

FOR RELEASE

Arts Education Branch Promotes Cultural Understanding Through the Arts

*The LA Unified Arts Education Branch Coordinates Special Programming
in honor of Black History Month*

Los Angeles, CA (January 29, 2017) — The Division of Instruction's Arts Education Branch is working in conjunction with the Division of Access, Equity, and Acceleration to highlight the culture of LA Unified's African-American/Black students by providing greater cultural understanding through the arts. This initiative was established to better address the academic and social emotional needs of African-American/Black students that are not met through pedagogical practices. Its aim is to validate and affirm the home culture and language of African-American/Black students by honoring them and their families as valued stakeholders within LA Unified.

During the month of February, which is also recognized as Black History Month, arts programming including dance, theater, music, film, visual arts, and media will take place through every Local District to recognize and celebrate this valued culture. Organizations to provide programming include the Museum of African-American Art, the African-American Chamber Music Society Orchestra, Impact African Dance and Drum ensemble, the International Association of Black Dancers, among others.

Programming includes film screenings, forums, as well as performances that celebrate student expression through the arts including dance and theatre. Nearly 600 LA Unified schools from all districts will be participating in this rich programming including Lincoln High School, Fremont High School, Van Nuys, High School, ArTES, and many more. The month concludes with a special outside celebration on February 27 at central headquarters on Beaudry Avenue from 11 am – 2pm where student and professional performances, food trucks, and community leaders will all be a part of the festivities.

“Given the ethnic and cultural diversity of students in our District, it is imperative that we celebrate all cultures,” explained Rory Pullens, Senior Executive Director of the Arts. “We are proud of the achievements and contributions African-Americans have made in the past, but we expect no less success of our students today. Highlighting culture through the arts is arts integration at its finest.”

The Arts Education Branch is dedicated to honoring the history, achievements, and journey of the African-American community. The Arts Education Branch is dedicated to honoring the history, achievements, and journey of the African-American community. Teachers are welcome to construct lessons around these important topics. To learn more about the Arts Education Branch, its mission and initiatives, please visit <https://arts.lausd.net>.

About the Los Angeles Unified School District (LA Unified):

Second largest in the nation, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LA Unified) enrolls nearly 650,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, at over 900 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.
www.lausd.net

About LA Unified Arts Education Branch:

Part of the Los Angeles Unified School District and its rigorous Division of Instruction, 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. It believes that all LA Unified students, from every culture and socioeconomic level, deserve quality arts learning in dance, music, theatre, visual and media arts as part of the core curriculum.

For more information, please visit:**Website:**

www.arts.lausd.net

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