

## FACT SHEET

**Leap...imagination in learning** was established in response to severe budget cuts in Arts programs in California schools. These cuts began in 1978 and continue to effect arts education in our schools today. Leap serves over 6,500 youth (primarily elementary school age) in over 25 schools in the Bay Area (San Francisco, San Mateo, Alameda and Marin counties). Leap provides educational programs focused on the arts of story telling, music, dance, theatre, creative writing, visual arts and an architecture program focused on our built environment.

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Leap's mission is to stimulate imagination and creativity in Bay Area children by bringing visual and performing artists and architects into the classroom for extended residencies. Leap artists and architects team with teachers to design participatory projects that augment and amplify the school's curriculum. Our purpose is to interweave all aspects of learning with the creative process.

## OUR PROGRAMS

### Artists in Schools

Leap's Artists in Schools program is a residency program that places artists in classrooms to work with grades K-8. Children are given the opportunity to explore visual arts, dance, drama, opera, theater techniques, music, storytelling, creative writing, fashion design, video production, photography and multi-media arts. The Leap experience helps students connect artistic and academic concepts. Through Leap's extended arts residencies, children:

- Gain increased self-awareness and self-esteem.
- Acknowledge diversity and differing viewpoints.
- Discover ways of expressing their own ideas and feelings.
- Learn to collaborate and work cooperatively.
- Engage actively and directly with ideas and concepts and relate them to hand-on activities.

### Architects in Schools

Leap collaborates with the American Institute of Architects to create the Architects in Schools program. In this residency program children work under the guidance of a resident architect on activities which include creating scale drawings and models that sharpen math skills, solving structural problems by applying science principles and engaging in drawing exercises to enhance perception and art skills. The program goals are:

- To help children understand the built environment and its effect on peoples lives and their community.
- To teach the design process as a tool for problem solving.
- To develop critical thinking skills.

