

Enriching Lives



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**LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION AWARDS
\$4,518,000 IN GRANTS TO 155 COUNTY ARTS GROUPS**

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission has announced \$4,518,000 in two-year grants to 155 nonprofit arts organizations through its Organizational Grant Program (OGP). An estimated 9 million people will be served by the organizations receiving grants in the upcoming year.

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Chair Yvonne B. Burke noted, "These grants benefit the entire community. The support provided to the 155 groups has ramifications way beyond their walls, in terms of free access to events, arts education programs building well-rounded individuals and performances and exhibitions that help bring diverse cultures together."

Organizational arts grants by Los Angeles County for fiscal years 2008-09 and 2009-10, broken down by size of organization, are as follows.

SMALL BUDGET (under \$100,000) – 73 grants totaling \$812,900

MID-SIZE BUDGET 1 (\$100,000-\$500,000) – 43 grants totaling \$856,300

MID-SIZE BUDGET 2 (\$500,000-\$1,500,000) – 22 grants totaling \$932,200

LARGE BUDGET (more than \$1,500,000) - 17 grants totaling \$1,916,600

Grant amounts range from \$4,000 (several organizations) to \$374,400 (Los Angeles Philharmonic). Grantee organizations are spread throughout L.A. County with offices located in 39 of the County's 88 municipalities.

Thirty-one (20 percent) of these organizations are receiving County arts grants for the first time. Of these, 23 are in the Small Budget category, 6 are in the Mid-Size Budget 1 category, and two are in the Mid-Size Budget 2 category.

All Arts Commission OGP grants are for two years. Two-year grants increase stability for arts organizations enabling them to plan ahead and lighten their administrative work load because they prepare grant proposals every other year instead of annually.

In addition to the 155 arts organizations whose grants were approved by the Board of Supervisors on July 1 are 159 organizations that are receiving the second installment of two-year grants awarded last year. These grantees bring the total number of arts organizations receiving County funds to 314.

A complete list of grantees is online on the Arts Commission's web site, <http://lacountyarts.org/grantabout.html>

Cultural projects supported by County funds over the next two years include:

Arts education

Expansion of music program to South Los Angeles (Harmony Project, \$40,400)

Artistic director's salary and the expansion of school residency programs and community arts workshops (contra-tiempo, \$14,200)

Madison Neighborhood Initiative, offering individuals of all ages access to community-based art activities after school and on weekends (Armory Center for the Arts, \$81,500)

Financial support for artists and arts administrators

The first new artistic director in the symphony's 41-year history (Peninsula Symphony Association, \$12,000)

Artistic staff for a full production of a commissioned play (Black Dahlia Theatre, \$12,600)

Increase in rehearsal weeks for dancers from 15 to 20 weeks (Lula Washington Contemporary Dance Foundation, \$36,600)

Increasing the ceramics technician's position to full-time (Friends of the McGroarty Cultural Arts Center, \$18,500)

New work and artists

Native Voices at the Autry, a theatre initiative that develops and presents new work for the stage by Native American writers (Autry National Center of the American West, \$207,500)

Performances of "Expanding Horizons" project that will include music by composers who have not been heard in Los Angeles County (Southwest Chamber Music Society, \$42,100)

Support for Project: Involve, an artistic mentorship, training and job placement program for underrepresented filmmakers (Film Independent, Inc., \$127,400)

World premiere collaborative performance of Philippine dance and music (Kayamanan Ng Lahi Philippine Folk Arts, \$4,000)

"Hollywood," Freewaves' festival of new media arts (LA Freewaves, \$12,000)

Hammer Projects, an ongoing series of contemporary art exhibitions of emerging artists' work (Armand Hammer Museum of Art, \$137,100)

Free performances and events

Forty free performances of plays by Shakespeare and his contemporaries at Barnsdall Park (Independent Shakespeare Co., \$27,100)

"Sunset Concerts at the Skirball," a series of eight free world music concerts (Skirball Cultural Center, \$122,300)

A free gallery admission program (Long Beach Museum of Art Foundation, \$50,400)

Technology upgrades and training

Re-design and expansion of website (Los Angeles Forum for Architecture and Urban Design, \$14,300)

Online exhibitions, artists' registry and community calendar of events (Southern California Women's Caucus for Art, \$4,300)

Website development to improve marketing and development activities (Los Angeles Jewish Symphony, \$13,100)

The next cycle of OGP grants begins at the end of August, when applications become available on the Arts Commission's web site. That cycle will be the first to use applicants' financial data from the California Cultural Data Project (CACDP). In an effort to streamline the grant application process many California funders, including the Arts Commission, are using this centralized source; under the CACDP system arts organizations need to complete an online data profile only once a year. Arts organizations wishing to apply for an OGP grant should first visit www.caculturaldata.org and register. Application due dates are as follows:

SMALL BUDGET (under \$100,000) – December 10, 2008

MID-SIZE BUDGET 1 (\$100,000-\$500,000) – November 5, 2008

MID-SIZE BUDGET 2 (\$500,000-\$1,500,000) – November 26, 2008

LARGE BUDGET (more than \$1,500,000) – October 22, 2008

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 grants program, the Arts Commission provides leadership and staffing to support the regional blueprint for arts education, *Arts for All*; oversees the County's Civic Art Program for capital projects, 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 Arts Commission also produces free community programs, including the L.A. Holiday Celebration broadcast nationally, and a year-round music program that funds more than 50 free concerts each year in public sites. The 2008-09 President of the Arts Commission is Betty Haagen.

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