

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Foundation for the Performing Arts Center Awarded California Arts Council  
“Artists in Schools – Exposure” Grant**

SAN LUIS OBISPO, June 13, 2017— The California Arts Council announced its plans to award \$16,200 to the Foundation for the Performing Arts Center as part of its Artists in Schools - Exposure program. The grant will be for the Foundation’s 2017-18 School Matinee Program.

The School Matinee Program will bring over 10,000 local children to free performances at the Performing Arts Center next season. More than 80 schools are set to participate, 35% of which are Title I. The 2017-18 season aims to be their biggest yet, with 13 matinee performances ranging from a musical adaptation of *Mr. Popper’s Penguins* to *Versa Style*, the history of Hip-hop culture told through music and dance.

“It is quite an honor for the Foundation to receive its first ever California Arts Council Grant” said Leann Standish, Executive Director. “The Student Matinee Program at the Performing Arts Center teaches students curiosity and generosity towards others as well as supporting Common Core Standards for SLO County Schools”

As an offshoot of the Council’s signature arts education grant program, the new Artists in Schools - Exposure program offering supports attendance at professional performances and exhibitions for students who may otherwise have limited access to these experiences. The impact of student



attendance at these events is complemented by pre- and post-attendance activities that align to National Core Arts Standards, VAPA Standards, and/or Common Core Standards of education.

The Foundation for the Performing Arts Center is one of just 71 grantees chosen for this highly competitive program, which received applications from 108 organizations statewide. The news of the Foundation’s grant was 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>

“We know the benefits of arts education—to improve test performance, reduce dropout rates and increase participation in higher learning,” said Donn K. Harris, California Arts Council Chair. “[Project name/description] through our Artists in Schools - Exposure program allows students to step outside the classroom for real-life arts immersion. Opportunities like these help fuel the fire and drive necessary within our youth to prepare them for success in school, in the workforce, and in their communities.”

To view a complete listing of all Artists in Schools - Exposure grantees, visit [http://arts.ca.gov/programs/files/CAC\\_AIS\\_Exposure\\_Grantees\\_2016-17\\_FINAL.pdf](http://arts.ca.gov/programs/files/CAC_AIS_Exposure_Grantees_2016-17_FINAL.pdf).

**About the Foundation for the Performing Arts Center**

Established in 1986, the Foundation provides and promotes an extraordinary and accessible center for the performing arts that elevates the arts in our community, in collaboration with our partners, California

Polytechnic State University and the City of San Luis Obispo. For more information on the Foundation, its mission, values and programs, please visit: <http://fpacslo.org>

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