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Media Contacts:

For Inner-City Arts:

Joanna Brody

(310) 582-0085

[joanna@brody-pr.com](mailto:joanna@brody-pr.com)

For The British Consulate-General:

Katharine Keith

(310) 996-3028 | Cell: 310 420-1791

[Katharine.Keith@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Katharine.Keith@fco.gov.uk)

## **The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to Visit Inner-City Arts on July 10<sup>th</sup>**

### Students from LAUSD Schools Will Host and Make Art with British royal newlyweds Prince William and Catherine

Los Angeles, CA -- As part of their visit to Los Angeles in July, The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge will visit Inner-City Arts, an oasis of learning, achievement and creativity in the heart of Skid Row, and a vital partner in the work of creating a safer, healthier Los Angeles. Widely regarded as one of the nation's most effective arts education providers, Inner-City Arts provides elementary, middle and high school students, many living in Los Angeles' poorest neighborhoods, with the tools and skills they need to succeed academically and personally. Building bridges between the arts and academic subjects, Inner-City Arts' unique approach to arts education measurably improves academic and personal outcomes for children and youth from high poverty neighborhoods, including students with limited English proficiency at risk of academic failure.

The mission of Inner-City Arts is closely aligned with two of the couples' interests – homelessness and how the arts can help young people unlock their potential. Located in the homeless capital of the world where thousands of children and adults live without a roof over their heads, Inner-City Arts brings together these strands in a concrete, meaningful way.

According to Jamie Lowther-Pinkerton, Private Secretary to The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, the couple is sincerely looking forward to meeting the children and to participating in art programs with them – mainly through painting and ceramics. During their visit, one hundred and twenty elementary school students will be on campus attending visual and performing arts workshops in various art forms including drama,

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dance, visual art, animation, digital photography and ceramics. A small group of students will greet and host Their Royal Highnesses, who will then paint with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in a visual arts workshop, and do ceramics with 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. The couple will then join an audience of children and supporters to watch a performance by the Inner-City Arts Repertory Dance Company, a troupe of 14 high school students.

“With approximately 20,000 non-profits in Los Angeles devoted to numerous worthy causes, we are beyond thrilled that The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge will be spending a portion of their brief time in Los Angeles with Inner-City Arts,” says Cynthia Harnisch, president and CEO of Inner-City Arts. “What we hope to gain from their visit to Inner-City Arts is increased awareness about the capacity that an arts education has to unlock the creative potential of children, especially children who are growing up with the challenges of poverty.”

In conjunction with the visit, Inner-City Arts has connected with Centrepoint from the UK, one of The Duke’s patronages and the leading charity for homeless young people aged 16-25. The British Council in LA, with the support of the Embassy and Consulate-General, is also exploring ways of deepening the links between the UK and US charitable sector in this regard.

### **About Inner-City Arts**

Inner-City Arts is a learning oasis in the heart of Los Angeles’ Skid Row where professional artists teach students in a real studio environment. Founded in 1989, Inner-City Arts has served 150,000 of the city’s most at-risk children at no cost to the students. With a campus that is an award-winning architectural marvel, Inner-City Arts works in partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District to bring elementary and middle school students to the campus during the school day for instruction in the visual and performing arts. High school students participate in after-school and Saturday programs. National, long-term research proves that students who attend Inner-City Arts’ classes show dramatic increases in statewide standardized test scores: 25% in math, 18% in reading, 8% in English proficiency. They also learn skills that are highly valued in the 21st century workforce such as collaboration, and creative and conceptual thinking. Most importantly, students who receive education in the arts are able to create a whole new vision of self- a new world of hope that includes accomplishment and belonging.

For more information, visit [www.inner-cityarts.org](http://www.inner-cityarts.org)

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