

*Dance*

*Music*

*Theatre*

*Visual Arts*

*Media Arts*

*ARTS EDUCATION*

*at*

*Los Angeles Unified School District*

*Dance is a moving experience.*

**Students in dance discover how to move through space in steps that carry them through everyday life. Learning control over their bodies in order to communicate an idea or create an illusion is at the center of contemporary, traditional and cultural forms. Dance studies enable students to fully interpret themselves and the world around them. It exposes them to the powerful capabilities of the human body and mind united together.**

*Music is a noteworthy endeavor.*

**Music transmits the cultural heritage of groups of people from succeeding times. It has a powerfully compelling influence on people's lives. The formal study of music unlocks the gate to exquisite beauty and enjoyment, sharpens perceptions, raises appreciation and expands the horizons of the human spirit. It brings balance in a world filled with noise.**

*Theatre gives us a powerful voice.*

**Theatre has always been a teaching mechanism, a social force, an influencer and a reflector of social values. Students who participate in theatre learn and re-learn the stories of cultures throughout the world and throughout history. For each theatre student, theatre teaches commitment, teamwork, self-discovery, self-definition and self-direction. It creates a community of players that explore the universal dilemma of human behavior.**

*Visual Arts frames the world.*

**Not everything known can be put into words. Symbols and images demonstrating the beautiful or not so beautiful have always been a profound part of human thinking and insight. When the world is organized through our eyes, we begin to see form, pattern, line, depth, texture, color and detail – thinking and creating visually. Noticing the world through the manipulation of materials is a total eye, hand, and spirit experience.**

*Media Arts gives us a new language.*

**In this new century driven by technology, speed, and a blurring of distinctions between reality, form and function, media arts serves to bring a new vocabulary for young people. Interactive and immediate, media arts transcends the medium by communicating new messages. When students study media arts, they begin to sense their own ideas and thoughts in current societal context. They connect.**

# *Los Angeles Unified School District*

*is*

*creating new opportunities.*

**In June 1999, the Los Angeles Unified School District's Board of Education in partnership with the arts community of the Los Angeles basin established a bold philosophy that supported a unique plan to reinstate dance, music, theatre and visual arts in every school, at every grade level in all four art forms, for every student by 2009. This remarkable effort in the second largest urban school district in America heralds the renaissance of creativity, culture, and life within the diversity of the world citizens who make up LAUSD.**

**At the beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> Year of the 10-year effort, the following achievements have been made in LAUSD:**

- **A growth of supplemental funding, uninterrupted from \$6.7million to \$33.4million**
- **An expansion of the pilot arts program from 54 to 269 elementary schools**
- **A vocal or instrumental music teacher at every elementary school in the District**
- **An increase in funding in other schools from \$3/student to \$8/student**
- **A stabilization of the coordinating arts staff of the district through strong content delivery in dance, music, theatre, visual arts and media arts**
- **A development of Local District Arts Teams with 104 arts teacher representatives in order to build district-wide articulation K-12**
- **The construction of an organized conceptual instructional plan for all arts teachers throughout the District with accompanying learning goals and assessments**
- **A comprehensive professional development plan for all arts teachers**
- **A highly visible Arts Community Partnership Network of 51 arts organizations that provide aligned arts programs to meet the District's needs**

**The Arts Education Plan at Los Angeles Unified School District has not gone unnoticed nationally. Queries, examinations, interest and model efforts have been made in Chicago, New York, West Palm Beach, San Francisco and San Diego. Yet, of all the urban areas in the United States, LAUSD has been able to formulate a growing consensus around the true qualities of a comprehensive, sequential, articulated instructional and learning plan in the arts within the context of a large, urban and diverse environment.**