Californians *for*
ARTS AND MUSIC
EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ARTS AND MUSIC EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS INITIATIVE
FACT SHEET

Arts and music education plays a critical role in helping children learn, develop and achieve as students and in life. It improves math and reading skills, fosters creative and critical thinking, improves self-confidence and mental health, and helps prepare children for good-paying jobs.

Unfortunately, only 1 in 5 public schools in California has a full-time arts or music program, meaning millions of school children don't have a meaningful opportunity to participate.

Our kids deserve better.

Austin Beutner, who has served as LA Unified Superintendent and CalArts Board Chair, is leading a coalition of educators, entrepreneurs and arts and music leaders in support of a ballot measure for the November 2022 statewide ballot that would increase arts and music education for students in every PreK-12 public school in California. The measure:

- Dedicates more than $900 million in additional funding to arts and music education in public schools – without raising taxes.
- Increases arts and music education in every PreK-12 public school in California.
- Has strong accountability and transparency measures, including requiring annual public reports from schools to verify the funds are spent as intended.
- Improves equity with additional funding for schools that serve low-income families.

If passed, the measure would be the largest investment in arts and music education in the country.

Teachers, Artists, Musicians, Entrepreneurs and Arts Organizations – including the California Teachers Association, California State PTA, the California Community Foundation, Los Angeles Urban League, SAG-AFTRA, California Music Educators Association, Dr. Dre, will.i.am, Issa Rae, John Lithgow, Jimmy Iovine, Jeff Bridges, Amy Brenneman, Fender Music, NBC Universal, Universal Music Group, CAA Co-chairman Richard Lovett, and many more **have all come out in strong support for the measure.**

Contact Sanjida Nahar for more information about the campaign or how to get involved: snahar@actumllc.com. Or visit www.VoteArtsandMusic.org for more information.

Why Arts and Music Education Matters

- Arts education has been shown to support cognitive development. From a young age, the arts engage all the senses and wire the brain for successful learning by developing gross motor skills and spatial reasoning, as well as bolstering both memory and language acquisition.

- Music and arts are linked to supporting students' mental wellbeing—developing students who are more engaged and resilient. The arts build emotional awareness and fosters empathy, skills critical for success and wellbeing during and beyond the PreK-12 years.

- Arts have also been shown to support ongoing school readiness and educational outcomes, with studies finding strong correlations to both math and reading skills. Arts education has also been linked to improved school attendance and individual student self-confidence and motivation to learn, particularly among low income and other at-risk students.

- Students from low-income backgrounds with an arts education are less likely to drop out of school, more likely to receive a research degree, and more inclined to pursue a professional career.

- This measure will increase access and equity by providing increased resources to all schools as well as additional amounts to schools which serve students from families who are struggling to get by, particularly students of color.

- California is home to the world's creative economy, supporting 2.6 million jobs alone in California. We need to support California's youth by providing access to arts and music programs to help prepare them for the future. This effort will help create and increase the diversity of the creative economy.