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LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION AWARDS \$2,274,000 IN GRANTS TO 196 COUNTY ARTS GROUPS

18% more organizations receive funding from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

LOS ANGELES, CA, September 5, 2002 -- The Los Angeles County Arts Commission has announced \$2,274,000 in grants to 196 nonprofit arts organizations for fiscal year 2002-3 through its Organizational Grant Program (OGP). The number of organizations funded (166 received grants in 2001-2) rose 18 percent. Forty-nine (25 percent) of the grant recipients were first-time applicants.

The Commission received 217 applications to OGP this year. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved 75 grants in OGP I/Small Budget Organizations (groups with operating budgets less than \$100,000); 10 of the 36 first-time applicants receiving funding in OGP I were due to the Arts Commission's Folk Arts Initiative begun in 2001. In OGP II/Mid-Size Budget Organizations (budgets between \$100,000 and \$800,000), the Board of Supervisors awarded a total of 77 grants. Forty-four grants were awarded in OGP III/Large Budget Organizations (budgets of more than \$800,000).

The total amount of the grants was down slightly from 2001-2 (\$2,352,000) because of the depletion of a reserve used every other year for the OGP I/small budget category. Said Phoebe Beasley, President of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, "We are very fortunate that, in this very difficult budget year, the dollars available to support Los Angeles County-based arts organizations has remained steady and we were able to extend our reach to help more groups."

Grant funds support a wide range of arts organizations throughout the County. A cross-sectional sampling of the 2002-2003 awards includes support for:

- Zdonu African Music & Dance Company's weekly workshops and annual concert (\$7,566)
- the annual Pacific Islander Festival of the Pacific Islander Community Council (\$4,342)
- East Indian music and dance performances of the Rangoli Foundation for Art & Culture (3,758)
- West Hollywood Orchestra concerts (\$10,466)
- support for a Marketing/Publicity Coordinator for the East Los Angeles Classic Theatre (\$12,817)
- arts education programming of the Friends of the Cerritos Center (\$11,656)
- Rio Hondo Symphony's development of a strategic plan (\$5,000)
- support for an arts education Project Coordinator for Theatre of Hearts/Youth First (\$8,054)
- Independent Feature Project/West's program supporting culturally diverse filmmaking (\$25,099)
- community-based concerts and collaborations of the Gay Men's Chorus of L.A. (\$22,362)
- free Saturday afternoon series of family performances at the International City Theatre (\$15,000)
- arts education programming at the Armory Center for the Arts (\$21,418)
- multi-disciplinary family events at the Museum of Latin American Art (\$15,000)

A complete list of grantees for 2002-3 is available on the Arts Commission's web site, www.lacountyarts.org.

The application process for the Arts Commission's next cycle of grants will be almost completely electronic. The grants program is implementing an on-line application system called eGRANT, the system was 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, in addition to its grants program, funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Trust and supports programming at the John Anson Ford Theatres. The Commission also produces numerous free community programs, including the Los Angeles Arts Open House, the Los Angeles Holiday Celebration and a year-round free music program in conjunction with the Recording Industries' Music Performance Trust Funds through Musicians Union Local 47. The Commission also has provides resources and services through its Folk Arts and Arts Education programs. The Commission's total budget for the fiscal year 2002-3 is \$ 4,750,000

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