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## **The halls are alive with the sound of music**

### *Community support for Foundation's pledge saves art and music*

EL SEGUNDO, Calif., - January 23, 2004 – Specialized art and music programs in El Segundo's two elementary schools have been fully funded for the 2003-2004 school year, thanks to the community's support of the \$140,000 Pledge to the Arts campaign initiated last June by the El Segundo Educational Foundation (ESEF).

"El Segundo is to be commended for rallying this tremendous support for the Foundation's pledge to keep art and music in our schools for another year," said Bruce Auld, superintendent of the El Segundo Unified School District (ESUSD).

Despite being part of ESUSD's elementary curriculum for years, last spring its specialized art and music classes were in danger of being eliminated. "The District, faced with less money in the operating budget, simply could not afford to offer these classes again this year," Auld said.

ESEF board members learned of the proposed cuts last June, and voted to save the programs by starting a grass roots campaign to raise the money from the business and residential community. Donations to the Foundation received from then until the end of 2003 were designated for the Pledge to the Arts campaign.

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Foundation saves art and music

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According to Foundation chairman Richard Lundquist, contributions to the campaign came in all sizes. He said once people heard about the Foundation's pledge to save art and music, support for the campaign spread throughout the community. "We received donations ranging from \$10 to \$5,000. Everyone generously pulled together and we reached our goal," Lundquist said.

"The success of this campaign shows the Educational Foundation has become the conduit for giving to El Segundo schools," Auld said. "We are very fortunate to have a foundation board so dedicated to being our partners in education." Auld said there was no doubt the Foundation's contributions over the past 20 years have enhanced the quality education provided to El Segundo students. "The community's continued support of this partnership will be crucial as we face the challenges of the budget crisis," he said.

The El Segundo Educational Foundation is pleased to announce the date of its next community event celebrating Twenty Years of Supporting Education, an Evening at McCormick & Schmick's on Monday, February 23, 2004 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Admission is \$40 per person before February 16, \$50 thereafter. For reservations, please call 310/ 615-2650, x229.

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