

Los Angeles County Arts Commission

Contacts:

Linda Chiavaroli, Dir. of Communications, (323) 871-4554 (office), (323) 810-9240 (cell), lchiavaroli@bos.co.la.ca.us
R. Renae Williams, Director of Grant Programs, (213) 974-1343

For Immediate Release

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION AWARDS \$1,965,000 IN GRANTS TO 204 COUNTY ARTS GROUPS

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission has announced \$1,965,000 in grants to 204 nonprofit arts organizations for fiscal year 2004-5 through its Organizational Grant Program (OGP) to create visual and performing arts projects, strengthen infrastructure, and provide access to the arts for children and adults. The grants program total allocation was reduced marginally by 1.5 percent or \$30,000 from 2003-4, while the number of organizations funded increased by 8 percent or 15 organizations. The number of applications increased by 5 percent.

According to a recent survey of arts funders in the region released by Southern California Grantmakers, *Arts in the Balance*, Los Angeles County was one of the ten largest donors to the arts in the region in 2002. These ten funders account for 75% of all funding for arts organizations. "Los Angeles County is committed to funding the arts," said Don Knabe, Chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. "We know that the arts improve the quality of life for residents throughout our culturally and geographically diverse region, driving our strong economy."

Arts in the Balance reported that while private sector funders focused 70 percent of their giving on organizations with budgets over \$800,000, public sector funders, such as Los Angeles County, balanced their giving among arts organizations of all sizes.

This is how the OGP grants by Los Angeles County for 2004-5 broke down by size of organization:

SMALL BUDGET (under \$100,000) - 67 grants totaling \$297,000

MID-SIZE BUDGET (\$100,000-\$800,000) - 93 grants totaling \$675,000

LARGE BUDGET (over \$800,000) - 44 grants totaling \$993,000

A complete list of grantees for 2004-5 is online on the Arts Commission's web site,

http://www.lacountyarts.org/OGP_granteelist04-05.pdf. A cross-sectional sampling of the 2004-5 awards includes support

for:

- Professional musicians and a publicist for the Camerata Singers of Long Beach (\$6,600)

- Mexican Cultural Institute of Los Angeles' outreach initiative to build awareness of their free programs (\$8,800)
- Administrative and artistic expenses for the Watts Village Theater Company (\$8,200)
- Rangoli Foundation for Art and Culture's 20th Anniversary celebration with music and dance (\$4,800)
- American Composers Forum of Los Angeles' two 10-week composer residencies at Poseidon School (\$5,500)
- Three Chamber Orchestra of the South Bay concerts featuring young LA-based soloists who have achieved national recognition (\$4,040)
- Expansion of administrative staff for the Claremont Community School of Music (\$14,000)
- Grupo de Teatro SINGERGIA's theatrical performances (\$4,000)
- The sponsorship director's salary and advertising expenses for the Silver Lake Film Festival (\$4,000)
- Pasadena's Shumei Arts Council of America Concert Series including concerts for children (\$2,500)
- Art After-School and Public + Artist outreach programs with the Museum of Contemporary Art (\$36,000)
- Native Voices at the Autry National Center, an initiative serving Native American writers & theatre artists (\$49,000)
- Sequential, standards-based classes in dance, drama, music and visual arts for grades Pre-K through 8th provided by P.S. Arts (\$12,500)

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission has begun to release analyses of the impact of its Organization Grant Program awards and funded organizations. In January 2004 it released a report on its 2002-3 Organizational Grant Program grantees; it is available online at www.lacountyarts.org/about_grantsimpact.pdf. This report documented that 37 percent of funded organizations provided all of their programming free of charge to County residents, 27 percent of County funds were used for arts education programs and funded organizations employed more individuals than those employed by all movie theatres and video rental stores in Los Angeles County combined. A report of the impact of the 2003-4 OGP grantees is expected to be released in fall 2004. The full *Arts in the Balance* report can be downloaded at www.socalgrantmakers.org.

The Arts Commission also gives grants to Los Angeles County-based arts organizations through two other programs: Arts Internships, which supports summer internships for college undergraduates, and a pilot program, Inter|Arts, which supports interaction between local artists and visiting artists from abroad. When Internship grants totaling \$490,000 and Inter|Arts grants totaling \$36,000 are added to the OGP grants, the grand total for grants from the Arts Commission to date in 2004-5 totals \$2,491,000.

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. In addition to its grant programs, the Arts Commission provides leadership and staffing to support the regional blueprint for arts education, *Arts for All*; funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Trust, programs the John Anson Ford Theatres and supports the Los Angeles County Cultural Calendar on ExperienceLA.com. 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 2004-2005 President of the Arts Commission is Carlos Barrón.

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