



## Monthly Memo

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# April 2017

Documenting events, activities and projects for the Arts Commission

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*Should you have any questions or want more in-depth information on any activity, please call the staff at (213) 202-5858*



## Update from the Executive Director

On Tuesday, April 4, 2017, the Arts Commission released a landmark [report](#) on the Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative (CEII) and presented it to the Board of Supervisors who unanimously approved [a motion](#) instructing the Arts Commission, pending funding allocations as part of the County's budget process in June, to begin implementation of four of the 13 recommendations outlined in the report. The work of CEII and the ongoing commitment of the Board of Supervisors is a starting point towards significant change, and Arts Commission staff is ready to move the effort forward.

More than 100 artists, arts administrators, civic hackers and data geeks participated in the first-ever Los Angeles [Arts Access Datathon](#) on Saturday, April 22. The datathon, presented in partnership with the City of LA's Department of Cultural Affairs, included a keynote address from Sunil Iyengar, Director of the Office of Research and Analysis at the National Endowment for the Arts. Participants developed proposals for how to improve access to the arts and a panel of five judges scored each proposal. The top three included building an app that would connect people to bookstores via public transit, an online system modeled on rideshare programs that would help schools find and hire local teaching artists, and a proposal to research whether more arts organizations in a neighborhood is correlated with gentrification in that same neighborhood.

As many of you have heard, I announced plans to leave my position as Executive Director of the Arts Commission in July. The last 25 years have been filled with wonderful opportunities to grow the arts in Los Angeles in so many ways. I've been continually inspired by the resiliency and ingenuity of the artists, organizations, educators, advocates and arts and culture supporters who shape our region. The Arts Commission is terrifically positioned to move into its next phase and I'm ready for new challenges. The Arts Commissioners have formed a search committee to work with the county on the process for identifying new leadership.

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## **Arts Education, Arts for All**

### **Advancement Grant Program**

The Advancement Grant Program offers financial support to Los Angeles County school districts to provide quality arts education for public school students. Grant funds assist school districts in achieving key action items in their district arts plans and cultivating skills and practices that can be sustained beyond the term of the grant. Arts for All offered support to district administrators interested in submitting applications on April 10 in Santa Clarita and on April 14 at the LA County Arts Commission office. District representatives learned about updates to the 2017-18 application, heard tips for submitting a strong request and had an opportunity to receive one-on-one support from Arts for All staff.

### **Arts Coordinators Convening**

In partnership with the LA County Office of Education, Arts for All convened Arts Coordinators from Los Angeles school districts. Arts Coordinators and arts educators heard updates from the field and participated in interactive exercises to help advance their collective work.

## Civic Art

### Stoneview Dedication

The much-anticipated grand opening of the Stoneview Nature Center in Culver City occurred on April 8. The five-acre \$10.25 million urban sanctuary will afford visitors an opportunity to connect body and mind and features five civic art gardens designed by Fallen Fruit's David Burns and Austin Young. The first of a series of civic engagement programs was launched on opening day with "Salsa, Salsa," an interactive dance and salsa-making workshop that demonstrated how to use the Nature Center's community space. Three additional programs will occur throughout the year and highlight fruit from the various gardens. Artworks featuring images and words gathered during the programs will be created and installed at the end of 2017.



*Ribbon cutting ceremony at Stoneview Nature Center.*

## Civic Art

### Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day

The District Attorney's Office and the Arts Commission joined forces for the Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day on April 26. Highlighting the civic artwork *Embodied* at the Hall of Justice in downtown Los Angeles, artist Alison Saar with District Attorney Jackie Lacey led a discussion on justice and its values that are reflected in the 12-foot bronze sculpture as a newly envisioned version of lady justice. The youth participants engaged with the artwork by searching out words of justice embedded into the sculpture's skirt and took charcoal rubbings. Other activities included a video chat with the D.A., a mock trial and a visit with the courthouse dogs, all to instill and promote the spirit and values of justice.



*(L-R): Artist Alison Saar and District Attorney Jackie Lacey in front of Embodied at the Hall of Justice.*

## Civic Art

### **GSM Exhibition (The Landing Gallery)**

*Signifying Form*, an exhibit at The Landing Gallery in Culver City, opened on April 1. The exhibit is curated by Jill Moniz and features black women sculptors who made artworks in Los Angeles from 1935 to 2015. Two of the artworks on display are a loan from the County's Civic Art Collection, artworks from the recently acquired Golden State Mutual Art Collection. Additionally there are two commissioned artists included in the show: Dominique Moody and Alison Saar. The exhibition is on view until June 3, 2017. Jill Moniz also curated an exhibition of the Golden State Mutual artworks at the newly renovated AC Bilbrew Library currently on view.



*A view of Signifying Form at The Landing Gallery.*



## Grants and Professional Development

### **Organizational Grant Program (OGP)**

Seventeen panel representatives from the 2017-18 OGP panel review presented to Arts Commissioners on April 24. Panelists shared themes from the panels and answered Commissioner's questions about the applications and review process. The Arts Commissioners are set to finalize the 2017-18 OGP grantee award scores and recommendations at the commission meeting in May.

### **Community Impact Arts Grant (CIAG)**

The Arts Commission announced \$500,000 in arts grants to 37 nonprofit organizations delivering a wide variety of cultural services to County residents through the new Community Impact Arts Grant (CIAG) program. Grant amounts range from \$7,400 to \$15,200 to support one-year arts projects for organizations looking to build upon existing arts programming. Communities served include after-school youth, foster youth, mental health, homeless, disability, immigrant rights/social justice, veterans and environmental communities. Grantee organizations are providing arts services in visual arts, art therapy, dance, literary arts, media arts, music and theatre. This is the second year of funding in a three-year demonstration program. Detailed grant information is available at [lacountyarts.org/funding/community-impact-arts-grant-program](http://lacountyarts.org/funding/community-impact-arts-grant-program).

### **Arts Internship Program**

More than 100 leaders from nonprofit performing, presenting, literary and municipal arts organizations gathered at the Getty Center on April 17 for the annual Supervisor Orientation for the Arts Internship Program. Held in conjunction with The Getty Foundation, whose Multicultural Undergraduate Internship Program is a sister program to the Arts Commission's, the Orientation covered the nuts and bolts of the program and provided participants an opportunity to discuss best practices in recruiting, hiring, and managing an undergraduate intern throughout the summer.

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## **Grants and Professional Development Cont.**

### **Professional Development**

Representatives from approximately 30 arts organization gathered at Community Partners on April 7 for Real Estate 101, a free, full-day workshop sponsored by the Arts Commission. The workshop covered best practices in facilities planning and maintenance, including risks to avoid as organizations consider buying, leasing, relocating, or expanding property. Case studies from the A+D Museum, ArtShareLA, and Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre provided real world examples of how arts organizations navigate the real estate complexities of the Los Angeles region.





## ARTS COMMISSION: MAY-JUNE 2017 UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

If you would like more information about these events or would like to attend, please contact Miriam Gonzalez at [mgonzalez@arts.lacounty.gov](mailto:mgonzalez@arts.lacounty.gov) or (213) 202-5858.

Date	Time	Event	Location
May 15	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Arts Commission Meeting	LA County Arts Commission
May 18	9:30 a.m.– 12:30 p.m.	Tips and Tricks for Artistic Documentation <i>This workshop is designed to help nonprofit administrators gain confidence and develop strategies for documenting their artistic process and products in order to create artistic samples and digital collateral that highlights their arts organization's strengths.</i>	LA County Arts Commission
May 25	3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Deputy Registrar Training: Provide Voter Registration at Your Events! <i>The Arts Commission is partnering with the County Registrar-Recorder's Office to provide the Deputy Voter Registrar Training Program for organizations and individuals who want to learn how to register voters.</i>	LA County Arts Commission
June 12	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Arts Commission Meeting	LA County Arts Commission
June 26	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Arts Commission Meeting	LA County Arts Commission