



ARTSWISE

A QUARTERLY BULLETIN

Fall 2006

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"L.A. COUNTY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION" DECEMBER 24 TO BE BROADCAST IN HIGH DEFINITION

The **47th Annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration** - L.A. County's biggest holiday show featuring more than 45 musical ensembles, choirs, and dance companies - unfolds at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center **Sunday, December 24 from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m.** PBS station KCET will broadcast the celebration live, as it has done since 1965, but this year for the first time it will be in high definition. This milestone in the history of the celebration is made possible by the sponsorship of Calgenex and Dole. Also for the first time, people waiting in line to get in can see the show on a jumbotron on Music Center Plaza.

The celebration, which reflects the vibrant spectrum of cultures found in Southern California, is L.A. County's yearly gift to Los Angeles: admission is **FREE**, as is the parking under the Music Center. Patrons may come and go throughout the performance.

This year's hosts include **Sheryl Lee Ralph** (original Broadway cast of *Dreamgirls*, *To Sleep with Anger*), **Sandra Tsing Loh** ("The Loh Life" on NPR, *Sugar Plum Fairy* on the stage), **Sean Michael Afable** (*Akeelah and the Bee*), **Charles Phoenix** (Histo-tainer, Retro Slide Shows), **Jsu Garcia** (*Traffic*, *Along Came Polly*, the upcoming: *Spiritual Warriors*), and **Fred Willard** (*For Your Consideration*, *Best in Show*, *This is Spinal Tap*).

Program highlights include the **Los Angeles Master Chorale** making its Holiday Celebration

debut singing "Deck the Hall" and a Kenyan folk song, and the Irish fiddlers and dancers of **Celtic Spring**, who wowed television audiences across the country as finalists on NBC's "America's Got Talent," opening their celebration set with a Christmas carol played on violins.

Complete program details are available at <http://www.holidaycelebration.org>.

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DEADLINE FOR ARTS ORGANIZATIONS TO APPLY FOR ARTS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IS JANUARY 10

The guidelines and eGRANT (electronic) application for the 2007 Los Angeles County Arts Internship Program are now available on the Los Angeles County Arts Commission's website at <http://lacountyarts.org/internship.html>. The program is for Los Angeles County-based nonprofit performing, presenting, literary and municipal arts organizations interested in mentoring and educating an undergraduate college student for ten weeks during summer 2007. Grants of \$4,000 are awarded to successful applicant organizations. \$3,500 of the grant award is to be used to pay the intern and \$500 of the grant is to be used to help defray some of the administrative costs associated with hosting the intern.

Organizations interested in this program should review the guidelines for eligibility before beginning an application. Deadline to submit an application is Wednesday, January 10, 2007. Please contact John Arroyo, jarroyo@lacountyarts.org, if you have any questions.

The purpose of the County's program is to provide undergraduate students with meaningful on-the-job training and experience in working in nonprofit arts organizations, while assisting arts organizations to develop future arts leaders and advocates. Through this program, students can develop a deeper understanding of the work involved in nonprofit arts administration, better understand the role of the arts in a community, and develop "real life" business skills that can be put to use in their future careers. During the ten-week course of the summer internships, participating organizations gain the assistance of a motivated student to help with special or seasonal projects. Participating organizations also play an important role in molding and shaping potential new leaders and advocates in the arts field who may go on to pursue careers in arts administration or take on board or volunteer responsibilities.

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FACILITIES WORKSHOP OFFERED JANUARY 29-30

A workshop designed for executive directors, board members, financial officers of arts organizations considering a facility project in the next 2-3 years will be offered Monday, January 29 and Tuesday, January 30, 2007 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center.

The workshop will be led by Thomas B. Harris. Tom is a financial planning expert who works with arts managers, boards of directors, and staff to assist them in realizing their facility planning vision. Tom also has a good sense of the projects and issues facing cultural facilities in Los Angeles County, following his extensive research for The James Irvine Foundation's report, "The Development of Cultural Facilities in Los Angeles."

Topics to be covered in this in-depth workshop include Planning ABC's, Organizational Development Issues, The Project Budget, Budgeting for Operations, Raising the Money, Using Debt, Gauging Your Capacity and Managing the Process.

The registration deadline is January 17 but early registration is recommended as the class can accommodate only 26 people. The Arts Commission reserves the right to prioritize participation

based upon projected project plans and current status in the Commission's Organizational Grant Program (OGP). To register, go to http://lacountyarts.org/orgdev_facilitiesworkshop07.dot

Registration is \$50 per person for Los Angeles County Arts Commission OGP Grantees and \$125 per person for other arts organizations. The workshop is sponsored by the Organizational Development Program of the L.A. County Arts Commission which provides significant underwriting of the registration fees.

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TARGET SUPPORTS ARTS EDUCATION AT COMPTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Target, through Los Angeles County's *Arts for All* initiative, has given a \$70,000 grant to Compton Unified School District to help fund the implementation of the district's comprehensive Arts Education Plan for the 31,449 students attending the district's 23 elementary, nine middle schools, three high schools and three alternative schools. Matched by district funds, the two-year Target grant specifically supports the position of arts coordinator. A district-level arts coordinator is one of five critical success factors for restoring quality arts education in County districts. Compton USD will assume responsibility for the arts coordinator in the third year.

Superintendent Dr. Jesse Gonzales called Target's support, "a tremendous acknowledgement of the power and vitality of arts education and the need for every single student to benefit and develop in the arts throughout their K-12 education."

"Target is proud to be a part of Compton Unified School District's commendable efforts to strengthen arts curriculum for all of its students and their families," said Laysha Ward, vice president, community relations, Target. "We know that the arts help foster an appreciation and understanding of various cultures and points of view and hope that our partnership will help them flourish in the community."

As specified in the long-range plan, Compton's arts coordinator will guide development of curriculum in dance, drama, music and the visual arts based on California's Visual and Performing Arts Curriculum and the implementation of arts education for all students. The arts coordinator will also work with faculty to ensure classroom time for the arts and to incorporate the arts to strengthen student learning in math, reading, science, history and citizenship.

Administered by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, *Arts for All* seeks to restore comprehensive sequential K-12 arts education keyed to California's Visual and Performing Arts Standards for students in all 80 county school districts.

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L.A. COUNTY SUPERVISORS HONOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS FOR IMPLEMENTING ARTS EDUCATION PLANS

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has honored nine County school districts - **Beverly Hills, Burbank, Castaic, Compton, Culver City, Hacienda La Puente, Pasadena, Rosemead Santa Monica-Malibu** - and the **Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE)** for rejuvenating arts education for students. These districts have participated in the County-sponsored *Arts for All* initiative and have adopted arts education policies and plans to ensure that their students receive comprehensive sequential arts education.

Currently LACOE and 19 County school districts, nearly one-quarter of all County school districts, are participating in *Arts for All*. Those being honored are in the implementation phase of *Arts for All*. The others are working toward the *Arts for All* goals. These include four districts that joined the *Arts for All* process this fall and began receiving technical assistance to establish quality,

sequential arts education: **Inglewood, Mountain View** in El Monte, **Paramount** and **Wiseburn** in El Segundo.

25% of County students now attend *Arts for All* districts, not including the Los Angeles Unified School District that educates 700,000 students and adopted its own arts education plan prior to *Arts for All*.

For further information about the Arts for All initiative visit <http://lacountyarts.org/artseducation.html>

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SARAH RUHL'S *EURYDICE*, HIT PRODUCTION AT [INSIDE] THE FORD, RUNS THROUGH JANUARY 6

You still have time to catch Circle X Theatre Company's Los Angeles premiere production of *Eurydice* by hot playwright Sarah Ruhl. It runs through January 6 at the 87-seat [Inside] the Ford, the indoor theatre that is part of the Ford Theatres complex in Hollywood. The play moves the Orpheus and Eurydice legend to modern times and retells it from the bride's point of view.

Eurydice was named one of ten best productions of 2006 by Charles McNulty of the Los Angeles Times: "Playwright Sarah Ruhl might seem like some marvelous cross between her dramatic forerunners Maria Irene Fornes and Caryl Churchill if she weren't so consummately herself. Circle X Theatre Company's lovely staging of this new take on the myth of lovers separated by death has a delicate pathos and wit that augurs well for the author and the company."

Eurydice is also a critic's pick in both *L.A. Weekly* and *Backstage West*.

"an achingly beautiful production... For this play alone, Ruhl deserves the MacArthur Fellowship that she received earlier this year." - *LA Weekly* ([full review](#))

"The production is terrific. Director John Langs and his skillful cast keep things lively and entertaining, and the design is superb." Critics Pick - *Backstage West* ([full review](#))

"...a thought-provoking exploration...John Langs guides the excellent Circle X ensemble through the contrasting yearnings of souls residing in the land of the living and those existing in the land of the dead." *Variety* ([full review](#))

To purchase tickets, go to <http://www.tickets.com/browse.cgi?pgid=2013288>

Eurydice is the first production of the Ensemble Theatre Collective at [Inside] the Ford 2006-07 season. ETC@ITF is a collaboration of the member companies and the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, with support from the Flintridge Foundation.

For complete season information visit <http://www.fordamphitheater.org/en/performance/Theatre.asp>

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GRANTMAKERS RELEASES THE MOST IN-DEPTH SURVEY TO DATE ON ARTS FUNDING IN L.A. COUNTY

Arts in the Balance, which summarizes the fourth biennial survey of corporate, foundation and government arts funding in Los Angeles County, has been released by Southern California Grantmakers (SCG). SCG conducted the 2004/2005 survey in partnership with Los Angeles Arts Funders and the UCLA Center for Civil Society. The most in-depth review of its kind to date, the

survey tracked arts giving in L.A. County for 2004, the funders' most recently completed fiscal year.

When compared with previous surveys conducted for the 1998, 2000 and 2002 fiscal years, the 2004 results point toward flows that remain at the 2000 level. At the same time, L.A.'s nonprofit sector expanded by 20 percent, indicating public and private funding flows are unlikely to increase enough to sustain L.A.'s growing nonprofit arts community.

"It's vital to emphasize the role of vibrant nonprofit arts and cultural organizations in giving voice to L.A.'s increasing number of diverse communities. It is disconcerting that in the entertainment capital of the world, an industry built on creativity, only the largest nonprofit arts institutions can count on private support," said Judy Spiegel, interim president of SCG. "We must widen the attention of policy makers and philanthropists to the role and needs of the smaller nonprofits in our cultural and financial economy."

Citing key survey findings, Spiegel noted a trilemma comprising the growing need for arts funding, stagnating financial support and limited accessibility to available private funding sources. Arts organizations are doing more with less and, in constant dollars, funding levels by private and public funders for 2004/2005 are close to or even below 1998 levels, when the nonprofit arts sector was significantly smaller.

The survey also underscores the difference in revenue structures between L.A.'s arts nonprofits and the national norm. Public funding across local, state and federal government levels amounted to only about one percent, compared to the national average of 10 percent. Local funders were the only government funders to report an increase in arts and culture support between 1998 and 2004. However, reduced funding from the California Arts Council resulted in an overall reduction of 21 percent in public funding compared to 1998, and a 35 percent reduction in comparison to 2002. (PLEASE NOTE: The study reflects the public funding situation 2 years prior to the doubling the L.A. County Arts Commission's grant budget.)

The *Arts in the Balance* survey summary may be viewed at <http://www.socalgrantmakers.org/Content/NavigationMenu/RESOURCES/Publications/default.htm> or obtained by calling SCG at 213-680-8636, ext. 0.

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NEW STUDY SHOWS HOW CALIFORNIA ARTISTS BUILD CAREERS IN THE CREATIVE ECONOMY

California artists move fluidly among commercial, nonprofit, and community sectors despite formidable barriers, finds a new study from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. Artists' ability to "cross over" is a major stimulant to regional economic activity and the quality of life. The study was funded by the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, and Leveraging Investments in Creativity.

The study, *Crossover: How Artists Build Careers across Commercial, Nonprofit, and Community Work*, reports how artists develop successful cross-sectoral careers in ways little understood by employers, funders, and policymakers. *Crossover* includes in-depth interviews and data from a web-based survey of Los Angeles- and San Francisco Bay-area musicians, writers, performing, and visual artists. More than 100,000 artists work in the two metros. Along with New York, the two California regions support more artists per capita than the nation's other large metropolitan areas.

Even though crossover is quite pervasive among artists, artists on average earn more arts income for time spent in commercial work than they do in nonprofit or community work. If money were not an issue, artists would cross over even more than they currently do, according to the

report. Many full-time commercial artists would work more hours in the nonprofit and community sectors while others would increase their for-profit efforts. Many more would engage in community artwork.

Artists credit each sector with distinctive career growth opportunities. For-profit work raises their visibility, deepens networks and understanding of professional conventions, and generates higher financial returns. Nonprofit work helps artists explore new media and collaborate across disciplines, as well as offering greater aesthetic and emotional satisfaction. Community work ranks highest for affirming cultural identity, pursuing political and social justice goals, and enriching community life.

The study addresses how employers, schools, service organizations, funders, the media, government, arts advocacy groups, and artists themselves can encourage crossover.

The complete study includes profiles of several dozen artists, many from Los Angeles County, and can be found online at <http://www.hhh.umn.edu/projects/prie/crossover.html>.

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ArtsWise is the quarterly e-newsletter of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. 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 Commission offices are located at 374 Hall of Administration, 500 W. Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90012. Complete Arts Commission information is available at www.lacountyarts.org. The Commission does not trade, sell or rent its e-mail list to anyone.

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