



# Amplifying the Arts

Volume 37, May 2025



## THE HUNDRED *Dresses* Trunk Show



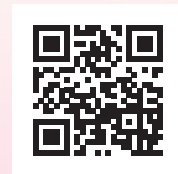
### THE HUNDRED DRESSES TRUNK SHOW PROJECT

The Hundred Dresses Trunk Show was a significant collaborative effort curated by Louisa Higgins, Riverside County Office of Education Arts Administrator, and Karen Riley, S.C.R.A.P. Gallery Executive Director. It wasn't just a traveling exhibit, it was a powerful testament to the role of art in nurturing kindness, inclusion, imagination, and creativity. This transformative journey beckoned everyone to join. The exhibit featured 200 unique dress images crafted by a diverse collective of amateur and professional artists and embarked on a tour across Riverside County in 2025, stopping at La Quinta, Riverside, Temecula and Cathedral City. At each stop, we also offered a free dressmaking activity to all attending families. It was delightful to see students, teachers, and parents come out to check out the artwork on display.

We based this event on the wonderful classic, *The Hundred Dresses* by Eleanor Estes, originally published in the 1940s by a young librarian with a passion for storytelling. She crafted a children's classic novel that delved into prejudice, bullying, and empathy. The Hundred Dresses narrates the poignant tale of Wanda Petronski, a little Polish girl who becomes the target of teasing from her classmates, led by Peggy and Maddie—the original mean girls.

When the project was announced, we mailed out 100 copies of the book to requesting teachers so that they could read the story with their class and then do an integrated artwork.

In the end, we have over 830 submissions and 26 schools participating from 12 districts. To date, this is the largest arts experience ever offered by the Arts at Riverside County Office of Education. All 200 artworks were featured on display at the 2025 State of Education event for Riverside County Office of Education.



To see more photographs and the list of winners, please visit <https://bit.ly/3EGeUc7> or scan QR code.

