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## Overview of Arts High Foundation and LACHSA

### Arts High Foundation

In 1984, the Arts High Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, formed to provide leadership for the establishment of the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts (LACHSA). The Foundation's primary mission is to help bridge the gap between available public funds and the actual cost of operating LACHSA's award-winning arts programs. Since the school's inception it has provided nearly \$20 million of direct funding to support the school's arts programs. For more information or to donate to Arts High Foundation, please visit [artshighfoundation.org](http://artshighfoundation.org) or call (213) 225-7586.

### LACHSA

LACHSA is a tuition-free, award-winning public high school providing college-preparatory academics and pre-professional, conservatory-style arts education for the most promising young artists in Los Angeles County. Recognized as one of the five most outstanding art high schools in the nation, it is *the* premier visual and performing arts public high school in the Western United States. One of only three specialized high schools in all of LA County, the school is run by the Los Angeles County Office of Education on the campus of California State University Los Angeles.

### Demographics

LACHSA students represent some of the nation's most gifted emerging young artists and reflect the diverse racial and socio-economic population that is Los Angeles County. The demographic mix is African-American (10.5%), Asian (11.3%), Caucasian (47.6%), Filipino (2.1%), Hispanic (17.8%), Indigenous American (2.1%), and Multiple Ethnicities (8.7%).

### Admission

Prospective students gain admission through a competitive process of juried auditions and portfolio reviews to select 600 of the most artistically talented youth in LA County.

### Leadership

LACHSA is administered by Principal George Simpson and Assistant Principal Lisa Sherman-Colt. Please visit [www.LACHSA.net](http://www.LACHSA.net) for more information.

### Academic Instruction & Performance

LACHSA offers a rigorous College Preparatory curriculum with a full spectrum of Honors and AP courses. A model small-learning community located on the campus of California State University LA (CSULA), the high school offers students a direct connection to higher education through its partnership with CSULA. LACHSA ranks academically in the top 10 percent of schools in California. As a distinguished California public high school, its 2011 graduating class had an average GPA of 3.25.

## Arts Instruction

LACHSA students receive college-level arts conservatory instruction by distinguished teaching artists in six disciplines: Dance, Cinematic Arts, Music (vocal and instrumental), Musical Theatre, Theater and Visual Arts. For more information about LACHSA's distinguished teaching artists and arts administrators, please visit [lachsa.net](http://lachsa.net).

## College and University Acceptances

LACHSA graduates attend the finest universities, colleges, and arts conservatories in the world. The Class of 2012 had 96% of its graduates go on to such prestigious schools as New York University, University of Southern California, UC Berkeley, UCLA, Syracuse University, Boston University, Juilliard, Cooper Union, Art Center College of Design, Cal Arts, San Francisco Conservatory, Berklee School of Music, Notre Dame, Northwestern, Michigan, Indiana and Columbia Universities, Art Institute of Chicago, Cincinnati Conservatory, Oberlin College, Rhode Island School of Design, Peabody Conservatory, Eastman School of Music and many, many more.

## Alumni

LACHSA graduates and alumni who have gone on to launch highly successful careers in the arts include:

- Josh Groban, double platinum recording artist
- Broadway actors: Michael Longoria, Andrew Chappelle, Coby Getzug, Dawn Cantwell to name a few
- Ai Carina Uemura, BMG and Def Jam recording artist
- Omi Vaidya, co-star of the Bollywood hit film *3 Idiots*
- Veronica Gonzalez, director-product marketing at EMI - Capitol Latin
- Anthony Anderson, actor (*Law & Order, Barbershop*)
- Gerald Clayton, Grammy-nominee jazz pianist
- Corbin Bleu (*High School Musical, In the Heights on Broadway, Hairspray* at Hollywood Bowl)
- Jenna Elfman, actor (*The Six Wives of Henry Lefay* and *Dharma & Greg*)
- Sonia Romero, award-winning printmaker
- Kehinde Wiley, portrait painter whose works have been exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery
- Matthew Rushing, principal dancer of Alvin Ailey American Dance Company
- Betsy Chasses (*What the Bleep Do We Know!?*), Evan Astrowsky, (*Columbus Day, Fanboys*), Paul Torok (*Northfolk, Twin Falls Idaho*), producers
- Josephina Lopez, screenwriter, playwright (*Real Women Have Curves*)
- Nicole Lapin, CNN news anchor
- Julie (Pinchuk) McNamara, Sr.V.P. Drama Development, CBS Television

## Awards

- California Distinguished School for academic excellence;
- Golden Bell Award (visual arts program)
- Grammy Signature School (music program)
- Consistent winner at the Monterrey Jazz Festival
- Bravo Award (Music Center of Los Angeles) for excellence in art education
- Center of Excellence designation from Tisch School of Music (NYU)
- California Business for Education Excellence (CBEE) 2009, 2010 and 2011 Honor Roll