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**News Release**

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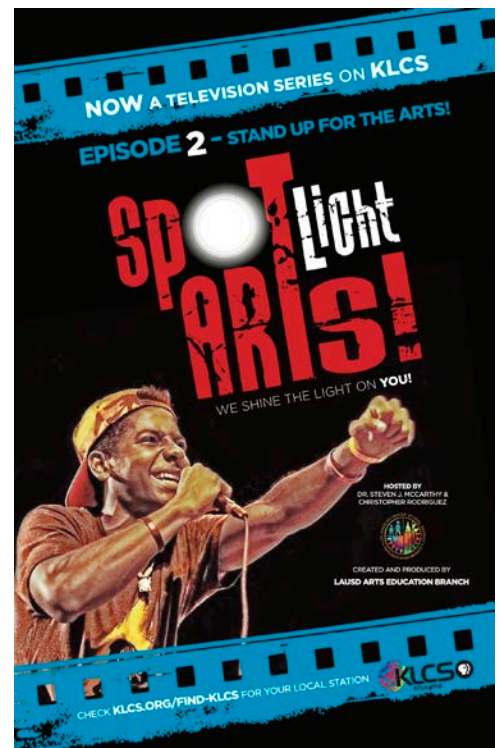
## **L.A. Unified Arts Education Branch Produces Original PBS TV Series**

LOS ANGELES – The Arts Education Branch continues its creative media campaign with original television programming created to spotlight the arts in the L.A. Unified community.

Created under the direction of Arts Education Branch Executive Director Rory Pullens, and hosted by Arts Coordinator Dr. Steven McCarthy and Arts Music Adviser Chris Rodriguez, this second episode of “Spotlight Arts!” will air on March 13, 21, and 29 at 6:30am and 6:30pm on KLCS, PBS for LA.

Titled “Stand Up for the Arts,” this episode shares the stories of individuals and organizations that advance the arts in their community and help transform the lives of L.A. Unified students.

The episode features The Social and Public Art Resource Center (SPARC), a world-renowned public art organization founded in 1976 by artist Judy Baca; Get Lit, an award-winning poetry and spoken-word organization; the acclaimed Crenshaw High School Choir and their charismatic director Iris Stevenson; The Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network, which includes Street Poets, Write Girl, Rhythm Arts Alliance, Unusual Suspects, and The Actor’s Gang -- a well-known theatre organization founded by Oscar-winning actor Tim Robbins.



Nearly 200 guests gathered this week at the Grammy Museum on March 6 for a private premiere screening of the episode. They included Superintendent Michelle King, School Board Member Scott Schmerelson, Local District Superintendents Cheryl Hildreth and Roberto Martinez and Chief Academic Officer Dr. Frances Gipson. Celebrities in attendance were actor Tim Robbins; Ralph Johnson, founding member of Earth, Wind and Fire; Wendy Raquel Robinson from “The Steve Harvey Show”; Kerry Gordy, a record industry executive and the son of Motown founder Barry Gordy, as well as studio executives from Warner Brothers.

“L.A. Unified recognizes the importance of the arts to achieve its district goals, especially here in Los Angeles, the creative capital of the world. To succeed, the Arts Education Branch is partnering with its larger creative community through our Arts Community Network, our Creative Industry Coalition for LAUSD Arts, and our other civic, cultural, community, and legislative partners”, said Executive Director of Arts Education, Rory Pullens. “*Spotlight Arts!* represents just one mass media effort the Arts Branch is utilizing to share the many successful L.A. Unified stories. It’s time the L.A. Unified narrative is told in a way never seen before!”

The program will air on **KLCS at 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. March 13, 21, and 29.** To find your local KLCS channel, see <http://klcs.org/find-klcs/>

For a preview of Spotlight Arts!, please click on the link to watch the trailer. <https://vimeo.com/202296776> ###