

Luna Dance Institute Receives California Arts Council “Artists in Schools” Grant *State funds support arts education programming at Oakland Unified Schools*

Berkeley, CA – The California Arts Council, a state agency, announced that it will award \$13,600 to Luna Dance Institute (LDI) as part of its Artists in Schools program.

The Artists in Schools program supports projects that integrate community arts resources—artists and professional art organizations—into comprehensive, standards-based arts learning projects for California's students. This year, the California Arts Council's Artist in Schools program will allow 144 arts organizations to hire 580 teaching artists that will serve a total of more than 43,000 students in 323 schools across California.

The “Artists in Schools” Grant supports Luna Dance Institute’s School & Community Alliances (SCA) program that builds authentic partnerships between artists, teachers and schools to implement comprehensive scope and sequence K-5 standards-based dance education programs. Four Oakland public schools (La Escuelita Elementary, Reach Academy, International Community School, and Grass valley Elementary) will collaborate with Luna to build dance programs that assure each child participates in high-quality dance classes. 325 students, 11 classroom teachers and 6 LDI teaching artists are supported by the grant. The OUSD sites and partner teachers will receive model dance classes, side-by-side coaching, in-services and sponsored family dance events.

Luna’s SCA program provides professional development to classroom teachers, paraprofessionals, principals, and administrators in teaching, and supporting dance education. Emily Blossom, a K/1 teacher at New Highland Academy recently graduated from Luna’s Summer Institute where she received coaching in dance and arts integration. While working with her dance artist she remarked, “It is always rewarding to see kids bloom in dance class. Often those who are quiet or not super stars in academics reveal their creative and explorative sides.”

Director of the California Arts Council Craig Watson expressed enthusiasm over the awards this year. “California Arts Council grants provide vital support for projects in diverse communities across our state. This was a historic year of state arts support. We are proud to invest more than \$8.5 million in funding 712 grant projects that will stimulate local growth and prosperity, and meet the needs of our communities through deep engagement with culture and creative expression.”

The news of Luna Dance Institute’s grant is featured as part of a larger announcement from the California Arts Council, which can be viewed online at <http://arts.ca.gov/news/pressreleases.php>.

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 all. 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

