



Contact: Sibyl O'Malley
California Alliance for Arts Education
Email: sibyl@artsed411.org
Phone: 626.578.9315 ext. 100

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

California Alliance Releases Results of Arts Education Survey of School Board Candidates in over Forty Districts

PASADENA, CA – October 6, 2010. The California Alliance for Arts Education, in collaboration Arts Orange County and the Fourth District PTA, released the results of an Arts Education Survey for School Board Candidates today. Candidates in over forty California districts participated, answering four questions about the role of the visual and performing arts in public schools. The survey will help voters gain a deeper understanding of candidates' views on this issue before the election on November 2nd. Read the results at: <http://artsed411.org/surveys/surveylist.aspx>

“It’s easy to be enthusiastic about the arts, but this survey asks candidates to go on record with concrete ideas about the role they see for arts education,” says Laurie Schell, Executive Director of the California Alliance. “Their leadership will have an important impact on what happens in classrooms.”

The Arts Education Survey is part of the Alliance’s Local Advocacy Network Project, which empowers local communities to advocate for arts education in their schools. Advocates from Orange, San Diego and Sonoma Counties have surveyed candidates in over forty districts. The election provides an opportunity to spotlight the value of visual and performing arts programs. The survey questions articulate the concerns and interests of parents, teachers and community members.

The four survey questions were:

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR 2010 ELECTION FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

1. What meaningful experiences with the arts (visual arts, dance, drama and/or music) did you have growing up?
2. What role do you think the arts can play in supporting key education priorities such as closing the achievement gap, reducing the dropout rate and preparing more students for college eligibility and the 21st century workforce?
3. A standards-based arts curriculum is one of the five core subjects in NCLB and critical for developing job skills vital in the creative economy and the 21st century workforce. Yet, most often only "what is tested is taught" in our schools. How do you envision bringing balance back for a comprehensive education and ensuring that all students have access to a quality, standards-based arts education curriculum?
4. If elected, how will you engage classroom teachers, arts teachers, parents and community arts organizations to shape your agenda for arts education or implement your district's strategic arts plan?

Partners for this project include:

Arts Orange County
4th District PTA
The Arts Education Alliance of Sonoma County
Escondido Alliance for Arts Education
San Diego Alliance for Arts Education
South Bay Alliance for Arts Education
Tuolumne Alliance for Arts Education

The California Alliance for Arts Education is in its fourth decade of working to build a brighter future for our state by making the arts a core part of every child's quality education. A statewide leader and convener, the Alliance galvanizes California's abundance of arts and culture experts to advocate for quality arts education for all students. By collaborating effectively with the state's leading education and parent engagement agencies and providing an anchor for policy expertise at the state and local levels, the Alliance is the leader in promoting the arts in schools and enriching the lives of children, families and communities. To learn more, visit www.artsed411.org.