

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 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

programming at the [John Anson Ford Theatres](#)

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

a year-round music program that funds [Free Concerts](#) in public sites

The [L.A. County 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/UserFiles/File/publications-and-announcements/Final_Sep-30-09.pdf)

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Los Angeles County Arts Commission

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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 September 2009 the *Arts for All* initiative is working with 39 school districts representing 517,531 students. This number represents 54% of the County public school population minus Los Angeles Unified School District, which has a separate initiative. *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

[Applications Open for Arts Education Professional Development Providers To Be Included in Arts for All Professional Directory](#)

February 10, 2010

[School Site Quality Indicators](#)

January 2010

[Forum on "Quality Arts Education in Los Angeles" January 14 features Harvard's Steve Seidel](#)

December 30, 2009

[Arts for All 7th Year Review](#)

October 2009

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>

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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 grants to 300 Los Angeles County-based arts organizations each year. Arts Commission grantees reach audiences totaling 20.5 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. 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

[Free Arts Advice for Individual Artists and Arts Organizations at "Arts Tune-Up" April 17 in Pasadena](#)

March 11, 2010

[Federal Funds to Preserve Jobs in the Arts in Los Angeles Awarded to 16 Arts Organizations](#)

October 5, 2009

[Los Angeles County Arts Commission Awards \\$4,418,000 in Grants to 153 County Arts Groups](#)

August 4, 2009

[Federal Stimulus Funds Available to Preserve Jobs in the Arts in Los Angeles](#)

July 14, 2009

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

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

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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

[L.A. County's Civic Art Program Commissions Kent Twitchell To Create Murals for Renovated Patriotic Hall](#)

February 25, 2010

[Art in New La Crescenta Library Reflects Area Landscape and History](#)

January 29, 2010

[First Permanent Public Art Commission for Ball and Nogues is in L.A. County's Collection](#)

January 19, 2010

[Camp Scudder Mural Dedication Photo Album](#)

[Camp Scudder Celebrates Mural Created by Teen Residents](#)

January 15, 2010

[Los Angeles County's Civic Art Collection Report](#)

April 2009

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

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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

[Circle X Theatre Co. presents the Debut Production of "Lascivious Something" by Sheila Callaghan at \[Inside\] the Ford](#)

March 2, 2010

[Ford helps troupes without homes](#), *Los Angeles Times*

January 24, 2010

[Applications open for theatre companies to stage new plays at \[Inside\] the Ford during 2010-11 Season](#)

January 20, 2010

[Flying Under the Radar: The Best of LA Theater in the '00s](#), *LA Weekly*

December 31, 2009

[TheSpyAnts presents the Los Angeles premiere of Charles L. Mee's "bobrauschenbergamerica" at \[Inside\] the Ford](#)

December 11, 2009

Reviews of *bobrauschenbergamerica* in the Ford Press Room (<http://fordtheatres.org/en/about/news>)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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

More information: www.FordTheatres.org

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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 presentation, featuring music and dance groups, 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

[LA Holiday Celebration Turns 50](#), *Los Angeles Times*
December 22, 2009

[L.A. COUNTY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION TURNS 50!](#)
[Now presenting 4 ways to experience the Golden Anniversary of L.A.'s annual, free Christmas Eve tradition](#)
November 16, 2009

[L.A. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION 2009--Highlights of the Emmy-Nominated Dance Spectacular Features the "Naughty Ballerina" of "So You Think You Can Dance" and a Hip-Hop Nutcracker Segment](#)
September 9, 2009

More information: www.holidaycelebration.org
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Free Concerts & Musicians Roster



ADAAWE is one of the L.A. County music groups available to perform through the free concerts in public sites program.

The Commission produces a year-round music program that funds 40 free concerts each year in public sites such as parks, libraries and community centers. The performing groups are chosen from the Musicians Roster, a directory of Los Angeles County-based music groups from a wide range of genres that has been vetted by a panel of music industry professionals. The roster, accessed through www.lacountyarts.org, incorporates audio and video samples and contact information for the groups and is available to members of the public looking for quality musicians.

NEWS

[Spring and Summer Free Concerts Sponsored By Los Angeles County Announced](#)

May 21, 2009

Free Concerts Schedule: <http://www.lacountyarts.org/free.html>

Musicians Roster: http://lacountyarts.org/musicians_roster.html

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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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