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For Immediate Release

Coronado School of the Arts Receives National Endowment for the Arts Grant for Multi-Disciplinary Performance Art Piece

“Sacred Sky, Sacred Earth” Performance Piece Earns Funding

Coronado CA, June 24, 2010 – Coronado Unified School District (CUSD) has earned a prestigious Access to Artistic Excellence grant for \$13,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) for Coronado School of the Arts (CoSA) to produce “Sacred Sky, Sacred Earth,” a free and open to the public visual art installation incorporating the work of renowned installation artist Peter Terezakis, together with dance, music, and spoken word that will take place on North Beach in Coronado on March 20, 2011.

The NEA is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established, to bringing the arts to all Americans and to providing leadership in arts education. An independent agency of the federal government established in 1965, the NEA is the nation’s largest annual funder of the arts within all 50 states. 950 arts organizations nationwide received an Access to Artistic Excellence grant for fiscal year 2010; CUSD was one of only 189 California arts organizations to be awarded such a grant, which will fund the 2011 production of “Sacred Sky, Sacred Earth.”

2011 marks year four that CoSA will present “Sacred Sky, Sacred Earth” in collaboration with Terezakis, who created his first outdoor light sculpture in 1996. Since then, this installation has been recreated and repeated in a variety of settings on several continents. Each time it provides a stunning reinterpretation of the natural setting, calling attention to our ever-diminishing open spaces.

This is a truly multi-disciplinary public art event that uses the natural beauty and sounds of the Coronado shore to celebrate dance, music, and visual arts. The NEA grant supports not only the performance, but also the study, rehearsal, and research that Coronado School of the Arts students and collaborating professional artists will conduct before the performance. Every CoSA discipline – dance, digital media, instrumental music, theatre, technical theatre, and visual art – will participate. Each student will engage in workshops on the history of the project specifically and public art in general. Each department will work under the direction of CoSA faculty, artist Peter Terezakis, and other notable San Diego artists and organizations.

Terezakis will be joined by other professional artists including John Stubbs and Kate Hatmaker, violinists for the San Diego Symphony; Jean Isaacs, professional choreographer and Artistic Director of Jean Isaacs San Diego Dance Theatre; and Maxine Mahon, Artistic Director of the California Ballet.

“Sacred Sky, Sacred Earth” exemplifies the kind of experiences that make CoSA an important training ground for serious young artists who wish to make a career in the arts. In addition to giving students a solid arts training, it is also part of CoSA’s mandate to provide unique cultural experiences to the broader community. CoSA offers numerous opportunities for public involvement during the year, from dance, musical and theatrical productions to “Nations of San Diego International Dance Festival” to “Sacred Sky, Sacred Earth.” The community benefits, as do the CoSA students who receive relevant and real performance training.

“Sacred Sky, Sacred Earth” offers a unique and inspiring look at the interplay of landscape, art, serious art students and professional artists. The performance will be free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.cosafoundation.org.