

AGENDA REPORT

TO: City Council and PUSD Board of Education

FROM: Michael J. Beck, City Manager and
Edwin Diaz, Superintendent

DATE: November 18, 2008

RE: Collaboration between City of Pasadena and Pasadena
Unified School District for My Masterpieces District-wide Arts
Curriculum

RECOMMENDATION: This report is for information only.

BACKGROUND:

The collaboration between the City of Pasadena Cultural Affairs Division and the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) encompasses work on a variety of projects intended to expand opportunities for students to create and encounter art in the real world. As a result of the Cultural Nexus process, the City created seed funding for an Arts Education Liaison to be the Chair of the Community Arts Team (CAT), a group that partners with the District Arts Team (DAT) in order to enhance and improve arts programming in the schools. The ultimate goal of the DAT/CAT team is to determine and implement strategic, long range plans for providing sequential, California State standards-based arts curriculum in all four disciplines (visual arts, music, theatre, and dance) to all PUSD students.

In conjunction with the State of California's requirement that all students receive a high quality, sequential, standards-based arts education, PUSD is developing a new program for District-wide implementation. "My Masterpieces" will provide every PUSD child with a Pasadena-specific curriculum that would link the study of the visual arts with real world arts experiences in some of the City's world-class arts institutions. This program also fulfills Los Angeles County's Arts for All Initiative, which calls for the ultimate provision of arts in all four disciplines (visual, dance, music, and theatre) to every child.

The District's "My Masterpieces" Feasibility Study sums the focus of this collaboration in the following way: "A supplemental arts curriculum, developed

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by a committee of teachers and community arts partners working together, taught in the classroom and in the community, and experienced by all K-6 students in the District....Together, the rich visual arts resources in the community could serve all K-6 PUSD students."

MY MASTERPIECES PROGRAM:

The City's Public Art Walking Tour Brochure and collection is the subject of the second grade curriculum of "My Masterpieces." The Cultural Affairs Public Art Walking Tour brochure was used to determine appropriate selections for the curriculum, to provide information about the collection in general, and to guide teachers and students to the works via maps contained in the brochure. In addition, Cultural Affairs staff is hoping to provide a Public Art Walking Tour brochure to each second grade student so that families may learn about and participate in other walking tours outside of school hours.

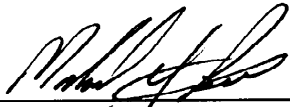
Currently, "My Masterpieces" is piloting in twenty-five classrooms across four schools in PUSD, seven of which are at the second grade level. In the spring of 2009, the pilots will expand to over 125 classrooms total, 21 of which will be second grade classes. In 2009-10, four more schools will join the program. Provided that the program continues to receive funding, four more schools will be added every year until all twenty PUSD elementary schools are participating in "My Masterpieces".

In addition to expanding the academic goals of the Arts for All Initiative, "My Masterpieces" will form a vital link between students, teachers, parents, the community and Pasadena-based arts organizations. It will provide an opportunity for students and their families to experience the wealth of art and art programs provided within the city. DAT/CAT team members are working on establishing a system of offering passes to families who want to visit the participating institutions on weekends, a program that already exists at the Pasadena Public Library and will be expanded to include more venues. The expected outcome of this program is an increase in attendance at local arts and culture organizations, broader general community awareness of the Pasadena Public Art Program and the other "My Masterpieces" participants, and the expansion of life-long learning opportunities for the Pasadena community and broader audience of residents and tourists.

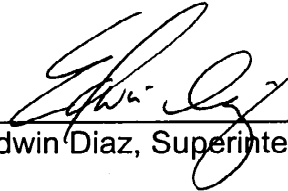
Cultural Affairs also facilitates a joint exhibition program, the Student Art Wall. Established by the Arts and Culture Commission in 2007, the Student Art Wall outside of Council Chambers highlights PUSD artwork from the district-wide art competition "No Boundaries." The Commission is dedicated to supporting the work of these young artists from K-12 in this twice yearly exhibition entitled "Bridging Boundaries," that includes selected works from about 60 students from 18 schools in the District.

FISCAL IMPACT: Funding for this project is based on collaboration between PUSD and the participating partner organizations. In addition, partners are securing private foundation and individual funding sources. The City of Pasadena has provided in-kind staffing support for the development of this project.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Michael J. Beck, City Manager



Edwin Diaz, Superintendent