

Press Contact

Stephanie McGrath, Associate Director of Communications

310-586-1017

stephanie.mcgrath@psarts.org

P.S. ARTS CEO Dr. Kristen Paglia Responds in Support of Senator Ben Allen's Senate Bill 933 That Would Create Grant Funding for Arts Education Programs in California

Los Angeles, Calif. – April 5, 2018 – Senator Ben Allen has introduced Senate Bill 933 – the Arts for Every Student Act – to create grant funding for districts and schools in low-income communities that would allow them to offer arts education in an effort to fulfill the language of California Education Code, which requires that every student shall receive arts education as part of a complete high-quality education.

In response to the introduction of SB 933, P.S. ARTS CEO Dr. Kristen Paglia released the following statement:

“As someone who has the opportunity to see the impact of arts education in the schools we serve every day, to hear that only 39% of students in California public schools have access to the arts is disheartening, but sadly, not surprising. As a community arts service provider, we are acutely aware of the financial burden that schools and districts face. Senator Ben Allen also recognizes this burden and is doing something about it. Senate Bill 933 addresses the lack of arts education funding in low-income communities and introduces grant funding for these districts and schools to provide visual and performing arts for every student. At P.S. ARTS, equity is one of our core values. Every student should have access to high-quality arts education, and it is clear that SB 933 will go a long way in ensuring that promise.”

Dr. Paglia also commented in response to concerns surrounding SB 933:

“P.S. ARTS works to ensure students have consistent access to gifted, highly skilled Teaching Artists who can prepare them for success in any industry. We are committed to providing professional development and a robust support system for our Teaching Artists so they can focus on what really matters: delivering high-quality arts instruction.”

ABOUT SB 933

Senate Bill 933, authored by Senator Ben Allen, is the first legislative step in the process of providing school districts with a “jump start” in arts education funding, enabling schools to fulfill the language of California Education Code.

California Education Code states that every K-12 student shall receive instruction in and access to arts education. Yet the California Arts Education Data Project concludes that only 39% of students in California public schools have access to the arts, and that access is significantly lower in low-income and rural schools.

SB 933 will establish one time grant funding for socioeconomically disadvantaged school districts lacking the capacity to provide access to visual and performing arts for every pupil. Establish one time grant funding for districts with a demonstrated commitment to visual and performing arts education, in which funding may be used to match local investment for specific programs. Favorable consideration will be given to districts that offer high-quality curriculum instruction provided by credentialed visual and performing arts educators and qualified community arts providers. Funding may be used to support arts integration training for teachers, to enhance educator preparation and to provide professional learning in the visual and performing arts.

ABOUT P.S. ARTS

P.S. ARTS’ mission is to improve the lives of children by providing arts education to underserved public schools and communities. P.S. ARTS partners with schools to provide more than 25,000 students with year-long art education in dance, visual arts, music, and theater. Because being part of a nurturing and productive community is essential to children’s well being, P.S. ARTS also seeks to provide professional development for teaching artists and community engagement opportunities to children and families that encourage collaboration, strong community spirit, and a culture of giving back. For more information, visit psarts.org.