

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Dec. 6, 2016 CONTACT: William Diepenbrock

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## Baldwin Park Unified Elementary Students to Beautify L.A. County Animal Shelters

## Students take part in Portraits of Hope community art project

WHAT:	Students at Baldwin Park Unified's Bursch Elementary School will create artwork to beautify Los Angeles County animal shelters during the first stage in a national campaign launched by nonprofit Portraits of Hope to promote pet adoptions. Students in grades two through six will paint wooden cutouts of animals and abstract images to decorate the shelters; students in lower grades will create art pieces to decorate the school in support of the effort.
	Bursch is one of just two Los Angeles area schools participating in the program thus far.
WHEN:	8 a.m. to 2:40 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12 and Tuesday, Dec. 13
WHERE:	Bursch Elementary School, 4245 Merced Ave., Baldwin Park
DETAILS:	Students will prepare for the project with a pair of assemblies at 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 9, when they will learn about the goals of the Portraits of Hope project from the organization's founder, artist Ed Massey. On Monday and Tuesday, students will rotate through three small groups. In the first, they will paint the cutouts. In the second, they will create an advertisement to display their ideas. In the third, they be given a dollar and asked to decide how to split the funds among community needs.

This will be Bursch's second collaboration with Portraits of Hope. In 2014, students helped with the group's "The Spheres of McArthur Park" effort.

Coverage and/or inclusion of this event in your calendar of events is welcomed and greatly appreciated.

In a culture of high expectations and academic rigor and an environment of support, understanding, and emotional safety, all Baldwin Park Unified School District students will graduate with a valued and highly respected diploma, prepared with the relevant skills, knowledge, and personal attributes necessary for success in a university or other institution of higher education and/or any post-secondary options of their choice.