



ARTSWISE

A QUARTERLY BULLETIN

INAUGURAL ISSUE / Summer 2003

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PROGRESS REPORT ON ARTS EDUCATION BLUEPRINT GOALS

Since stepping up to the plate to lead a massive effort to improve arts education last September, Los Angeles County has made significant strides toward quality sequential education in the arts for K-12 public school students in the region.

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission is working on several fronts with 30 partners to accomplish the four goals of *ARTS FOR ALL: Los Angeles County Regional Blueprint for Arts Education*, a ten-year plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors, the Los Angeles County Board of Education and the Arts Commission in 2002.

Signal achievements so far include:

Training for Arts Administrators and Individual Artists

Recognizing that arts organizations and individual artists are the principal delivery system for arts education in the County today, the Commission is sponsoring training in providing programs that meet the state Visual and Performing Arts Standards and dovetail with the whole range of school subjects, such as language skills, history and mathematics.

Fifty arts administrators completed 30 hours of professional development in winter-spring 2003. These sessions, funded by a \$20,000 California Arts Council Exemplary Program Grant, were conducted by the Armory Center for the Arts in Pasadena and marked the first time organizations throughout the County were able to receive this level of professional development without being associated with a performance roster.

Through a \$60,000 grant from the Dana Foundation, the County is extending its training courses. A 25-hour professional development program for 48 individual teaching artists, conducted by the Music Center Education Division, took place in May and June. The Dana grant also supports two more sessions at the Armory for the Arts, January 13-March 16 and April 6-June 8, 2004.

Advocacy Assistance for Parents and Key District Personnel

Sony Pictures Entertainment has committed \$30,000 to support advocacy training for five school districts in Los Angeles County; the County Task Force on Arts Education is in the process of confirming the first five. The technical assistance, which begins in fall 2003 and is spearheaded by the California Alliance for Arts Education, a key Blueprint partner, is geared to the adoption of a policy, plan and budget for arts education in the targeted districts.

Online Arts Education Resource Directory

The Commission is on track to launch the directory in January 2004. The directory will centralize and increase access for 83,000 educators to quality, community-based arts education programs that have demonstrated how they support the state standards for arts education. Users can search by artistic discipline, subject area, grade level and cultural origin. The directory will feature video streaming. Grants of almost \$100,000 from the Los Angeles County Information Technology Fund support the creation of the directory.

The resource directory is phase one of an arts education portal centralizing access to research and data on arts education, funding resources, professional development and technical assistance.

The complete *ARTS FOR ALL Blueprint* is available online in the Arts Education section of the Commission web site, www.lacountyarts.org.

COUNTY SUPPORTS 128 SUMMER INTERNS WORKING IN THE PERFORMING ARTS

As part of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' commitment to developing future leaders in all fields, the County, through the Arts Commission, is supporting 128 interns working in 84 arts organizations throughout Los Angeles County. The County program, made possible by \$530,000 from the Board of Supervisors, provides one of the very few PAID internship opportunities for college undergraduates. Each intern receives \$350 for 10 weeks.

The program is designed to introduce undergraduate students to arts-related careers and also offers educational and arts networking activities. Sample internship experiences include providing administrative support for the Hollywood-based American Film Institute's Directing Workshop for Women, assisting with booking mid-Wilshire-based Great Leap's cross-cultural performance programs, learning about theater production at the Lancaster Performing Arts Center, working in the Los Angeles Music and Arts School's Summer Enrichment Program for children in East L.A., and creating an Artist Resource Guide for Long Beach's Public Corporation for the Arts. For a complete list of internships visit www.lacountyarts.org/internship.html

SUMMER FOLK ARTS EVENTS SUPPORTED THROUGH PROJECT GRANT PROGRAM

Among the 14 recipients of a total of \$14,000 in grants through the Commission's second and last round of Folk Arts Project Grant Program are three groups performing and teaching this summer:

The **World Kulintang Institute of Reseda** will give four workshops teaching kulintang, ancient gong-drum ensemble from the Southern Philippines, during July and August.

Jose Quetzal Flores and Gabriel Tenorio lead a two-week collaboration of the Los Angeles-based music ensembles Quetzal and Domingo Siete with the Mexican jarocho group Son de Madera. Workshops August 4-18 will be held at the Dolores Mission Church in Los Angeles and performances are scheduled in downtown L.A. at California Plaza under the auspices of Grand Performances on August 15 and on the City of San Fernando Concert Series August 17.

Barbara Drake and Oscar Ortiz will hold an intensive weekend workshop of Tongva/Chumash cultural arts for American Indian youth at the Haramokngna American Indian Cultural Center in La Canada during August.

FORD AMPHITHEATRE SEASON FEATURES LATINO HERITAGE CELEBRATION

The Ford Amphitheatre 2003 Summer Season, a program of the Arts Commission, is in full swing, running now through November 1. The record-setting 2003 schedule extends over 22 weeks, and encompasses 75 performances of 63 different events embracing world culture, dance, theatre, classical music, jazz, bluegrass, cabaret, film and family fare.

Eleven events scheduled in the last two months of the season, a period which includes Mexican Independence Day, constitute the **Latino Heritage Celebration**. The Celebration dovetails with the City of Los Angeles' 2003 Latino Heritage Month activities. Events include an evening of contemporary ballet by the **Francisco Martinez Dancetheatre** (September 5); the world premiere of new musical based on the life Agustin Lara, the 'Cole Porter of Mexico,' produced by **Bilingual Foundation of the Arts and Danza Floricanto/USA** (September 13-14); and a **Day of the Dead Celebration** (November 1) produced by Rodri Entertainment Group.

Complete details are available on the Ford's bilingual (English/Spanish) web site, www.fordamphitheatre.org, or by calling the Ford Box Office 323 461-3673.

SEARCHABLE MUSICIANS ROSTER NOW ONLINE

Institutions participating in the Commission's Free Concerts in Public Sites Program or anyone looking for an instrumental group will now find it easier to select musicians. A searchable roster of musical groups who have qualified for the program can now be found on the Commission's web site, www.lacounty.arts.org, under the Public/Special Events section. Users can search by artist name or by style of music.

Eligible concert presenters include libraries, parks, hospitals, juvenile halls, probation camps, museums, civic centers and senior citizen centers. The Commission web site provides complete information. The deadline to apply for funds to support concerts between October 2003 and January 2004 is July 23.

ARTS COMMISSION LEADS LOCAL ARTS AGENCIES IN NEA GRANTS

With a total of \$122,000 in grants, the Commission was the leader among local arts agencies in the nation in the round of National Endowment for the Arts awards announced in May 2003.

The Commission's Arts Education Program received a boost from the National Endowment for the Arts in the form of an \$80,000 grant to support the Arts Education Hub which coordinates the implementation of the County's Blueprint for Arts Education.

The Commission's Organizational Development Program received \$42,000 to support an arts marketing workshop and small grant program for recipients of grant awards through the Arts Commission's Organizational Grant Program.

In addition, the Ford Theatre Foundation received \$20,000 to help underwrite expenses for its Latino Arts Festival International June 16-29 featuring artists from Cuba, Mexico, Spain and the United States.

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission, headed by Executive Director Laura Zucker, provides leadership in cultural services of all disciplines for the largest county in the United States, encompassing 88 municipalities. The Arts Commission, in addition to its grants program that funds more than 200 nonprofit arts organizations annually, funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Trust and programs the John Anson Ford Theatres. The Commission recently published a regional blueprint for arts education. The Commission also produces free community programs, including the L.A. Holiday Celebration broadcast nationally and a year-round music program that funds more than 60 free concerts each year in public sites. The Commission's total budget for the fiscal year 2003-4 is \$4,454,000. The 2003-2004 President of the Arts Commission is Laurel Karabian.

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