

Enriching Lives



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.

Los Angeles County is the most populous in the nation, comprising 88 municipalities. There are more than 2,800 arts organizations and 150,000 working artists in the County, creating the largest concentration of arts activity in the United States. The area's huge pool of talent and potential audience for the arts presents the Arts Commission with myriad opportunities to enrich the lives of County residents.

Arts Education

In September 2002, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted *Arts for All: Los Angeles County Regional Blueprint for Arts Education*, a strategic plan to restore arts education — in dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts — to the 1.7 million students in Los Angeles County's 80 school districts. The *Arts for All* Executive Committee, with more than 100 partners and managed by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, leads this effort. Starting in 2003-04, *Arts for All* began inviting districts to participate in the initiative. The Arts Commission, in partnership with the California Alliance for Arts Education (CAAE), provides coaching to the districts to build a strong infrastructure to sustain quality, sequential arts education including a school board-adopted policy, plan and budget as well as the hiring of a district level arts coordinator and a student to credentialed arts teacher ratio no higher than 400:1. As of winter 2009 *Arts for All* is working in 34 districts, representing 476,531 students; 22 of these school districts have hired arts coordinators. *Arts for All* coaching assistance to school districts is supported by the *Arts for All* Pooled Fund, comprised of contributions from the entertainment industry, foundations and corporations and helmed by lead partner Sony Pictures Entertainment.



Civic Art

In December 2004, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted the County's first Civic Art Policy which allocates one percent of design and construction costs on new County capital projects to a Civic Art Special Fund. Civic Art provides leadership in the development of high quality civic spaces by integrating artists into the planning and design process at the earliest possible opportunity; encouraging innovative approaches to civic art; and providing access to artistic experiences of the highest caliber for the residents of Los Angeles County. As of fall 2008, the Civic Art Program has commissioned work for more than 50 County capital projects including public libraries, parks, pool houses, community centers, sheriff stations, prisons, and health centers. It has also undertaken a comprehensive inventory of County-owned public art, hired art conservators to examine artworks, and initiated restoration activities.



Ford Theatres

The Arts Commission programs the John Anson Ford Theatres in Hollywood: the 1,245-seat outdoor Ford Amphitheatre and the 87-seat indoor [Inside] the Ford. The Ford Amphitheatre presents 100 events, including of music, dance, film, theatre and family fare, each year May through October. The [Inside] the Ford November through April season is devoted to new plays. Most of the events on the Amphitheatre season and all the plays on the [Inside] season are co-presented with Los Angeles County-based arts organizations chosen through a competitive application process. These partnership arts organizations receive free or discounted rent, a season marketing campaign, a tech package, front of house services and technical assistance in the marketing and production areas and the lion's share of box office.



Free Concerts & Musicians Roster

The Commission produces a year-round music program that funds 50 free concerts each year in public sites such as parks, libraries and community centers. The performing groups are chosen from the Musicians Roster, a directory of Los Angeles County-based music groups from a wide range of genres that has been vetted by a panel of music industry professionals. The roster, accessed through www.lacountyarts.org, incorporates audio and video samples and contact information for the groups and is available to members of the public looking for quality musicians.

Grants & Professional Development

The Organizational Grant Program awards \$4.5 million to 300 Los Angeles County-based arts organizations each year. Grantees can also take advantage of scholarships for courses and workshops relating to the organizations' needs. Human resources workshops are offered to grantees whose awards are for staff support. Select grantees in mid-size arts organizations are invited participate in the Arts Leadership Initiative. Each year, ten organization leaders form an executive learning group that engages in peer coaching and group problem-solving and accesses consultants in strategic areas; participants received a leadership development grant for further study. All artists and arts organizations are welcome to Arts Tune-Ups, informal round-robins in which participants visit a table focusing on a specific topic and spend 25 minutes with an expert discussing the topic; after 25 minutes participants move to a different table to discuss another topic.

Holiday Celebration



Each December 24 the Arts Commission produces the L.A. County Holiday Celebration at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center. The live six-hour show, featuring 40 music and dance groups comprising more than 1000 performers, shows how the myriad cultures of the region mark the holiday season. A Los Angeles tradition since 1964, the celebration draws 10,000 people to the Music Center and 1.2 million households via the live telecast on KCET. A one-hour highlights program from the live show has run on PBS nationally since 2002; it is carried in more than 40 of the top 50 television markets and receives more than 600 airings nationwide.

Internships

In conjunction with the Getty Foundation, the Arts Commission funds the largest arts internship program in the country. The Commission's program is the performing arts parallel to the Getty's visual arts program. Each summer non-profit performing, literary and municipal arts organizations, using Commission grants, offer 125 paid internships to college undergraduates. The program, which also includes educational components for the interns, is designed to familiarize students with arts administration career opportunities and the arts community as a whole.

Special Initiatives

Artful Solutions: Pathways from Homelessness is the nation's first arts and culture initiative to address the critical needs of the homeless population. In 2008-09, supported by Arts Commission grants, five arts organizations partnering with social agencies are providing quality arts programming to the homeless with the aims of stabilizing their lives and improving their access to permanent housing. A critical evaluation component is built into the grants and the data will result in a national study, scheduled to be released in the fall of 2009, informing future strategies for resolving homelessness.

L.A. County Cultural Calendar on ExperienceLA.com, established and enhanced through funding from the County Information Technology Fund, provides a database of information from 1500 regional cultural organizations searchable by area of interest, neighborhood and date and linked to public transit information. ExperienceLA.com is the L.A. area's leading cultural portal designed to serve both residents and visitors.

Free Family Entertainment at Museums and Gardens in Los Angeles

County is a joint program of the Arts Commission and the County's Department of Public Social Services. Designed to bring cultural services to a chronically underserved population, the program provides free admission to 29 arts institutions to low-income families receiving CalWORKs/Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and/or Food Stamp benefits.

For more information, visit www.lacountyarts.org

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