipient of numerous awards, including the California Distinguished School for Academic Excellence, California Schools Board Association's Golden Bell Award, Grammy Signature School, Bravo Award for excellence in arts education, and the Exemplary School Designation by the Arts Schools Network.

The Poetry Out Loud national recitation contest is conducted by LACOE in partnership with the California Arts Council. Sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the National

Poetry Foundation, this contest encourages high school students to study and appreciate poetry through practice, performance, and competition.

The Very Special Arts Festival is an annual event celebrating the artistic achievements of students with disabilities and their mainstream peers. The festival, held at the Los Angeles Music Center, features student art exhibits, student and professional performances, and visual and performing arts workshops. Co-sponsored by LACOE and the Los Angeles Unified School District with generous support from multiple public and private organizations, this popular event is open to students in all grade levels.

