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NEWS RELEASE

April 7, 2016
#15/16-185

LAUSD Arts Education Branch Presents A NEW KLCS Television Series “SPOTLIGHT ARTS!” Premiering Sunday April 10, 2016

Spotlight Arts! a new television series is set to premiere on Sunday, April 10, at 8:30 a.m. on KLCS-TV. Featuring music, dance, other performances and instruction, the show will highlight how a strong arts program benefits students, schools and communities throughout L. A. Unified.

Intended to provide higher visibility for the growing arts offerings, it will air on the District’s owned and operated public television station, which is found on channel 58 on most satellite and cable stations.

“It is so important for everyone to understand the transformative power of the arts. By using mass media to share our powerful arts narrative in LAUSD, more people will be drawn to LAUSD schools,” Rory Pullens said. He is the executive director of the arts for the District, as well as the executive producer and co-writer of *Spotlight Arts!*

The first episode offers a behind-the-scenes look at the preparation of the upcoming L.A. Unified Grand Arts Festival on Saturday, April 16. More than 2,000 LAUSD students will perform on four stages; present a film festival, and student art gallery, along with over 75 community arts partners’ booths and professional entertainment showcases at Grand Park in downtown Los Angeles.

“This show gives our arts students and programs a voice,” says Shana Habel, a dance adviser at the LAUSD Arts Education Branch and performance coordinator for the festival. “It is high time to celebrate what our students are learning in the arts.”

And, to see the surprised looks of students who are told they will perform at the Grand Arts festival. At Pio Pico Middle School, members of the traveling rock band recently got the good news.

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“I want them to feel the rhythm of the drums in their heart,” Eddie, age13, said. He is a member of the group. Also on the show, Nicole Mathis-Berman, a dance instructor at the Cesar E. Chavez Learning Academy also known as ArTes, is seen rehearsing with her students when they discover that they have been selected to perform at the Grand Arts Festival. “It is essential that I get the students to their best level”, says Berman. “I have been training since I was three years old. I had to work so hard to get to this place, and I want to instill that same excellent work ethic in my students.”

Spotlight Arts! re-broadcasts on April 11 at 6:30 am and 6:30 pm. Check your local listing for air dates and times at <http://klcs.org/schedule/#page=schedule&day=20160308&provider=Broadcast>.

About LAUSD:

Second largest in the nation, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) enrolls nearly 650,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, at over 900 schools, and 187 public charter schools that offer a variety of specialized and comprehensive educational programs. The boundaries spread over 720 square miles in six local districts that include the metropolitan city of Los Angeles as well as all or parts of 31 smaller municipalities and several unincorporated sections of Southern California.

About the Arts Education Branch:

Part of the Los Angeles Unified School District, the Arts Education Branch partners with local and national arts, entertainment and philanthropic communities to collaboratively support the growth of a robust arts culture. Nearly 650,000 K-12 students receive a comprehensive and challenging visual and performing arts curriculum. The Arts Education Branch sponsors school, family, and community arts-related programs and staff professional development for cutting-edge arts education design and implementation.

For more information and the latest updates, please visit: the The LAUSD Grand Arts Festival Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/197017263996107/>

“Like” LAUSD Arts Education Branch on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/LAUSD-Arts-Education-Branch-771219882978838/>

Follow @RoryPullens on Twitter and LAUSD Arts on Twitter @LAUSDArts - join the conversation, using the hashtags: #ArtsEducation, #LetsCelebrate #GrandArtsFestival #LAUSDArts

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