

HELP PROTECT, PRESERVE AND RESTORE ARTS EDUCATION IN LAUSD

The Numbers: LAUSD has approved a “doomsday budget” and layoffs of more than 7000 District Employees.

How will these cuts affect student access to arts instruction in elementary schools?

- **The innovative Elementary Arts Program** currently services as many of LAUSD’s 300,000 elementary students as possible, at almost all 534 elementary schools, with sequential, standards-based instruction by highly qualified teachers in two to four different art forms.

The proposed budget calls for an additional 60% reduction to the Elementary Arts Program for 2011-2012 after absorbing a cut of 33% in 2010. Total reduction: 78% since 2009-2010!!!

ELEMENTARY ARTS PROGRAM	2010-2011 General Fund Allocation	2011-2012 General Fund Allocation (if the proposed budget becomes a reality)
Elementary Dance, Theatre and Visual Arts teachers serve up to 3000 students per year in 96 classrooms. Typically, teachers provide classes with nine weeks of instruction in one-hour sessions.	40 elementary arts teacher positions per discipline in Dance, Theatre and Visual Arts Student teacher ratio per arts discipline: about 7500:1	13 elementary arts teacher positions per discipline in Dance, Theatre and Visual Arts Student teacher ratio per arts discipline: about 23,000:1
Elementary Music Teachers serve up to 1200 students per year in as many as 40 half hour classes per week, all year long.	90 elementary music teachers Student to music teacher ratio: about 3300:1 200 Elementary Orchestras	39 elementary music teachers Student to music teacher ratio: about 7700:1 60 Elementary Orchestras

How will these cuts affect student access to arts instruction in middle and high schools?

The 348 LAUSD secondary schools (including Continuation and Options Schools) will be forced to serve more students with fewer arts teachers in more crowded classes. This will leave students with *inequitable* opportunities to access high-quality arts instruction, and satisfy their A-G graduation and UC/CSU entrance requirements.

2010-2011 Secondary Arts Teacher Positions	Secondary Arts Teacher Positions under the proposed 2011-2012 budget
Dance: 76 mostly part-time positions (less than 25% of all secondary schools provide access to dance instruction)	64 mostly part-time positions (less than 20% of all secondary schools will provide access to dance instruction)
Music: 241 (currently, about 70% of all secondary schools offer a vocal and/or instrumental music program)	128: a 47% reduction! Only 33% of all secondary schools will be able to provide a music program.
Theatre: 188 mostly part-time positions (54% of all secondary schools have a theatre program)	173: mostly part-time positions (less than half of all secondary schools will have a theatre program)
Visual and Media Arts: 350 positions (enough to cover every school if distributed equitably)	266: A 24% reduction: Only 76% of all secondary schools will provide Visual and/or Media Arts instruction.

From 2008 to 2011, Elementary and Secondary Arts Education Programs have been cut 85% - more severely than any other LAUSD K-12 Instructional Program.

ARTS EDUCATION IS A RIGHT AFFORDED TO STUDENTS BY CALIFORNIA ED CODE 51210 AND 51220.

ARTS EDUCATION IS RECOGNIZED AS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE CORE ACADEMIC CURRICULUM BY LAUSD AND THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS.

-Please join Friends of the Arts in LAUSD-

A growing coalition of teachers, parents and community working to preserve and restore arts education in LAUSD.

Visit lausdartsed.blogspot.com for more information.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO STOP THESE CUTS TO ARTS EDUCATION?

- CALL TO ACTION -

1) Work together in advocacy

- Visit lausdartsed.blogspot.com for advocacy links, news and information. Click on the **Friends of the Arts in LAUSD Contact Form**, so we can keep you informed of future meetings and events.
- Join the **Friends of the Arts in L.A.U.S.D.** on **Facebook**
- California Teachers Association (CTA) has declared a **State of Emergency**. Join us in a rally to demand restoration of education funding, downtown at Pershing Square on Friday, May 13th, at 4:00. Visit utla.net/cantwait for details.
- Join the **Wake Up California!** day of action supporting K-12 public education on May 24th. **Educate Our State** is a parent-led campaign to unite the voices of Californians in support of high-quality K-12 Public Education and demand real change. www.educateourstate.org

2) Contact the Board of Education : laschoolboard.org

Share your concern that all students have a right to receive a well-rounded, rich education that includes an arts education, as afforded by State Ed Code. Demand that arts education be funded proportionately as a core academic subject, and restored to levels proportionate to other K-12 instructional programs.

3) Contact your Representatives : *Find your legislators at leginfo.ca.gov*

Let them know you expect a public education system that is adequately funded. Share the impact the cuts are having on your community. Ask your representative what they are doing to protect and restore public education in California.

4) Share your story through our VIDEO ACTIVISM CAMPAIGN

- How have the Arts impacted your life? How has being exposed to Music, Visual Arts, Dance, Theatre or Media Arts enhanced or improved your educational experience? **Please send us a 60 to 90 second video expressing any of the following:**

What do the Arts mean to me? How have the Arts impacted/changed/saved my life?

How did the Arts help me find my passion? What would life be like without the Arts?

Upload a video to a Youtube account. Follow the **VIDEO ACTIVISM** links at lausdartsed.blogspot.com.

5) Help us raise funds to save Arts Teacher positions

- Join us on June 11th at the historic Cocoanut Grove Theatre on Wilshire Blvd. for a benefit featuring performances and a silent auction. Visit www.savethearts.net for more information.

Contact information

UTLA Arts Education Committee: Ginger Fox, Committee Chair: gingfox@sbcglobal.net home/fax (310)257-8809

Website and Video Activism Campaign: Michael Blasi blasikin@gmail.com cell: (818) 497-0223

June 11th Fundraiser: Suzanne Nichols (323) 219-5693

Parent Organizer: Katy Hickman (323) 316-4539
California PTA: CAPTA.org >> SMARTS

Other Resources:

LAUSD Arts Education Branch: lausd.net/arts

Arts for LA: artsforla.org



Thank you for being a Friend of the Arts in LAUSD!