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News Release

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A HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS NAMES ADVISORY LEADERSHIP BOARD (CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL # 9)

LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) announced today the formation of a prestigious advisory board for the new Los Angeles High School for the Visual and Performing Arts.

The 15-member board, Discovering the Arts, Inc., is comprised of leaders in the fields of education, business and the arts who will advise LAUSD on the direction for the visual and performing arts high school, serve as ambassadors to the community, and secure supplemental resources to support school programs.

“The High School for the Visual and Performing Arts is destined to be a flagship institution for our district,” said LAUSD Superintendent Roy Romer. “We have a world-class team of architects designing the building, but now it is time to ensure that what happens within the walls is just as dynamic and visionary. We are excited that such a diverse and distinguished group of professionals have agreed to work with us to help shape an amazing performing arts school.”

The board is comprised of the following:

- Richard Alonzo, LAUSD Superintendent of Local District 4
- Araceli Ruano Pineda, Esq. (chairwoman of the advisory board), attorney with Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw, LLP

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- Ray Cortines, nationally renowned K-12 education leader and trustee of many arts and educational boards
- Josephine Ramirez, Vice President of Planning and Programming with the Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County
- Jonathan Yorba, Ph.D., Executive Director of Plaza de Cultura y Artes Foundation
- John Emerson, Esq., President of Personal Investment Management with Capital Guardian Trust Company and Chairman of the Board of the Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County
- Andrea Rich, Ph.D., President and Director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art
- Cynthia Telles, Ph.D., Director of the Spanish -speaking Psychosocial Clinic of the Neuropsychiatric Institute and Hospital at the UCLA School of Medicine
- Tony Bennett, legendary performer, accomplished visual artist and founder of the Frank Sinatra School of the Arts in New York City
- Quincy Jones, musician and arts entrepreneur
- Susanna Guzmán, singer/performer in the Los Angeles Opera
- Richard Koshalek, President of Arts Center College of Design
- Jose Luis Valenzuela, Artistic Director of the Latino Theatre Company and UCLA drama professor
- Plácido Domingo, world-renowned tenor opera singer and artistic director of the Los Angeles and Washington operas
- Jeff Valdez, Chairman of SiTV
- Maria A. Casillas, President of Families in Schools

“Our community is excited to be the home for the performing arts high school so that thousands of students will have the opportunity to receive not only an academic education but also an outstanding opportunity for arts instruction as

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well,” said José Huizar, President of the Los Angeles Board of Education.

“I am very honored and excited to participate in Los Angeles’ effort to bring arts education to public school students,” said Tony Bennett. “Los Angeles and New York are recognized internationally as arts and entertainment capitals, and it is imperative that both establish schools of the arts of the highest quality that will stand as role models for other cities across the country.”

“LAUSD is taking a bold step by creating a world-class high school for the visual and performing arts,” said Araceli Ruano Pineda, chairwoman of the advisory board. “Our new advisory board is looking forward to working with the district to help achieve its vision for this vital high school.”

The new high school will be located in the heart of the Los Angeles downtown arts corridor at 450 North Grand Avenue. Once complete, the school is expected to serve approximately 1,560 high school aged students. As part of LAUSD’s small learning community policy, students will select to be part of one of four academies – Visual Arts, Dance, Theatre Arts, or Music. Under the leadership of local Superintendent, Richard Alonzo, this school was conceived as a beacon for experimentation and sharing of best practices that will exist for students attending the school as well as become a creative place maker for other educators and students throughout the district.

Coop-Himmelblau is the design architect and HMC architect of record for this high school project. An official groundbreaking will take place in early 2005.

LAUSD serves 720,000 students and is currently engaged in a massive building program to relieve overcrowding and return students to neighborhood schools on a traditional calendar. The \$14 billion school construction program, which is supported by locally passed voter bond measures matched with state funding, will ultimately create 160 new schools and 83 additions as well as renovations to existing schools. It is the largest public works project in the nation.

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