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**Luna Dance Institute Receives California Arts Council “Arts in Schools” Grant  
Organization is among 119 arts education organizations funded statewide**

*Berkeley, California* – Luna Dance Institute is honored to be a recipient of the *Artists in Schools* grant. Presented by the California Arts Council, *Artists in Schools* is the state’s largest core grant program, providing support for professional teaching artists working in classrooms and after-school settings statewide. For the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the *Artist in Schools* program awarded \$1,055,608 to 119 California arts-based organizations to help them bring arts education –in the form of music, theatre, dance, visual arts, and others— to California’s school children.

The *Artists in Schools* grant offers funding in two areas to its grantees: 1) teaching-artists residency activity, and 2) planning grants. Luna Dance Institute will use the funding to “build cultures of dance” through its School and Community Alliances (SCA) model program. Luna’s SCA program brings standards-based dance programs in early childhood centers, schools, districts, and arts and community agencies to serve children with least access to arts education. It allows Luna’s professional teaching artist staff to provide standards-based dance curriculum to K-5<sup>th</sup> graders at partner schools in East Oakland. SCA brings professional development to model classes through side by side coaching between teaching artist and classroom teachers, as well as family engagement activities.

**“They were happy... There are so many times when we are not happy here... It [dance] was like an island of happiness”** (classroom teacher participating in Luna’s SCA program).

Each year, Luna’s SCA program brings high-quality dance education to approximately 1,000 children in the Oakland Unified School District.

Luna Dance Institute has witnessed countless positive outcomes for how dance education can transform the lives of individuals, families and communities, and is honored to receive the *Artist in Schools* grant to continue assuring that dance is accessible to all children. Luna’s original research provides evidence for the experience of dance education in public schools generating creative spaces for innovative learning. Through dance education students find their own unique voices to express who they are while developing the skill and capacity for higher intellect.

The California Arts Council is a government organization committed to fulfilling its mission: to advance California through the arts and creativity. Director, Craig Watson, proclaims that “arts education leads to higher graduation rates, increased creativity and higher aspiration.” Watson further states: “Through our *Artists in Schools* program, the California Arts Council strives to improve K-12 education for thousands of our state’s young people – many of whom might not have access to arts education without the high-quality teaching artist residencies made possible by these grants.”

Funding for the *Artists in Schools* program comes in part from the sale of the Arts Plate, the iconic license with a sunset palm motif designed by California artist Wayne Thiebaud. The Arts Plate generates approximately \$3 million per year for arts programs benefiting children and communities throughout California. More information is available at <http://www.artsplate.org/>.



*Photo of LDI teaching artist Deborah Karp instructing a K-1 dance class.*

## **ABOUT LUNA DANCE INSTITUTE**

Luna Dance Institute (LDI) is the most comprehensive dance education organization on the west coast. We serve children, families, dance artists, educators, schools and organizations through a variety of programs aimed at increasing access to dance for everyone. Last year we brought dance to over 20,000 children and 300 artists, teachers, and social- service providers. Our rigorous approach emphasizes creativity, collaboration, and composition. LDI's programs include Professional Learning, providing education and support to all who teach dance; Studio Laboratory, the Bay Area's only choreography-based program for children and teens; School and Community Alliances (SCA), supporting schools in our community to build standards-based dance programs; Moving Parents and Children Together (MPACT), providing parent-child dance classes to families in the child welfare system. As an established Institution with a national reputation for expertise and training in dance education—Luna's Building Cultures of Dance initiative offers program planning, implementation, consultation and evaluation to schools, districts, and arts organizations throughout the country. For more information visit:

[lunadanceinstitute.org](http://lunadanceinstitute.org)  