

Enriching Lives



Civic Art

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**YOUTH CAN CREATE SILENT FILMS THIS SUMMER
AT FREE WORKSHOP AT WILLIAM S. HART PARK
Applications are now open for 30 spaces; deadline is June 15
The activity is the first of its kind for L.A. County's Civic Art Program**

May 10, 2011 – Applications are now open for a free workshop in which children ages 10 to 17 can make short silent films. The workshop from 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM on three Saturdays — July 23 and 30 and August 6 — takes place at **William S. Hart Park and Museum** and celebrates Hart's silent film legacy. The Los Angeles County Arts Commission joins with the Parks Department, the William S. Hart Museum, and Fifth District Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich to create this opportunity.

Due to space limitations, only 30 children can participate. Interested parents and children are asked to complete a short application form which can be downloaded at <http://www.lacountyarts.org/civkart.htm> or picked up in person at the Friends of the Hart Park and Museum gift shop, and then return it by **June 15** (receipt date) to: CalArts Community Arts Partnership (CAP), 24700 McBean Parkway, Santa Clarita, CA 91355.

The young participants will spend one day learning about acting and theatre with teachers from Newhall's Canyon Theatre Guild and two days learning about film and creating a short silent film with teachers from the CalArts Community Arts Partnership using state-of-the-art equipment. Attendance is mandatory for all three workshops. William S. Hart Park and Museum is located at 24151 Newhall Avenue, Newhall, California.

This theatre and filmmaking workshop is a first of its kind for the Civic Art Program administered by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. The Civic Art Program usually commissions permanent artwork for County capital projects, but the County's Civic Art Policy was defined broadly to include activities that enhance public spaces as well. The workshop was designed to give local youth, who may not know about Hart's history a chance to explore the world of silent films.

Hart was born in Newburgh, New York in 1864 and started his acting career in his twenties. At the age of 49, Hart came west to Hollywood to start his movie career. During the next 11 years, he made more than 65 silent films, the last being "Tumbleweeds" in 1925. In 1921, Hart purchased a ranch house and surrounding property. He built a 22-room mansion which today

houses his collection of western art, Native American artifacts and early Hollywood memorabilia. He lived at the ranch nearly 20 years until his death in 1946. In his will, Hart gave the Horseshoe Ranch to the County of Los Angeles. It was to be set aside for the use and enjoyment of the public, at no charge. Today, the Horseshoe Ranch consists of 265 acres. Both the ranch house and the Hart residence are open to the public.

The **Los Angeles County Arts Commission**, Laura Zucker, Executive Director, provides leadership in cultural services of all disciplines for the largest county in the United States, encompassing 88 municipalities. The Arts Commission provides leadership and staffing to support the regional blueprint for arts education, *Arts for All*; administers a grants program that funds more than 300 nonprofit arts organizations annually; oversees the County's Civic Art Program for capital projects; programs the John Anson Ford Theatres; funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Foundation; and supports the Los Angeles County Cultural Calendar on ExperienceLA.com. The Commission also produces free community programs, including the L.A. Holiday Celebration and a year-round music program that funds more than 70 free concerts each year in public sites. The 2011-12 President of the Arts Commission is Ollie Blanning.

For more information please consult the Arts Commission online press kit:
<http://lacountyarts.org/page/pubnewspress>

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