



ARTSWISE

A QUARTERLY BULLETIN

2009 Issue No. 1

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ARTS EDUCATION NEWS

Arts education in L.A. County shows significant improvement

Arts education for K-12 in Los Angeles County is showing significant improvement for the first time in more than a generation, says a new report released February 11 by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

The 2008 Arts Education Performance Indicators Report shows an increase in the number of districts that are building infrastructure in this area, demonstrating a long-term commitment to improving arts education. The report is issued periodically by the Arts Commission as part of the county's regional Arts for All initiative to return quality, sequential arts education to the county's 81 school districts. Overall progress includes:

- 64 percent of districts report having an arts education policy, compared to 37 percent in 2005.
- 61 percent of districts report a board-adopted arts education plan or indicated they are developing one, compared to 35 percent in 2005.

- 39 percent of districts report having an arts coordinator, compared to 12 percent in 2005.
- 16 percent report having a 400 to 1 ratio of students to credentialed arts teachers, compared to 10 percent reporting that ratio in 2005.
- 98 percent of districts report using general fund budgets to support arts education programs (sources of arts ed budgets were not included in previous surveys).

The report shows that the Arts for All initiative is working in Los Angeles County. Arts for All started in 2002 and now serves as a national model for arts education. The most recent recognition was a \$1.2 million Wallace Foundation grant that will enable the initiative to build on the achievements of its first six years and expand its ability to increase the impact of the arts in classrooms.

The complete study is available at <http://lacountyarts.org/artsted/docs/2008AEPI.pdf>

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Online arts education professional handbook launch

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission, San Francisco Arts Commission and Santa Clara County Office of Education have launched *Designing the Arts Learning Community: a Handbook for K-12 Professional Development Planners*. The online handbook pioneers a new approach to arts education professional development. It represents a move away from the one-day workshop or summer course to a systemic, ongoing collaborative approach that yields powerful results for students' learning in the arts. It demonstrates how to establish, grow and sustain a learning community that comes together to improve arts instruction. *Designing the Arts Learning Community* is the first arts education professional development tool to reflect national best practices and features 50 model programs from across the country. The interactive tool can be found at <http://handbook.laartsed.org>.

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Three new school districts sign on to *Arts for All*

Lawndale Elementary School District, Lynwood Unified School District and San Marino Unified School District have joined **Glendale, Manhattan Beach and Temple City** as school districts embarking on Arts for All in 2008-09. Districts who engage in the *Arts for All* process commit to establishing the five foundation stones of quality arts education: a school board-adopted policy, plan and budget as well as the hiring of an arts coordinator at the district level and a student to credentialed arts teacher ratio no higher than 400:1. Arts for All, which began in 2002, is now working in 34 districts representing 476,531 students.

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[INSIDE] THE FORD WINTER PARTNERSHIP SEASON

Ghost Road Company's *Home Siege Home* opens March 26

A trilogy long in the making finally becomes complete with the world premiere production of *Home Siege Home*, the final production of the 2008-09 [Inside] the Ford Season. The show opens March 26 in the Ford's 87-seat indoor theatre. *Home* is a disarmingly funny but ultimately heartbreaking trilogy of new plays based on Aeschylus' *Oresteia*. The Ghost Road Company has re-imagined three previous ensemble-created adaptations (*Clyt at Home*, *Elektra-La-La* and *Orestes Remembered*) as a unified whole, playing out the fall of the House of Atreus against the backdrop of an unpopular war overseas and the social, political and emotional impact of such a war on those left at home.

For reservations and information, visit http://fordtheatres.org/en/events/090326_090503.asp or call

323.461.3673.

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Circle X production of *Battle Hymn* extended to March 7

The current production of the [Inside] the Ford season is a hit. *Battle Hymn*, Jim Leonard's critically acclaimed fantastical epic that follows a young girl's amazing pregnancy and kaleidoscopic journey through history, has been extended through March 7. The Circle X world premiere production stars Suzy Jane Hunt as Martha, the teenager who remains pregnant for 150 years while searching for a safe time and place to have her baby. From the mud and the blood of Fort Sumter to singing cows and the summer of love, Martha's journey embodies the tragedy, humor and hope that have shaped the last 150 years of U.S. history. Read reviews of *Battle Hymn* at <http://fordtheatres.org/en/about/news.asp>

For reservations and information, visit http://fordtheatres.org/en/events/090117_090222.asp or call 323.461.3673.

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Applications for the 2009-10 [Inside] season due March 18

Applications for the 2009-10 season at [Inside] the Ford are now open. The Winter Partnership Program provides an opportunity for Los Angeles County-based theatre companies without permanent performance venues to produce in the 87-seat theatre at a highly subsidized cost and with significant promotional support.

Similar to a grant program, proposals for the [Inside] the Ford winter program are considered on a competitive basis. The Arts Commission will partner with three theatre companies and assist each to present a proposed theatrical work. Before opening a proposal application, prospective applicants should first read the program's guidelines. Application and guidelines are available at <http://www.fordtheatres.org/en/about/apply.asp>

The Winter Partnership Season runs October through May. **Deadline to apply for 2009-10 is Wednesday, March 18, 2009.**

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FREE EXPERT ADVICE AVAILABLE AT ARTS TUNE-UP IN WEST HOLLYWOOD MARCH 7

Individual artists and small budget organizations can benefit from free expert advice and information on various aspects of arts management on **Saturday, March 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at an Arts Tune-Up at the Fiesta Hall in Plummer Park in West Hollywood.

The fast-paced "arts tune-up" format works like this: There will be several tables set up with an arts expert/consultant addressing a specific subject located at each table. Participants choose a topic they want to learn more about. After 25 minutes, participants rotate to another table with a topic of interest as the sessions repeat. There will be a total of 5 round-robin sessions of 25 minutes each. Participants are welcome to come by for an hour or stay for the entire morning.

Topics are tailored for both individual artists and small-budget arts organization. View the list at http://lacountyarts.org/announcements/ArtsTuneUp_West_Hollywood.pdf.

To register go to http://www.surveymonkey.com/lacac_atu_westhollywood09.

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125 PAID SUMMER ARTS INTERNSHIPS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

The Arts Commission has awarded grants to 96 performing, literary, media and municipal arts organizations throughout Los Angeles County to support paid internships for college undergraduates in summer 2009.

Descriptions of and contacts for the 125 internship positions will be posted on the Arts Commission's web site after March 16. Go to www.lacountyarts.org, click on "Internships."

Interested college students should apply directly to the organization offering the internship, not the Arts Commission. General information on the internship program is also available on the web site.

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CIVIC ART POPPING UP ALL OVER L.A. COUNTY

In the past four months artwork created or restored through the Arts Commission's Civic Art Program was revealed in locations stretching from Palmdale to Lawndale, downtown L.A. to Cerritos.

The new Lawndale Library, featuring a striking glass wall created by Anne Marie Karlsen (http://lacountyarts.org/civcart/02_Second_District/karlsen_lawndalelibrary.htm), was dedicated in November and opens to the public in mid-March. From a distance the wall on the Burin Avenue façade seems to be made of intricate geometric patterns like those you would see if you looked through a kaleidoscope. However, on closer inspection, the viewer finds fragments of local history. On one panel, a newspaper headline, "Opening Today - LAWNDALE," forms a border around graceful shapes from the cover illustration of a Lawndale Poultry Colony brochure. On another panel, the repeated image of an oil well from Lawndale's days as "Black Gold Village" forms spokes of wheel bordered by a line of 1950s automobiles parked in front of the city's old civic center.

On January 26, the County of Los Angeles and City of Cerritos officials dedicated a group of five mosaic sculptures at the northwest corner of the Cerritos Regional County Park. Called "Water Henge: H2O=Life" and arranged in a circle 20 feet in diameter, the sculptures bring to mind England's Stonehenge with their strikingly dramatic, bold shapes (http://lacountyarts.org/civcart/04_Fourth_District/civic_Kim_Emerson.htm). Created by mosaic artist Kim Emerson, each sculpture tells the story of how the Los Angeles Basin was once affected by large amounts of water. Engraved tiles with written facts about the history and the future of water conservation are integrated into the sculptures. The artwork was commissioned under Los Angeles County's Civic Art Program and "Water Henge" is the first Civic Art collaboration between the County and a municipality. The City of Cerritos and the County each contributed half of the \$172,000 project cost.

Two of the projects enhance the work environment of County employees.

Two weeks before the November election, the Registrar Recorder/County Clerk Elections Operation Center in Santa Fe Springs received a new art installation titled "Tree by tree, from sea to mountains," designed by artist Rebecca Mendez. The imposing photographic banner (http://lacountyarts.org/civcart/01_First_District/mendez_registrarclerk.htm) celebrates the majestic nature of Los Angeles County's diverse tree population.

On February 18, Los Angeles County Fire Stations 93 and 136 in Palmdale unveiled nine original oil-on-wood paintings (http://lacountyarts.org/civcart/05_Fifth_District/greene_fs93_fs136.htm) inspired by artist Jason Greene's week-long residency with firefighters. He captured both the extraordinary acts the firefighters accomplish every day as well as the more routine details of their

jobs.

The Civic Art program, which started in 2004, is in the process of cataloguing all County-owned artwork, and, in some cases, restoring it. One of these pieces is a topographical map of the County on the façade of the Hall of Records in downtown L.A. (http://lacountyarts.org/civic_topographical_young.htm). The 20 foot high by 80 foot wide high-relief mosaic and granite mural depicts a bird's eye view of the region's geological features and water resources. Artist Joseph Young's creation was heavily influenced by Italian Byzantine mosaics. Young worked closely with the building's architects, which included Richard Neutra. As a result of the extensive restoration, the map is once again a bold presence on Temple Street and water flows through the wall again for the first time since the 1980s.

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L.A. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION POSTS RECORD NATIONAL BROADCAST NUMBERS

Both the national and local Holiday Celebration shows had notable successes this December.

The national show, an hour-long music and dance television special of highlights from the 2007 live show at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, aired on December 17 and 24 at 10:00 pm. The broadcast achieved record exposure. The program aired a total of 649 times on 235 different PBS stations making this the most frequently aired Holiday Celebration national program to date. Twenty broadcasts of the national show aired in seven of the nation's top ten markets, including Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco-Oakland, Boston, Washington D.C. and Houston. Also, 68% of PBS member stations broadcast the show, representing 79% of the national broadcast market.

The *49th Annual Los Angeles County Holiday Celebration* from 3 to 9 p.m. on December 24 at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center for the first time linked the show theme to food traditions and urged attendees to bring packaged goods to contribute to the L.A. Regional Food Bank. Nearly 1,500 pounds of food were collected during the course of the show.

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Explore the L.A. region's leading cultural web portal! Consult the Arts Commission-sponsored L.A. County Cultural Calendar on www.ExperienceLA.com. It's searchable by several criteria - including "free" - and provides links to transportation information.

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 1055 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 800, Los Angeles 90017. 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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