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PRESS RELEASE:  
February 18, 2014

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### **How Schools Use Arts Education Strategies to Achieve Title I Goals**

*Best practices to increase student engagement, academic achievement and parent involvement.*

Los Angeles, CA – The California Alliance for Arts Education is presenting a regional Title I and the Arts Forum at the Fresno County Office of Education on February 25, 2014. The event is co-sponsored by the California County Superintendent's Educational Services Association Arts Initiative (CCSESA Arts Initiative), California Department of Education, and the Fresno County Office of Education.

The forum is structured as a “working conversation”, devised specifically for school principals, district administrators, financial officers, school site council members and parents., The Alliance will present evidence of support for arts education strategies at the state and federal levels, and share research that can be used to support schools in their effort to embrace the arts in their Title I programs. The presentation will offer a step-by-step walkthrough of how arts strategies can be included in a school site plan. Participants will be invited to share arts-based Title I programs they have or would like to start.

Despite the substantial body of evidence demonstrating the ability of arts education to help advance the goals of Title I, a 2011 survey conducted by Arts for All finds that students attending Title I schools in Los Angeles had disproportionately low access to arts education compared to more economically advantaged peers. These findings echoed results of a national survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Education.<sup>1</sup>

In response, the California Alliance has been working to clarify a policy pathway – a shared understanding aligned across school, district, state and federal levels of leadership regarding what is allowable when expending Title I funds on arts education.

“Our goal is to address the question posed by the challenge of federal Title I funding: how can we improve educational outcomes for low-income students who are often underserved in public schools,” said Joe Landon, Executive Director of

the California Alliance and one of the authors of a policy paper discussing the role of arts education in achieving Title I goals.

These efforts have yielded clear support from local, state and federal education officials. Last June, the California Alliance received a copy of a letter addressed to Title I State Coordinators from Dr. Monique Chism, Director, Student Achievement and School Accountability Programs at the Department of Education. In it, Dr. Chism addresses inquiries she's received about the role of arts education within the Title I, Part A program.

Building on this foundation, the Alliance is now working with a cohort of ten California schools to document best practices for Title I schools to engage in arts education strategies to achieve Title I goals. Their hope is to expand the number of schools engaged in this effort in the Fresno area, and to support arts education strategies that increase student academic achievement, parental involvement, and student engagement.

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<sup>i</sup> Parsad, B., & Spiegelman, M., 2012. Arts education in public elementary and secondary schools 1999-2000 and 2009-10. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.