



ARTSWISE

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FORD AMPHITHEATRE SUMMER SEASON OPENS MAY 11

Known for providing L.A. audiences with adventurous contemporary and world arts programming, the historic open air Ford Amphitheatre hosts an impressive range of music, dance, theatre, film and family events in summer 2007. The 23-week season runs from May 11 to October 14, opening with a brand new retro-slide show comedy performance by histo-tainer Charles Phoenix and closing with the Ford's first evening of music from Ghana.

The Ford Amphitheatre season is a program of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and is produced in collaboration with Los Angeles County-based arts organizations.

A new look for a new season

The Ford's web site has undergone a major re-design. See the new look at www.FordTheatres.org, peruse complete 2007 season information and sign up for the Ford's email list to receive program updates and special offers.

Special student/child price for the dance series

Student and child tickets to Ford 2007 dance events for full-time students and children 12 and under will be available for **\$5** rather than the regular Ford student/child price of \$12 thanks to a grant from Target, sponsor of **Target Dance Series at the Ford**. Target strives to make the arts

affordable and accessible to youth and families because the arts help foster an appreciation and understanding of various cultures and points of view.

Pushing the envelope of chamber music

The 2007 Vintage Evenings at the Ford series, featuring complimentary wine served in the entryway garden prior to concerts, continues to bring new audiences to chamber music.

The **Ahn Trio**, the brilliant piano trio known for pushing the boundaries of chamber music, plays the West Coast premiere of **Kenji Bunch's *Danceband*** along with music by Michael Nyman, Chick Corea and The Doors (June 1). The Ahn's appearance is the Zev Yaroslavsky Distinguished Artist Event of the Ford 2007 season.

Great American-inspired chamber music by the **Cypress String Quartet**, narration by American Soul author Jacob Needleman and film montages by award winner Michael Schwarz fuse in the West Coast premiere of this thought provoking, multimedia event, ***Inspired by America*** (June 22).

Firsts at the Ford in 2007

In the first Ford presentation spotlighting Taiwanese artists, the popular and award-winning a cappella "air band" vocal group **SEMISCON** performs jazz, pop, classical, folk and contemporary music as part of the 7th Annual Taiwanese American Heritage Week Celebration (May 19).

A blend of symphonic sound and exotic music and dance of the Middle East is the centerpiece of a program by the **Los Angeles Jewish Symphony** and the ensemble led by **Yuval Ron**, who composed the score for the Oscar-winning *West Bank Story* (July 15).

The first Ford evening devoted to Colombian music presents traditions from across the country including **Petrona Martinez** (Afro-Caribbean region), **Banda de Flautas Chicha y Guarapo** (southern Andean region), **Jorge Veloza and Los Carrangueros** (northern Andean region), **Guafa Trio** (Central Andean music) and **Elda Florez** (Colombo-Venezuelan region) (August 5).

Breakin', pop-lockin', and uprokin' are all part of the first Ford show focusing on street dance with the artists of **Lux Aeterna Acrobatic Dance Company**, **Get Down Dolls**, **Outer Circle** and **Antics Performance** (October 5).

New series in the indoor theatre

The weekend afternoon series in the Ford's 87-seat indoor theatre, [Inside] the Ford, devoted to playreadings for several summers, expands to include performance art, spoken word and sketch comedy. Newly christened **The [Inside] Performances**, the nine-event series features new and in-progress works by Latino and Asian/ Pacific Islander artists including Guillermo Gómez-Peña, Oliver Mayer, John Michael Garcés, Philip W. Chung, Chicano Secret Service, OPM (Asian comedy group), Prince Gomolvilas, Kristina Wong, Luis J. Rodriguez, Walter Wong, Melinda Corazon Foley, Gabriela Lopez de Dennis and Augusto Federico Amador. (June 3 to August 25)

Peruse the Ford 2007 [season brochure](#).

The Ford Amphitheatre Summer Season is a collaboration of the Arts Commission and Los Angeles County-based arts organizations. Participants are chosen by a competitive application process. Applications for the 2008 season will be available in July. To receive notice of the application and application workshops, please send a request to publicevents@lacountyarts.org.

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY FUNDS 130 SUMMER INTERNSHIPS AT 90 ARTS ORGANIZATIONS

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, through its Arts Commission, has given grants totaling \$530,000 to 90 performing, literary, media and municipal arts organizations throughout Los Angeles County to support paid internships for college undergraduates in summer 2007.

Descriptions of and contacts for the 130 internship positions are posted on the Arts Commission's web site. Go to http://www.lacountyarts.org/internship_positions07.pdf. The positions are searchable by region, arts discipline, professional field and keyword.

Interested undergraduates should apply directly to the organization offering the internship, not the Arts Commission.

College undergraduates either resident in or attending school in Los Angeles County are eligible for the internships. Interns are paid \$350 per week for ten weeks and take part in educational and arts networking activities. Through the program, interns gain a deeper understanding of the work involved in nonprofit arts administration and the role of the arts in a community, and develop business skills that can be put to use in their future careers. Internship host organizations help mold and shape potential new workers in the arts field who may go on to arts leadership positions on staffs, boards or as volunteers.

General information on the internship program is available at <http://lacountyarts.org/internship.html>.

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NEW ARTS COMMISSION OFFICERS FOR 2007-08

Rosalind Wyman assumed the office of President of the Arts Commission April 9 succeeding Marjorie Lyte. Ms. Wyman is on the board of the Music Center of Los Angeles County and has served as an Arts Commissioner since 1971. Other officers for 2007-08 include Betty Haagen (Vice President), Araceli Ruano (Secretary) and Ron Rosen (Executive Committee). Marjorie Lyte also serves on the Executive Committee as immediate past president. The Arts Commission consists of 15 members; each of the five Los Angeles County Supervisors appoints three commissioners.

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FREE CONCERTS IN MAY AND JUNE

The Arts Commission sponsors free concerts at community venues throughout Los Angeles County to provide residents access to quality music programming. Free concerts in the months of May and June include:

The Elements
Villages at Cabrillo, Long Beach

Mojacar Flamenco
Thomas Street Plaza, Pomona

Cal Bennett Band
Pathfind County Park, Rowland Heights

The Electones
Pasadena Public Library/Allendale Branch, Pasadena

Arohi Ensemble
Jack and Denny Smith Library and Community Center, Los Angeles

Aztec Stories
Edendale Library Friends Society, Los Angeles

Full May and June [event information](#)

More information on Free Concerts go to <http://www.lacountyarts.org/free.html>

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CREATIVE ECONOMY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS L.A. COUNTY'S STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES

Otis College of Art and Design recently released a report titled *Report on the Creative Economy of the Los Angeles Region*. Prepared by Jack Kyser, Chief Economist of the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), the key findings include the fact that in 2005 the creative industries accounted for 894,000 direct and indirect jobs in Los Angeles County alone and generated \$140.5 billion in sales/receipts and more than \$3.4 billion in state tax revenues.. Other salient points include:

The report looks at the diversity of employment segments that makes up LA's creative economy - architecture, digital media, visual and performing arts, fashion, toys, industrial design and furniture, and the entertainment industry. It's clear that it is the diversity of creative endeavors that makes L.A.'s economy strong as there is no one sector that actually dominates (although the entertainment segment at 45% is very important).

Los Angeles County has 13% more creative establishments than the New York metropolitan area - and employs 47% more creative workers.

However, employment trends in the creative industries in LA have remained essentially flat from 2001 to 2005 despite increases in the overall population, due primarily to outsourcing and runaway film and television production.

The complete report is available at <http://otis.edu/index.php?id=699>

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ArtsWise is the quarterly e-newsletter of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. The Commission fosters excellence, diversity, vitality, understanding and accessibility of the arts in Los Angeles County. The Commission provides leadership in cultural services for the County, including information and resources for the community, artists, educators, arts organizations and municipalities. The Commission offices are located at 374 Hall of Administration, 500 W. Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90012. Complete Arts Commission information is available at www.lacountyarts.org. The Commission does not trade, sell or rent its e-mail list to anyone.

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