



ARTSWISE

A QUARTERLY BULLETIN

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- I. The "real L.A." on national television
- II. Sneak Preview: Grants - the Ripple Effect
- III. World premiere of "a terrific new musical" at [Inside] the Ford
- IV. Laying the foundation for sequential arts education in 5 school districts
- V. Building the skills of arts leaders

THE "REAL L.A." ON NATIONAL TELEVISION

A one-hour music and dance special reflecting Los Angeles' ethnic mosaic will air nationally during Christmas week on PBS. "L.A. Holiday Celebration" spotlights the top 10 segments from the live holiday extravaganzas produced annually by the Arts Commission at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of the Music Center. "L.A. Holiday Celebration" airs locally on KCET Channel 28 at 10 p.m., December 25. A list of PBS stations carrying the special and other information is available at www.holidaycelebration.org.

In the special, performers of African, Asian, European and Latino backgrounds express the joy of the season. Behind-the-scenes chats with the artists and visits to their neighborhoods focus on their roots and cultural traditions. These mini-documentaries were produced and directed by David Zeiger, whose credits include the acclaimed "Senior Year" series on PBS. Highlights of "L.A. Holiday Celebration" include:

- Compton High School Choir singing, in Yoruba dialect, "Betelehemu" (Bethlehem), a Nigerian folk song celebrating the birthplace of Jesus
- Jazz Tap Ensemble, the internationally known L.A.-based company that helped spur the tap revival, in their original live jazz-rhythm tap version of "Deck the Halls"
- Jung Im Lee Korean Dance Academy in the virtuoso percussion display, "Three Drum Dance"
- Sierra Park Elementary Folklorico, a Mexican folkloric group composed entirely of children evoking the Posada, the traditional Christmas procession, in "La Bruja"
- TRIP Dance Theatre, a modern dance company, performing "When It Snows," a work commissioned especially for Holiday Celebration

"LA Holiday Celebration' provides an illuminating, often surprising profile of our region," says Laura Zucker, executive producer of the show and executive director of the Arts Commission. "This is the real L.A., one seldom experienced on national television."

The 2003 live show - the 44th Annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration - takes place at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion on Wednesday, December 24 from 3 to 9 p.m. A gift from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to the community, the live Holiday Celebration is FREE to the public. Detailed information is available at www.HolidayCelebration.org. Come on down and be part of the biggest holiday cultural event in the country!.

SNEAK PREVIEW: GRANTS - THE RIPPLE EFFECT

The Arts Commission will be releasing a report on the impact of its Organizational Grant program and its 2002-2003 grantees in December. Here is a sneak preview of the highlights:

From July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003 the Commission's 261 Organizational Grant Program (OGP) grantees

produced an average of 94 arts activities per day in Los Angeles County.

drew total attendance of 9,640,038 to their events, generating \$101,160,420 in earned revenue.

admitted 53% of that total free (including arts education programs).

spent \$330 million on goods and services.

devoted \$179 million of that total to salaries for 11,831 artistic and administrative positions.

Rena Williams, Director of Grant Programs for the Commission said, "I believe this assessment provides us with a detailed snapshot of the diverse organizations we funded through OGP and their influence on the county's community engagement, workforce and economy. This report is only the beginning and definitely gives us a clear direction for future evaluation. The results confirms much of what we thought to be true but also offers some unexpected yet useful data."

WORLD PREMIERE OF "A TERRIFIC NEW MUSICAL" AT [INSIDE] THE FORD

The latest production in the Hot Properties at [Inside] the Ford series has won high praise from the press. The Los Angeles Times hailed The Shaggs: Philosophy of the World, the saga of a real-life, all-girl band, as "a terrific new musical." Times critic Rob Kendt described The Shaggs as "'School of Rock' as conceived by David Lynch" and found the cast "flawless."

Written by Joy Gregory with music by Gunnar Madsen, The Shaggs is the strange but true story of one of the worst bands in rock 'n roll history -an "outsider" girl group that played in Fremont, New Hampshire during the early '70s. This world premiere production is staged by the Santa Monica-based Powerhouse Theatre Company and directed by John Langs. The Shaggs continues through December 14 at [Inside] the Ford, the 87-seat state-of-the-art indoor theatre in the John Anson Ford Theatres complex in Hollywood, which is operated by the Arts Commission. For reservations and information, the (323) 461-3673 or go to www.fordamphitheatre.org.

Hot Properties, a collaboration of the Arts Commission and A.S.K. Theatre Projects made possible in part by a generous grant from The James Irvine Foundation, supports the staging of new works. The Shaggs was initially developed by A.S.K. Theater Projects as part of the Writers' Retreat and Unsettled Scores programs.

Following The Shaggs, Ensemble Studio Theatre-The L.A. Project presents the world premiere of Stage Directions by L. Trey Wilson (January 24-February 29) and the Fountain Theatre presents the West Coast premiere of Daisy in the Dreamtime by Lynne Kaufman (March 20-April 25).

LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR SEQUENTIAL ARTS EDUCATION IN 5 SCHOOL DISTRICTS

California Alliance for Arts Education (CAAE), in collaboration with the California PTA, is working with five Los Angeles County school districts to establish a policy, plan and budget for arts education by the end of the current school year. The CAAE and the PTA are two of the Arts Commission's leadership partners in implementing ARTS FOR ALL: Los Angeles County Regional Blueprint for Arts Education.

"Study after study has shown that meaningful arts education doesn't happen until these three elements are in place," says Ayanna Hudson Higgins, Arts Education Director for the Arts Commission.

The first five districts in the County to receive technical assistance to achieve this goal are: Culver City Unified (Dr. Laura McGaughey, Superintendent), Norwalk-La Mirada Unified (Dr. Ginger Shattuck, Superintendent), Pasadena Unified (Dr. Percy Clark, Jr., Superintendent), Rosemead School District (Dr. Amy Enomoto-Perez, Superintendent), and Santa Monica-Malibu Unified (Dr. John Deasy, Superintendent).

A Community Arts Team has been created in each of the districts to conduct the strategic planning process. The co-chairs of the teams were trained in meeting facilitation in October to prepare for their work which began in November.

Grants from Sony Pictures Entertainment (\$6,000 per district or \$30,000 total) and the National Endowment for the Arts (\$4,000 per district or \$20,000 total) support the activity in the five vanguard districts. These funds have allowed the CAAE to hire a team of consultants to guide and advise the Community Arts Teams. The Blueprint calls for five districts in the county to receive this assistance each school year.

BUILDING THE SKILLS OF ARTS LEADERS

One of the Arts Commission's quieter programs - the Arts Leadership Initiative (ALI) - has provided life and career changing opportunities for arts administrators. The second year of ALI, which evolved from the technical assistance consultancies that were part of the Organizational Grant Program for mid-size organizations, wrapped in August.

The leaders - either executive or artistic directors of mid-size arts organizations - have a chance to deeply explore their roles as leaders while gaining practical information on how to better run their organization, manage employees and work with their boards. The ALI program, which was designed by Director of Organizational Development Andrew Campbell particularly for the Los Angeles arts community, utilizes the Fieldstone Foundation's Executive Learning Group process, which focuses on peer coaching and problem solving. Organizations also receive a grant for study and consultancies to be chosen by the leader.

In speaking about the six monthly meetings of the Executive Learning Group, one participant said:

We're developing a three year strategic plan. ALI helped me understand what this plan could be and how I can build support from staff, board and volunteers for the short and long term goals. Also, we're growing which means change. I learned about what I have to offer as a leader through the many informal discussions about the issues other people in the group were facing. I realized I wasn't the first person facing what turned out to be common problems for mid-size arts nonprofits.

Ten leaders, chosen from mid-size organizations which are Arts Commission grantees, participated in each of the first two years. About half the participants each year chose the National Arts Strategies' Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders-Arts, a collaborative program with the Stanford University School of Business, for their study experience. Others used their grants to meet with and research leaders/organizations similar to their own within the U.S. and/or abroad.

This year's participants are:

- Aracelly Alvarez, Managing Director, Bilingual Foundation of the Arts
- Sheila Bergman, Executive Director, P.S. Arts
- Tim Dang, Producing Artistic Director, East West Players
- Nancy Fox, Chief Operating Officer, Museum of Latin American Art
- Stephen Gutwillig, Executive Director, Outfest
- Cynthia Harnisch, Executive Director, Inner-City Arts

- Elsa Longhauser, Executive Director, Santa Monica Museum of Art
- Stephen McCurry, Executive Director, Pasadena Conservatory of Music
- Larry Stotz, General Manager, Deaf West Theatre
- Irene Tsatsos, Executive Director, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions
- Shay Wafer, Managing Director, Cornerstone Theater Company

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. The Arts Commission, in addition to its grants program that funds more than 200 nonprofit arts organizations annually, funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Trust and programs the John Anson Ford Theatres. The Commission recently published a regional blueprint for arts education. 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 Commission's total budget for the fiscal year 2003-4 is \$4,454,000. The 2003-2004 President of the Arts Commission is Laurel Karabian.

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