

Take **PART**  
**Initiative**

SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS  
5-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT  
2010 - 2015

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This report was produced by P.S. ARTS in partnership with participating school districts.

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"In ten years, participating districts will realize a shared philosophy that the arts should be positioned as core academic subjects and essential to community life."

-- The TakePART Initiative Vision Statement, September 2010

Building out from a district-wide arts education initiative launched in Lawndale, CA in 2004 with a \$1.5M gift from the Herb Alpert Foundation, the TakePART Initiative represents a landmark collaborative venture between five school districts and key nonprofit partners in the Centinela Valley. The goal of the TakePART Initiative is to ensure that the 20,000+ children in the region have equitable access to quality arts and culture opportunities widely associated with college and career success. The TakePART Leadership Committee is composed of school district, teacher, parent, philanthropic, and community representatives, and facilitated by P.S. ARTS, a longstanding nonprofit partner in the region. With support from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission's Arts for All initiative, TakePART Leadership Committee members developed a ten-year strategic plan to achieve their collective vision. Six years into the effort, we are proud to publish our first annual report celebrating the significant milestones and accomplishments of the TakePART initiative.

## DEVELOPING:

human resources  
and financial capacity

## CREATING:

sequential, standards-based  
curricula and providing ongoing  
training for teachers

## BUILDING:

a strong community  
of arts supporters  
and advocates



The simple idea behind the TakePART Initiative is that the scope and quality of arts education in all five school districts will be increased by sharing resources, aligning programs, and reducing administrative cost redundancy. In 2010, with seed funding from the Herb Alpert and Max H. Gluck foundations, a regional youth orchestra provided by the Harmony Project with support from P.S. ARTS became the inaugural TakePART Initiative program serving hundreds of students. In 2012, the TakePART Leadership Committee launched the first-ever TakePART in Art Festival which featured visual art and performances from more than 2,000 children in all five school districts and drew over 1,500 family members and dozens of community sponsors. That year, the TakePART Leadership Committee received an official certificate of recognition from Congresswoman Maxine Waters and passed a joint resolution between the five school districts in support of arts education. These accomplishments and other successes at the individual district and school level attracted additional support and funding for the TakePART Initiative, including major gifts from the W. M. Keck, Parsons, and Green Foundations that allowed for an expansion of visual arts, music, and theater programs to 3,000 more children.

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Five years into this innovative endeavor, The TakePART Initiative *Spotlight on the Arts* report takes a look at how far we've come and where we hope to go next.

SCHOOLS:

38

STUDENTS:

30,150

PARTNERS:

44



# JOINT RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE THE TAKEPART INITIATIVE 6

**WHEREAS** participation in the arts is associated with higher levels of achievement, college attainment, and civic engagement; and

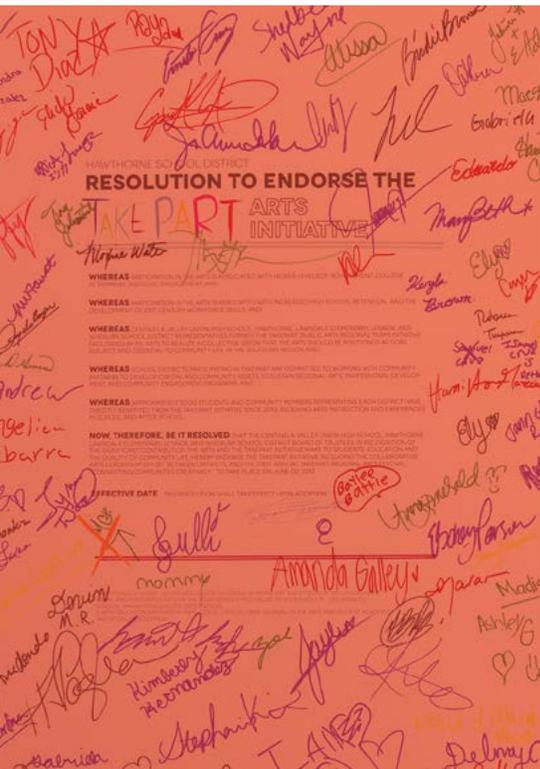
**WHEREAS** participation in the arts is associated with increased high school retention and the development of 21st century workforce skills; and

**WHEREAS** Centinela Valley Union High, Hawthorne, Lawndale Elementary, Lennox, and Wiseburn School District representatives formed the TakePART (Public Arts Regional Team) Initiative facilitated by P.S. ARTS to realize a collective vision that the arts should be positioned as core subject and essential to community life in the South Bay region; and

**WHEREAS** school districts participating in the TakePART Initiative are committed to working with community partners to develop capital and community assets to sustain regional arts, professional development, and community engagement programs; and

**WHEREAS** approximately 5,000 students and community members representing each district have directly benefited from the TakePART Initiative since 2010, receiving arts instruction and experiences in school and after school;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Centinela Valley Union High, Hawthorne, Lawndale Elementary, Lennox, and Wiseburn School District Board of Trustees, in recognition of the significant contribution the arts and the TakePART Initiative make to students' education and the quality of community life, hereby endorse the TakePART Initiative, including the collaborative arts leadership effort between districts and the first annual TakePART in Art Festival, "Connecting Communities Creatively," to take place on June 02, 2012.



# GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

## CAPACITY GOALS

*1. Build a TakePART Leadership Committee with representation from participating school districts and community partners to develop a vision and action plan.*

- ✓ Vision statement and initial goals completed June 2010.
- ✓ 10-year regional arts plan completed June 2014.
- ✓ Leadership Committee currently composed of 16 district, community, corporate, and philanthropic partners.

*2. Coordinate existing district arts resources and raise funds to benefit the entire region when appropriate.*

- ✓ Combined resources from TakePART philanthropic partners total approximately \$750,000 annually.
- ✓ The Centinela Valley Union High, Lawndale Elementary, and Hawthorne school districts combined resources to instate a Regional Arts-Coordinator position.

## COMMUNITY GOALS

*1. Promote best practices in arts education at the regional level through coordinated arts-related professional development for classroom teachers.*

- ✓ Approximately 50 K-12th grade teachers across the region have participated in arts integration workshops and hands-on arts residencies through TakePART community partners and as a priority of regional arts coordination efforts.

*2. Provide frequent opportunities for students, families, and community members across the region to experience and create art.*

- ✓ More than 6,000 parents and other community members have attended the annual TakePART in Art Festival since the 2012-2013 school year.
- ✓ At least 10 region elementary schools per year have received free Family Arts Nights with a P.S. ARTS Teaching Artist since the 2012-2013 school year.
- ✓ Hundreds of students and family members engage in arts and culture events, mural projects, and student exhibitions and performances annually through TakePART community partners.

## CURRICULUM GOALS

*1. Position the arts as core academic subjects in schools across the region.*

- ✓ TakePART has received formal commendations from U.S. Congresswoman Maxine Waters and other policy-makers.
- ✓ All five school boards signed an unprecedented joint resolution in 2012 in support of TakePART stating the benefits of arts education for student success.

*2. Increase CA Visual and Performing Arts standards-based arts education programs in and after school in the region through community partnerships.*

- ✓ Annually, at least 8,000 students in the region receive arts education above and beyond what is provided by the individual districts and schools through TakePART-affiliated community partners.



Centinela Valley Union High School District (CVUHSD) is a creative and collaborative community offering quality visual and performing arts classes to all students as well as pathways for students interested in arts-related careers. CVUHSD embraces learning through multi-disciplinary perspectives and is recognized nationally for student achievement in integrating math and visual arts. CVUHSD staff members inform students about opportunities that are available to them at the post-secondary level and in the art world. CVUHSD staff members also strive to engage students in authentic and real-life artistic experiences that allow them to grow as individuals and to contribute positively to their community. Over the past year, CVUHSD has experienced a district-wide increase in performance awards in its music and theater departments, increasing Advanced Placement scores, and the implementation of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program.

"Centinela Valley Union High School District has a strong history of dedication and support for the arts. We have seen that when the arts are fostered students become more engaged in their learning (of all content areas). The District's three comprehensive high schools each have both a robust arts program and an arts-based career academy. CVUHSD enjoys its regional partnership with the local districts through TakePART and appreciates how we work together to provide arts for our community from Kindergarten through 12th grade."

-- Hatha I. Parrish, Director of Federal and State Programs

**NUMBER OF SCHOOLS: 4**

**STUDENTS SERVED ANNUALLY: 6,500**

## CAPACITY:

CVUHSD employs 26 visual and performing arts teachers serving 4,680 students annually.

As part of its long-term plan to sustain quality arts experiences for all students, CVUHSD joined with two neighboring districts in 2015 to contract for services with a Regional Arts Coordinator.

CVUHSD supports the Arts Encounters series, an exciting new professional development opportunity for teachers of all subjects who are invited to professional artists' sites for in-depth discussions and hands-on projects.

## CURRICULUM:

In CVUHSD, students reimagine the use of lockers by painting spines of famous books on the doors of lockers, stand for social justice in productions such as Speak Truth to Power, cover events in their community through their film and photography classes, take part in regional music competitions, apply geometry through the creation of garments, and celebrate life through classical, contemporary, hip hop, and Latin dance forms.

Master classes and professional shows deepen students' experiences.

## COMMUNITY:

Three CVUHSD schools are opening their doors on a Saturday to engage parents in dance, music, theater, and visual arts workshops that provide them with invaluable insights into the importance of arts education.

CVUHSD students have exhibited their work at Gallery H of Phantom Galleries LA and presented their Geometry Meets Fashion collection in a show produced by Elle Drane.

Parents are part of a new group of Arts Docents who assist with events.

Lawndale Elementary School District (LESD) believes the arts are an essential element of its instructional program and key to engaging parents and community partners. A robust arts program teaches students to create, collaborate, and think critically. LESD's ten-year partnership with P.S. ARTS has brought theater, music, and visual arts to its six elementary schools, and its middle school students enjoy music and visual arts led by four full-time teachers. All LESD schools benefit from an exemplary after-school program which has supported three award-winning bands, as well as folklorico and other dance forms. With new funding, LESD has been able to increase support of the arts with a Regional Arts Coordinator, professional development for arts integration, and greater support for its middle school arts and music programs such as its partnership with Young Musicians Foundation which provides after-school vocal music instruction at LESD's two middle school campuses. This support is now part of LESD's Local Control Accountability Plan, ensuring strong arts programming for years to come.

"The arts are at the heart of a comprehensive instructional program that challenges our students to meet the rigorous standards and demands of the 21st century. The arts give voice to each student's unique creative potential. Our student artists and musicians engage and inspire our parents and our larger community and give us hope for the future!"

-- Dr. Ellen Dougherty, Superintendent

**NUMBER OF SCHOOLS: 8**

**STUDENTS SERVED ANNUALLY: 5,800**

## CAPACITY:

LESD employs four art and music teachers in its two middle schools. Through a partnership with P.S. ARTS, LESD provides music, theater, and visual arts programs at its six elementary school campuses.

LESD's Local Control Accountability Plan has increased arts programming and its "RAP" After School Program. "RAP" (Realizing Amazing Potential) extends learning and performance opportunities after school with band, folklorico, and other visual and performing arts activities including P.S. ARTS' Inside Out Community Arts program.

## CURRICULUM:

All K-5 LESD students benefit from high-quality education in music, theater, and visual arts provided by P.S. ARTS Teaching Artists who also foster arts integration by helping teachers use the arts as teaching tools throughout their curriculum.

LESD middle schools provide exciting standards-aligned instruction in music and visual arts and integrate other core subject contents into their productions such as musicals or Earth Day activities. On-site professional theater shows deepen LESD students' arts experience.

## COMMUNITY:

Parents love the hundreds of performance and visual arts events LESD hosts annually. The middle schools host an art gallery and musical as well as performances by choir and band classes.

LESD students are featured in the annual Lawndale Youth Parade, and its bands perform frequently in surrounding communities' parades.

LESD started a district-wide arts festival several years ago, which spawned the Initiative's annual TakePART in Art Festival involving all five participating school districts.

The Lennox Elementary School District (LESD) serves more than 5,100 students attending a preschool, five elementary schools, and one middle school. LESD teachers, administrators, and staff are highly dedicated to the task of addressing the needs of the whole child -- academically, socially, physically, and emotionally -- so that every child can achieve. In 2009, the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Jo Ann Isken led a district-wide arts planning process with the Los Angeles County Arts Commission's Arts for All coaching staff visioning major arts opportunities for Lennox students, including a robust after-school arts program, arts experiences and field trips for all Lennox students, and strong partnerships with community arts providers. In 2011, Young Musicians Foundation launched its Teaching Artist Program at Lennox Middle School to create greater access to music education and support the District's music teacher.

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"As a district we are committed to providing our teachers and students with the tools that will help develop critical thinking, problem solving skills, creativity, and collaboration."

-- Mr. Kent Taylor, Superintendent

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**NUMBER OF SCHOOLS: 7**

**STUDENTS SERVED ANNUALLY: 5,100**

## CAPACITY:

Through a partnership with Young Musicians Foundation, Lennox Enrichment After-School Program (LEAP) provides specialized instrumental classes at Lennox Middle School supporting the curriculum of the school's music director.

## CURRICULUM:

In 2010, with the support of an Arts for All Coach, LESD began an arts education planning process that resulted in a One Year Action Plan.

For more information, please visit [lacountyartsforall.org](http://lacountyartsforall.org) or contact LESD directly at 310-695-4000.

## COMMUNITY:

LESD has sent young musicians to perform at the past two TakePART in Art Festivals.

Hawthorne School District (HSD) is dedicated to educational excellence and the continuous academic growth of all students. As part of its commitment to providing a holistic education for every child, the District brings the curriculum to life through the systematic implementation of arts integration and programs that provide students with opportunities to be directly engaged in the arts. HSD is always looking to increase resources and opportunities in the arts for its students. Visionary planning, collaboration with community partners, and careful use of newly available Local Control Accountability Plan funding is at the core of an arts renaissance throughout the District. In addition to providing arts programs as part of the curriculum and after school, HSD invests in training in the arts for teachers and administrators as a way to ensure the best possible alignment of the arts with core subjects and learning modalities.

“A well-rounded education includes meaningful exposure to the arts at all grade levels. The arts serve to broaden the mind, spark creativity, and unite the community. We are committed to ensuring that all students in the Hawthorne School District are provided with a wide range of opportunities to interact with the arts from preschool through high school.”

-- Dr. Helen E. Morgan, Superintendent

**NUMBER OF SCHOOLS: 11**

**STUDENTS SERVED ANNUALLY: 8,750**

## CAPACITY:

HSD employs six full-time visual and performing arts teachers, maintains a team of art teacher leaders, and contracts with a Regional Arts Coordinator to ensure that all students throughout its 11 schools benefit from arts education.

HSD's investment in teacher training has the potential to impact almost 9,000 students each year.

Arts-infused curricula can enhance the learning environment as evidenced by Jefferson Elementary's new art displays and upcoming production of "The Lion King Jr."

## CURRICULUM:

As a result of arts integration, HSD students in grades TK - 5 may learn skills through songs, study marine life through the creation of a mural, report on a topic using theater, or tell a story through dance.

Multi-disciplinary learning thrives at Prairie Vista Middle School, Arts Academy, where an annual Renaissance Fair integrates history, language arts, and visual and performing arts.

Hawthorne Math & Science Academy (grades 9-12) also excels in visual arts.

## COMMUNITY:

HSD fosters collaboration between schools, with surrounding school districts, and with community agencies to determine the best course of action in preparing their students for success in school and beyond.

Parents contribute by assisting artists in school productions (painting sets, making props, sewing costumes) and taking on leadership roles in teaching art as an extracurricular activity.

HSD works with accomplished professionals to bring quality arts experiences to its schools.

Wiseburn Unified School District (WUSD) became a K-12 district in 2014 after 118 years as a K-8 district. The District places a strong emphasis on providing its students with a balanced curriculum that addresses the needs of the whole child -- academically, physically, socially, and ethically-spiritually. A balanced curriculum includes a very strong presence of all of the arts disciplines. WUSD has been an Arts for All district for more than a decade; for the past seven years, it has received outstanding arts coordination and support through P.S. ARTS. WUSD values collaboration with the other school districts in the Centinela Valley.

"This year, we have been working with Arts for All to update our District Arts Plan. This has been a very productive effort that has pulled teachers from all of our K-12 schools together with arts professionals to strengthen our arts programs for the years ahead. Through our collaboration with P.S. ARTS and the Wiseburn Education Foundation, we have addressed significant gaps and can now proudly promote comprehensive arts programs that include music, visual arts, theater, and dance at every WUSD school."

-- Dr. Tom Johnstone, Superintendent

**NUMBER OF SCHOOLS: 8**

**STUDENTS SERVED ANNUALLY: 4,000**

## CAPACITY:

Together with more than 25 teachers, arts professionals, and Education Foundation members, WUSD completed a new Arts Plan under the direction of Arts for All.

Through the generosity of the Wiseburn Education Foundation the Measure CL Parcel Tax, WUSD purchased \$60,000 of new musical instruments for grades 5-8.

Building on the six years of success with the Harmony Project, WUSD expanded its band offerings to fifth grade during the regular school day.

## CURRICULUM:

WUSD expanded its fine arts mural program with Tiffany Graham to Juan de Anza Elementary School where she is working with students to complete two murals.

Dream a World Education has expanded its offerings at Juan de Anza Elementary School beyond "Secrets of the Heart" to include "One World Drum Circles" from first grade.

WUSD significantly expanded its grades 3-5 music program at Juan de Anza and Burnett Elementary Schools, both under the direction of P.S. ARTS' Nicole Polizzi, to full year programs.

## COMMUNITY:

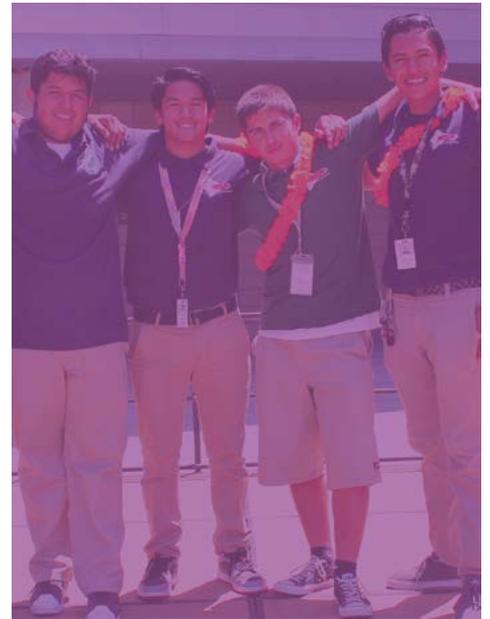
The Wiseburn community attended the unveiling of the kindergarten mural titled, "Our Kinder Garden" at Juan Cabrillo Elementary School.

This March, the Wiseburn Education Foundation will host the 12th Annual Rock Around the Block Community Arts Festival at Dana Middle School, drawing nearly 2,000 attendees!

This June, the Wiseburn Music Program (grades 5-12) will present its first ever "Concert on the Green" at Dana Middle School

The TakePART in Art Festival is an annual event collaboratively hosted by the Initiative partners to celebrate arts education in public schools. Since 2012, this free family-friendly event has featured creative work by students, including stage performances (dance, band, solo vocalists, and step), a youth artwork gallery with sculpture, drawings, paintings, and multi-media work, and hands-on arts activity booths hosted by local community arts organizations. The event draws 1,500+ attendees per year, bringing together students, families, and community members from participating school districts around the South Bay of Los Angeles. To date, the festival has served 6,000+ students and family members and featured 100+ live student performances and 1,100+ pieces of students artwork. Check out Hawthorne City News' 2015 event coverage at [tiny.cc/TakePART](http://tiny.cc/TakePART).

Are you interested in becoming a part of the TakePART in Art Festival? Please visit [takepartinitiative.org/contact](http://takepartinitiative.org/contact)



## PREMIER PARTNER

The Herb Alpert Foundation

## FOUNDING PARTNER

Max H. Gluck Foundation

W. M. Keck Foundation

## INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

The Getty Foundation

The Green Foundation

The Rose Hills Foundation

The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation

## CORPORATE PARTNERS

Sony Pictures Entertainment

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## EDUCATION FOUNDATION PARTNERS

The Hawthorne Education Foundation

The Lawndale Education Foundation

The Wiseburn Education Foundation

## GOVERNMENT PARTNERS

LA County Arts Commission Arts for All



Art to Grow On

Arts Encounters

Arts for LA

The Broad Stage

California Dance Institute

Center Theatre Group, YAP

The Chameleons (SCFTA)

Coalition for Engaged Youth

Comedy Sportz Los Angeles

Contra-Tiempo

Creative Visions/Rock Your World

Dietz Brothers Music

Dream a World Education, Inc

El Camino College

Elle Drane

The Getty Villa

Harmony Project

IDAP Dance

Inside Out Community Arts

LA Troupe

Ling Jin Chinese Dance

Los Angeles Music Center

Phantom Galleries

P.S. ARTS

Robert Kennedy Human Rights

Sacred Fools Theatre Co.

SLAM!

Street Beat

Theatre of Note

Wolf Trap Institute

Young Musicians Foundation





[LEARN MORE AT TAKEPARTINITIATIVE.ORG](https://www.takepartinitiative.org)