

L.A. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION 2011

The "L.A. Holiday Celebration 2011" is a one-hour highlight version of the live three-hour Los Angeles County Holiday Celebration that took place at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Los Angeles County Music Center on Christmas Eve 2010. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has sponsored an admission-free holiday-themed show as a gift to the people of the L.A. County every December 24 since 1960.

Attendance has become a seasonal tradition for many Angelenos. The performers participating in the show represent the many cultures and holiday traditions found in Los Angeles County. The participants include local youth and professional choirs, orchestras and dance companies. The celebration, produced by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, is the oldest and largest holiday show in the region.

The first annual free Holiday Celebration - then called the Christmas Program - took place at the Los Angeles Sports Arena. In 1964, the Holiday Celebration moved to the newly opened Music Center. Southern California public television station KCET began broadcasting the celebration live in 1965 and has continued to do so each year since. The first one-hour "best of" compilation of the live show aired nationally in 2002.

The L.A. County Holiday Celebration was conceived by the late Kenneth Hahn, Supervisor of the Second Los Angeles County District from 1952 to 1992. Kenneth Hahn cared deeply about the accessibility of the arts to everyone. He personally helmed the fundraising for the first show. When Dorothy 'Buffy' Chandler came to him seeking his support for the proposed Music Center, Supervisor Hahn told her that he would support it if he could be sure that the Music Center would be free to the public for the Holiday Celebration each year. The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center continues to host the Holiday Celebration to this day.