

Enriching Lives



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A photo of Robin Strayhorn is available by request from Linda Chiavaroli.

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## **Artist Selected for Ted Watkins and Enterprise Parks**

Los Angeles artist **Robin Strayhorn** has been commissioned by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission's Civic Art Program to create permanent artworks for two pool house renovations in the County's Second District. A panel of community members and county representatives awarded Strayhorn \$67,000 for art pieces at Ted Watkins Park, located at 1335 East 103<sup>rd</sup> Street, and Enterprise Park, at 13055 Clovis Avenue.

Located in the heart of south Los Angeles, the 27-acre Ted Watkins Memorial Park was named after the founder of the Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC) and is the home to Burke's Club, which provides after-school recreational activities for youth. Ted Watkins is also home to the Promenade of Prominence Walk of Fame, which celebrates the accomplishments of community leaders.

Picturesque Enterprise Park is a 10-acre facility in the south Los Angeles community of Rosewood that provides a gym, athletic fields, picnic areas and a swimming pool.

"We look forward to Robin Strayhorn's contribution to these important improvements to pool areas in Watkins and Enterprise parks," said 2<sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke. "Her works will enhance the public's enjoyment of these recreational areas."

**Robin Strayhorn**, who lives in downtown Los Angeles, is a graduate of UCLA and a former teacher at Markham Junior High School in Watts. Ms. Strayhorn's colorful and community-oriented tile works have been commissioned by the Cultural Affairs Department of the City of Los Angeles, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and the Ontario International Airport. Her work has been published in *House and Garden*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and *Artweek*.

The selection panel included community members Barbara Stanton of Wattstar, Rita Toomer of IJN-1 Foundation, and Edna Alewine and Ethel Wingfield from the Watts Christmas Parade. Bryan Spragg, Manager of Ted Watkins Park; Dwight LaCroix and Jim Smith of the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department; Ken Stein of Frank Webb Architects; Jim Kearns, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works; and Arts Commission project managers Rebecca Banyas and Karen Rapp also participated in the panel.

In accordance with the Civic Art Policy adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in December 2004, one percent of the library's construction costs are allocated for the incorporation of civic art. The Los Angeles County Art Commission's Civic Art Program administers all aspects of the civic art allocation in concert with County constituents and community stakeholders.

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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 coordinating the Civic Art program, 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 250 nonprofit arts organizations annually; funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Foundation, 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 2006-2007 President of the Arts Commission is Marjorie Lyte.