



Monthly Memo

February 2018

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 February 15 I had the distinct pleasure of joining the County of Los Angeles as Executive Director of the Arts Commission. In these first few weeks, I have been engaging with the Arts Commission in action, meeting with staff at every level of the agency and diving into core programs in every division.

Working with staff, we met with advisors to the Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative (CEII) to reflect on our work to date and momentum for the future ahead. We strategized with leaders of the Arts Education Collective on the path to achieving quality arts education in every school district. We convened a cohort of municipal city arts funders. And we're working with colleagues on a number of cross-sector initiatives underway. I met grantees, artists, arts and civic leaders – all shared a passion for and commitment to arts and culture.

I want to thank our colleagues for the warm welcome, especially the Board of Supervisors, the Executive Office of the Board, and the Arts Commissioners, and acknowledge the continued collaboration of these and our many partners. I am eager to work with all of you as we advance arts and culture in Los Angeles Countywide. We have an exciting 2018 ahead. Looking forward!



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Arts Education

Professional Development

The LA County Arts Education Collective and LA County Office of Education co-hosted the Technology Enhanced Arts Learning (TEAL) Social & Emotional Learning through the Arts. Administrators from 34 school districts participated in an all-day professional development in specific strategies to engage students, develop what the Collaborative for Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) identifies as SEL “core competencies.” It also provided access to Student Mental Health Initiative resources for teachers, administrators and counseling staff, and address research that support the benefits of arts integration on students’ social and emotional learning. This is the third of four sessions to take place throughout the year with different topics.

On February 15 the Los Angeles County Arts Education Collective gathered school district leaders, community arts education partners and community members at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center. Participants in the South Region Cross-Sector Conversation focused on strategies to achieve equity in arts education in the southern region of the County. Participants shared practices and identify opportunities for parent and family engagement in arts education for students, schools and districts.

Advancement Grant Technical Assistance

The Advancement Grant Program offers financial support to LA County school districts to provide quality arts education for public school students. A technical assistance session took place this month providing district representatives an overview of the new online application and grant management system and heard tips for submitting a strong request. This is the first of two sessions to take place next month.

[Learn more.](#)

Arts Education Innovation Lab

The Innovation Lab reconvened in February at the Palevsky Center. The session consisted of learning about the next steps for the Innovation Lab and review the Prototypes that were launched in the fall of 2017. Innovation Lab Prototype Teams shared their progress, recruit new team members and work across prototypes to inform the larger vision of the Lab and to think broadly about how to achieve equity and scale through the prototyping process.

Civic Art

Harbor UCLA New Psychiatric ER Expansion Ribbon Cutting

On February 7, 2018, the ribbon cutting for Harbor-UCLA Medical Center's Psychiatric Expansion was attended by Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Janice Hahn. In the Medical Center, artists Susan Logoreci's and Kim West's paintings are all part of a growing collection of commissioned artworks for the facility, as the prominence of art in the healing environment has been an important feature at Harbor-UCLA. Susan Logoreci's three large scale, colored pencil drawings are situated in the new Psychiatric Emergency ward and depict recognizable South Los Angeles County areas, simulating windows into distant views for the enjoyment of patients, staff and visitors. Within a service area in the existing wing of the main hospital at the entry of Psychiatric Emergency, five landscape paintings from Kim West's *Yosemite Series* are mounted onto a site-specific mural, creating a wooded landscape that envelops the visitor.



Civic Art

Rowland Heights Library Reopening

On February 7 the Rowland Heights Library celebrated a grand re-opening and a renovated lobby that features a work from the County civic art collection by the late artist Dora De Larios. The work is a plaster veneer bas relief created in 1978 when the library first opened. It represents a rare departure from ceramics in Dora De Larios' body of work. Unlike the bold colorful tile murals she has made for other County public libraries, this artwork is made of plaster and subtly emerges from the wall. De Larios made only one other similar artwork in her career.

De Larios was a native Angeleno born to Mexican immigrant parents. She was known for creating monumental architectural artworks, one-of-a-kind sculptures and limited-edition functional dinnerware throughout her 60-year career. She passed away in January 2018 at the age of 84.



Free Concerts in Public Sites Program

The Musicians Roster welcomes [24 new musical groups](#) to the directory.

[Applications for the Free Concerts in Public Sites](#) program are now open.
Deadline for submission is March 16, 2018.





Grants and Professional Development

Organizational Grant Program

Half of the 229 grant applications submitted for the 2018-19 Organizational Grant Program (OGP) were assessed and scored by peer review panels in February. To date the panels have been comprised of approximately 40 artists, arts professionals and community members with knowledge and professional qualifications in the arts, as well as familiarity with the Los Angeles region's arts sector. The review process continues through the end of March. Panelists' assessments and scores become the basis for applicant rankings and recommendations to the Arts Commissioners.

Community Impact Arts Grant

Arts Commissioners approved award cut-off levels for the Community Impact Arts Grant Program and scores for all grantees, making 39 organizations eligible to receive FY 2017-18 grants. Grantees will be notified in April.

Professional Development

The Arts Commission hosted a two day "Essentials of Human Resources" training on February 15 and 22. Provided free of charge to eligible OGP grantees, the training covered topics including California employment law, best practices in recruiting and retaining staff, and effective employee handbooks. More than twenty participants attended both days.



ARTS COMMISSION: MARCH 2018 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 or (213) 202-5858.

Date	Time	Event	Location
March 14	9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Grantee Workshop: Aligning Your Organization's Mission, Vision, and Core Values with Cultural Equity and Inclusion	The Armory Center for the Arts
March 15	9:30 am – 4:30 pm	Grantee Workshop: Deepening Your Cultural Equity Work through Planning, Communication and Buy-In	West Hollywood Library
March 19	9:30 am – 4:30 pm	Grantee Workshop: Aligning Your Organization's Mission, Vision, and Core Values with Cultural Equity and Inclusion	LA County Arts Commission
March 21	9:30 am – 4:30 pm	Grantee Workshop: Deepening Your Cultural Equity Work through Planning, Communication and Buy-In	Veteran's Park Memorial Building, Culver City
March 23	9:30 am – 4:30 pm	Grantee Workshop: Deepening Your Cultural Equity Work through Planning, Communication and Buy-In	The Nonprofit Partnership, Long Beach
March 29	9:30 am – 4:30 pm	Grantee Workshop: Deepening Your Cultural Equity Work through Planning, Communication and Buy-In	San Gabriel Mission Playhouse
April 27	9 am – 5 pm	Arts Datathon 2.0: Collections	Bob Hope Patriotic Hall