

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.

The **Los Angeles County Arts Commission** provides leadership in cultural services of all disciplines for the most populous county in the United States, encompassing 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. The Arts Commission provides staff and support for

[Arts for All](#), Los Angeles County's 10-year initiative to return meaningful, sequential arts education to all County school districts

a [Grants Program](#) that funds more than 300 nonprofit arts organizations annually

the County's [Civic Art Program](#) for capital projects

the largest [Arts Internship Program](#) in the country in conjunction with the Getty Foundation programming at the [John Anson Ford Theatres](#)

[L.A. Holiday Celebration](#), broadcast nationally on PBS

The [L.A. County Cultural Calendar](#) on ExperienceLA.com

The Arts Commission, founded in 1947, is a unit of Los Angeles County government. The Commission is an advisory group to the County Board of Supervisors and consists of up to 15 members, three members appointed by each of the five Supervisors.

Commission Members (http://www.lacountyarts.org/commission_structure.html)

Commission Staff (http://www.lacountyarts.org/commission_staff.html)

Arts Commission Profile (<http://www.lacountyarts.org> http://www.lacountyarts.org/publications/lacac_commission_profile.pdf)

Press contact: Linda Chiavaroli, Dir. of Communications,
communications@arts.lacounty.gov

Los Angeles County Arts Commission
1055 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 800
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Tel 213.202.5858
Fax 213.580.0017
www.lacountyarts.org

Arts for All: **Los Angeles County Regional Blueprint for Arts Education**



Students participating in an Education through Music-LA program, part of *Arts for All's* LAArtsEd.org Arts Education Program Directory

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 81 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 school 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.

NEWS

[Los Angeles County Schools Show Improvement in Arts Education Arts Education Performance Indicators Report](#)

February 11, 2009

[Online, Interactive Handbook Pioneers New Approach to Arts Education Professional Development](#)

February 3, 2009

[Wallace Foundation Grants \\$1.8 Million to Two Organizations to Improve Arts Education in Los Angeles County](#)

October 28, 2008

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

www.LAArtsEd.org is the home of *Arts for All's* Resources for Schools and Communities, including a searchable directory of arts education service providers, an arts education professional development handbook and a library of arts education tools and resources.

More information: <http://www.lacountyarts.org/artseducation.html>

Press contact: Linda Chiavaroli, Dir of Communications,
communications@arts.lacounty.gov

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Grants & Professional Development



Shakespeare Festival LA, shown here in *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, is one of 300 L.A. County arts organizations receiving grants from the Arts Commission.

The **Organizational Grant Program** awards \$4.5 million to 300 Los Angeles County-based arts organizations each year. Arts Commission grantees reach audiences totaling 19 million persons annually. Three-quarters of grantee programs are admission free.

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 to 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 receive 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.

NEWS

[Arts Tune-Up: May 2, Whittier](#)

April 7, 2009

[Arts Commission Announces Inaugural Grants Addressing Homelessness through Arts Programs](#)

August 5, 2008

[Los Angeles County Arts Commission Awards \\$4,518,000 in Grants to 155 County Arts Groups](#)

July 10, 2008

More information about Grants: <http://www.lacountyarts.org/grants.html>

More information about Professional Development: <http://www.lacountyarts.org/techassistance.html>

Press contact: Linda Chiavaroli, Dir of Communications,
communications@arts.lacounty.gov

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Civic Art



Detail from Anne Marie Karlsen's glass wall at Lawndale Library
Photo: Anne Marie Karlsen

In December 2004, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted the County's first Civic Art Policy that 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.

NEWS

[New Palmdale fire stations display commissioned artworks inspired by artist's experiences with firefighters](#)

February 18, 2009

["Water Henge: H2O = Life" Sculptures unveiled in Cerritos Regional County Park](#)

January 26, 2009

[Glass Wall At New Lawndale Library Inspired By Area's Vibrant History](#)

November 20, 2008

More information: <http://www.lacountyarts.org/civicart.htm>

Press contact: Linda Chiavaroli, Dir of Communications,
communications@arts.lacounty.gov

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Internships



The 2008 L.A. County Arts Interns gathered at the Getty Villa
Photo: Ron Mesaros

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.

NEWS

[125 Paid Summer Internships for College Students Available through Los Angeles County Arts Internship Program](#)

March 18, 2009

More information: <http://www.lacountyarts.org/internship.html>

Press contact: Linda Chiavaroli, Dir of Communications,
communications@arts.lacounty.gov

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John Anson Ford Theatres



Ford Amphitheatre stage at night
Photo: Paul Antico

The Arts Commission programs the John Anson Ford Theatres in Hollywood: the 1,200-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.

NEWS

[Ford Amphitheatre 2009 Summer Season Opens June 6](#)

April 1, 2009

["HOME SIEGE HOME" Ghost Road Company presents the World Premiere of its original adaptation of the complete Oresteia](#)

February 17, 2009

[Fantastical "BATTLE HYMN" Extends at \[Inside\] the Ford through March 7](#)

January 29, 2009

[2nd Annual Winter Partnership Program Now Accepting Applications from Theatre Companies](#)

January 27, 2009

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Ford Theatres News & Press Room (<http://www.fordamphitheater.org/en/about/news.asp>) including articles and reviews, season brochure, press kit with history and downloadable photos

More information: www.FordTheatres.org

Press contact: Linda Chiavaroli, Dir of Communications,
communications@arts.lacounty.gov

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Holiday Celebration



Mariachi Sol de Mexico was among the groups featured in the national broadcast of Holiday Celebration on PBS in 2008.

Photo: Ed Krieger

Each December 24 the Arts Commission produces the L.A. County Holiday Celebration at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center. The Holiday Celebration celebrates its 50th anniversary in December 2009. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has sponsored an admission-free holiday-themed show as a gift to the people of the County since 1960. Today, 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. The largest holiday show in the region, it draws 10,000 people to the Music Center and 1.2 million households watch via the live telecast on KCET. A one-hour highlights program from the live show has run on PBS nationally since 2002; the national broadcast is carried in more than 40 of the top 50 television markets and receives 600 airings nationwide.

The first annual free Holiday Celebration — then called the Christmas Program — took place at the Los Angeles Sports Arena. In 1964 Holiday Celebration moved to the just-opened Music Center. The KCET live telecasts began in 1965. The late Kenneth Hahn, Supervisor of the Second Los Angeles County District from 1952 to 1992, was the father of Holiday Celebration. Kenneth Hahn cared deeply about the accessibility of the arts to everyone. He personally helmed fundraising for the first show. When Dorothy ‘Buffy’ Chandler came to him seeking his support for the proposed Music Center, he told her that he would support it if he could be sure that the Music Center would be open free to the residents of the County at least one day each year.

NEWS

[RECIPE FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY: 1,200 performers, 7 celebrity chefs, 1000s of donations for Los Angeles Regional Foodbank](#)

December 1, 2008

PBS Presents “L.A. Holiday Celebration 2008,”

Premiering December 17 At 10:00 P.M.

<http://www.lacountyarts.org/hc/docs/lahc08national.pdf>

September 2008

More information: www.holidaycelebration.org

Press contact: Linda Chiavaroli, Dir of Communications,

communications@arts.lacounty.gov

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L.A. County Cultural Calendar on ExperienceLA.com



The L.A. County Cultural Calendar (<http://www.experiencela.com/Calendar/>) on www.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.

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