

RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION
Adopted by the Board of Education at its Regular Meeting of April 8, 2008

Subject: Resolution No. 84-8Sp1

**COMMENDATION TO THE SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY FOR
ENRICHING THE LIVES OF SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT ELEMENTARY STUDENTS BY PROVIDING A FREE MUSIC
EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR TWENTY YEARS**

WHEREAS: The San Francisco Unified School District and the San Francisco Symphony are celebrating the 20th Anniversary of San Francisco Symphony's acclaimed Adventures in Music Program (AIM).

WHEREAS: The San Francisco Symphony's AIM Program represents a true partnership between the San Francisco Symphony and the San Francisco Unified School District.

WHEREAS: The AIM Program began in 1988 as a pilot program to enrich the music education provided to fourth and fifth graders in public schools. Today, the AIM Program serves every student in grades one through five throughout the SFUSD through a comprehensive music education experience which is implemented by school staff, including principals and teachers.

WHEREAS: As a result of the San Francisco Symphony's commitment to AIM, every first- through fifth-grade student in the San Francisco Unified School District—more than 21,000 students—receives five consecutive years of music education experiences free of charge from the San Francisco Symphony.

WHEREAS: The AIM Program is designed in alliance with local, state and national curriculum frameworks. The AIM Program provides a sequential, curriculum-related music experience. It consists of a series of four in-school performances by specially trained ensembles of professional musicians, who present music representing a variety of cultural traditions; a music-centered interdisciplinary curriculum; professional development sessions for teachers; supplementary resources for teachers and students, such as books, instruments, and CDs; a workbook journal for each student; and on-going assessment.

WHEREAS: The San Francisco Symphony generously allows its education staff to train San Francisco Unified School District teachers to lead arts-integrated, multicultural lesson plans. The AIM Program is taught by a classroom teacher in collaboration with ensembles of visiting musicians. AIM presents musical concepts along with concepts in other curricular areas such as language arts, social sciences, or physical sciences. A central component of the AIM Program is a field trip for all students to Davies Symphony Hall for a private concert by the San Francisco Symphony, which builds on AIM concepts students have been learning in their classrooms.

WHEREAS: The AIM Program celebrates the cultural diversity of our City by presenting and teaching about music of many genres and traditions. The San Francisco Symphony selects and trains ensembles of local musicians and renowned performers who call the Bay Area their home. More than one thousand educational concerts are presented on elementary school campuses each year.

WHEREAS: An extensive evaluation of the AIM Program in 2003 documented the impact of the program on the students and teachers of the SFUSD. Among its findings were the following:

- 87% of teachers and 85% of principals agreed that their students are more interested in music and the arts because of AIM.
- 86% of principals found that the use of AIM in the curriculum has increased their students' understanding of, or achievement in, other subjects.
- 76% of principals said their students are more interested in learning because of AIM.
- 78% of principals agreed that their students are more accepting of other cultures because of AIM.
- 68% of teachers found that participating in AIM opened up for them new ways of thinking about curriculum, and 58% of teachers reported that because of AIM that they are now better teachers.

WHEREAS: AIM is emulated as a national model in arts education. AIM has been featured in national conferences and in press for its depth of learning opportunities for students, and for its breadth of service delivery to an entire school district. Today, components of the AIM Program and the unique partnership between the San Francisco Symphony and the San Francisco Unified School District have been adapted by other cities across the country, which have looked to San Francisco for leadership.

WHEREAS: AIM is the longest running community music education program of its kind among American orchestras. No other symphony orchestra in the United States has made so extensive and so far-reaching a commitment to a school community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District and the Superintendent of Schools commends the San Francisco Symphony, its Board of Governors and staff, for its unwavering commitment and success for twenty years:

- 1) in enriching the lives of countless San Francisco Unified School District students;
- 2) providing free music education opportunities for public school students, which San Francisco Unified School District could not otherwise provide to its students; and
- 3) building a dependable and sustained relationship between San Francisco Unified School District and the San Francisco Symphony.