

Art Education, Research, and Policy Symposium
Cammilleri Hall – USC Center for Music, Brain and Society
June 9, 2025

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Registration and Coffee

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Welcome & Opening Remarks,

Host: Josh Kun, USC Vice Provost for the Arts

- Introduction
- Framing the day: Bridging sectors, identifying gaps, and building trust
- Grounding agreement: Creating space for honest reflection and productive exchange

Introductory Remarks: Renée Fleming

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

Session 1: Why Arts Education Matters Now More Than Ever

Session Chair: William Coppola, Associate Professor of Music Teaching & Learning, USC

10:15 – 10:45 AM: Research Overview

- Dr. Assal Habibi – Associate Professor of Psychology, USC
- Dr. Thalia Goldstein – Associate Professor of Applied Developmental Psychology, George Mason University
- Dr. Beatriz Ilari – Professor of Music Teaching & Learning, USC Thornton School of Music

10:45 – 11:15 AM: Roundtable Dialogue

11:15 AM – 11:30 AM

Break

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Session 2: Educator Voices—What's Working, What's Not, and What We Need

Session Chair: Candice Mattio, Assistant Professor of Music Teaching & Learning, USC

- Vincent Womack – Music Director, Foshay Learning Center (LAUSD)
- Dr. Alissa Chitwood – Music Teacher, Riverside, Alvord Unified
- Camille Delaney-McNeil – Vice President, Learning at Los Angeles Philharmonic
- Dr. Jim Wang – Coordinator Visual and Performing Arts, Santa Monica Unified

12:30 PM – 1:15 PM

Lunch & Cross-Sector Table Discussions

- Mixed tables of educators, researchers, policymakers
- Prompt: 'What's a disconnect we've seen—and how might it be bridged?'

1:20 PM – 1:35 PM

Welcome & Remarks - LA Opera & LA County Arts and Health Week

Dr. Andréa Fuentes – Vice President, LA Opera Connects

1:35 PM – 2:30 PM

Session 3: From Research to Policy—Bridging the Gap

Session Chair: Veronica Alvarez – Executive Director, Create CA

- Ed Honowitz – Chief Executive Officer, CDE Foundation
- Dr. Sharon Herpin – Senior Project Director, West Ed
- Jesus M. Holguin – President, California School Boards Association

2:30 PM – 2:40 PM

Break

2:40 PM – 3:35 PM

Session 4: The Role of Funders and Philanthropy in Supporting Change

Session Chair: Dalouge Smith, Co-Founder and former CEO, The Lewis Prize for Music

- Julia Rubio – Executive Director, NAMM Foundation
- Sarah Lyding – Executive Director, Music Man Foundation
- Jeffrey Dollinger- Executive Director, Find Your Light Foundation

3:35 PM – 3:50 PM

Remarks

Kristin Sakoda – Director, LA County Department of Arts and Culture

3:50 PM – 4:20 PM

Reflections

Renée Fleming in conversation with Josh Kun

4:20 PM – 4:30 PM

Closing Remarks & Invitation to continued dialogue and collaboration

Assal Habibi