



## Arts Education & Advocacy in Burbank

### Summary

Burbank Unified School District has a rich history in its commitment to ensuring that every child in the school district has access to meaningful, quality, sequential K-12 arts education. In 2004, Burbank USD became the 8th school district to join *Arts for All*. Based on its exemplary commitment to implementing its arts education strategic plan, in 2009, Burbank USD was selected to participate in 3 new *Arts for All* initiatives, including a leadership fellows program, a district evaluation, and the community advocacy program. Arts for LA is the lead partner on the advocacy piece.

### Arts for All Mission

To bring about systemic change in the 81 school districts of LA County in order to implement comprehensive, sequential K-12 arts education for every public school student in the County, adopting curricula in alignment with the State Board of Education-approved Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Framework and Standards. Such systemic change will require the mobilization of diverse stakeholders, including policy makers, implementers and recipients of arts education.

### Background in Burbank

Burbank USD was selected to participate in the Arts for All program in 2004.

Burbank USD was selected based upon how well the goals of the project aligned with the district's instructional and learning goals. The District had already established a Fine and Performing Arts Curriculum Advisory Committee, adopted K-12 curriculum in music and the visual arts tied to State standards, and had begun working to align drama and dance curriculum to the standards. This project allowed the district to undertake a planning process to formalize District arts education by creating and adopting an arts education Board policy, by planning for eventual implementation of a sequential arts education curricula in all four areas of the arts, and by creating a funding plan to provide on-going resources so that when budget cuts need to be made, the arts would not be the first area cut, nor an area that is eliminated in hard fiscal times.

### Timeline

**2004/2005** -Burbank USD becomes an *Arts for All* district. The Arts for All committee meets monthly to develop a policy and plan for Board approval.

**March 17th, 2005** -Board of education approves the policy.

**December 2005** -Board of Education adopts strategic K-12 arts plan.

**2006** - Arts and Music Block Grant from the State of California provides additional funding VAPA programs.

**2006** – Burbank Arts for All, an Education Foundation is created to raise funds and increase community involvement to help support the Arts for All Plan.

**Spring 2008** - the LA County Arts Commission selects Burbank to participate in the County's Municipal Cultural Planning Initiative.

**2008/2009** -A planning committee made up of arts, civic, business, government, and education stakeholders convened over 9 months to develop Burbank's Cultural Plan.

**June 2009** -The plan is adopted, with one of the 4 goals being about Arts Education and Access.

**August 2009** - Burbank USD is selected to participate in 3 new *Arts for All* initiatives, including the Advocacy Program.

**2009 / 2010** - Advocacy Committee & Community effectively advocate for the District & Board of Education to maintain the arts coordinator position & the 2 elementary music teaching positions. PE Credit for Marching Band & Show Choir reinstated.

# BUSD Arts for All Plan Outline

## **Focus Area 1: Standards-based curriculum, student assessment, and professional development.**

**Success Indicator:** Sequential standards-based arts instruction is offered for all students at all grade levels.

## **Focus Area 2: Program Evaluation**

**Success Indicator:** Evaluation procedures are in place for all arts education programs.

## **Focus Area 3: Program Administration and Personnel**

**Success Indicator:** Adequate staffing level of teachers and administrators is in place to support standards-based sequential arts education.

## **Focus Area 4: Partnership and Collaborations**

**Success Indicator:** Community arts and business partners are actively engaged in the District's arts education program.

## **Focus Area 5: Instructional Materials and Equipment**

**Success Indicator:** Adequate instructional materials and equipment are in place to support District's arts education program.

## **Focus Area 6: Funding**

**Success Indicator:** Develop adequate funding from multiple sources sustained over time.

## **Focus Area 7: Communication Strategy Goals**

**For more information contact:** Carrie Brown, Community Outreach Co-Chair  
818-415-2254  
[carriebrown1@earthlink.net](mailto:carriebrown1@earthlink.net)

### **Additional Information:**

- **Burbank Arts for All an Education Foundation** is a 501©3 organization dedicated to ensuring every student in Burbank public schools receives a quality arts education as part of their core curriculum. Visit [www.burbankartsforall.org](http://www.burbankartsforall.org) to learn more.
- **Arts for LA** is a 501©3 arts advocacy organization committed to fostering a healthy environment in which arts and culture may thrive can be accessible to all in our region. To learn more, visit: <http://artsforla.org/teams/burbank-usd>
- For a copy of **LA County's Regional Blueprint for Arts Education**, visit [http://www.burbankartsforall.org/pdfs/blueprint\\_for\\_arts.pdf](http://www.burbankartsforall.org/pdfs/blueprint_for_arts.pdf)
- For a copy of the **Burbank Arts for All plan**, visit <http://www.burbankusd.org/index.aspx?page=88>



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