



Chapter 19: “We Are One” Arts Benefit Concert

Immersing students in the arts has been shown to yield innumerable benefits: improved academic performance across subjects, unearthed passions and talents, an enduring appreciation of timeless art forms, a disciplined work ethic, bolstered confidence, and so much more.

Throughout my life, I have adored the arts—my musical tastes range from The Beatles to Lady Gaga, and my favorite painters include Andy Warhol and Vincent van Gogh. Throughout my career in L.A. Unified, I have consistently prioritized arts instruction as essential to a well-rounded education. And, since my appointment as interim superintendent, I have focused on building bridges with community partners to expand arts opportunities for youth.

Now, I am pleased to share that L.A. Unified is producing its first-ever benefit concert in support of arts education. On April 12, 2018, at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, award-winning performers, celebrities, and over 200 of our talented student performers, will come together as ONE to celebrate the importance of the arts and to raise critical resources.

While attending this concert is one very tangible way for you to support arts education, opportunities present themselves every day for employees to engage students in the arts. As with everything in education, it starts with relationships. Tell a student about an art form or musical genre that she or he may not know about, or ask students about *their* favorite artists. This not only builds trust and provides a wonderful window into our students' lives and personalities, but it also could be the spark that ignites a student's lifelong hobby or even a successful career.

Tickets to the benefit concert can be purchased at bit.ly/lausdbenefitconcert or by calling the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion box office at (213) 972-0711.

Thank you for everything you do to support the arts and to support our youth.

Vivian Ekchian
Interim Superintendent

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