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**LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION AWARDS
\$1,995,000 IN GRANTS TO 189 COUNTY ARTS GROUPS**

LOS ANGELES, CA, July 8, 2003 -- The Los Angeles County Arts Commission has announced \$1,995,000 to 189 nonprofit arts organizations for fiscal year 2003-4 through its Organizational Grant Program (OGP). Due to the current Los Angeles County budget strain, the grants program total allocation has been reduced by \$279,000, from \$2,274,000 for the OGP program in 2002-3.

"At a time when government arts agencies throughout the country are facing drastic cuts and potential elimination, the modest reduction in our grant funds is an indication of Los Angeles County's Board of Supervisors' commitment to the vitality of our community's diverse cultural offerings. These allocations recognize the important contributions made by organizations large and small, and reach all corners of the County," said Laurel Karabian, President of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

The Commission received 209 applications to OGP this year, down slightly from 217 the previous year. This is how the grants broke down by size of organization:

SMALL BUDGET (under \$100,000) - 55 grants totalling \$297,000 (Note: Last year, the Board approved 75 small budget organization grants that are now in their second year; a total of 130 organizations in this category are receiving funds during fiscal 2003-4.)

MID-SIZE BUDGET (\$100,000-\$800,000) - 93 grants totalling \$705,000

LARGE BUDGET (over \$800,000) - 41 grants totaling \$993,000

2003-4 OGP Grant funds will maintain its support of a wide range of arts organizations throughout the County. A cross-sectional sampling of the 2003-4 awards includes support for:

- Two productions offered in American Sign Language by Deaf West Theatre (\$12,500)
- Edgefest's (Edge of the World Theatre Festival) Los Angeles Future Project (youth/family programming) (\$2,380)
- The children's theater program of Grupo de Teatro Sinergia (\$5,000)
- INCA Peruvian Music & Dance Ensemble's performances in libraries and senior centers (\$6,900)
- Finding Family Stories Project of the Japanese American National Museum (\$35,700)
- Lark Musical Society's strategic planning process (\$7,100)
- Artistic and administrative expenses for the Long Beach Community Concert Association (\$11,380)
- Los Angeles Music and Art School's audience development efforts (\$10,000)
- Fund development personnel for the Lula Washington Contemporary Dance Foundation (\$16,100)
- Support for the Music Director & Executive Director of the Pasadena Young Musicians Orchestra (\$5,280)
- Free educational and outreach programs at the Santa Monica Museum of Art (\$12,500)

A complete list of grantees for 2003-4 will be available on the Arts Commission's web site, www.lacountyarts.org, after July 15, 2003.

The application process for the Arts Commission's next cycle of grants will be completely electronic using an on-line application system called eGRANT, created by the Center for Arts Management and Technology of Carnegie Mellon University. This new system will enable applicant organizations to improve the accuracy of information submitted. The system will automatically calculate numerical information and transfer data into a new application for the next cycle.

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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