

Enriching Lives



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## **LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION AWARDS \$4,518,000 IN GRANTS TO 228 COUNTY ARTS GROUPS**

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission has announced a record \$4,518,000 in grants to 228 nonprofit arts organizations for fiscal year 2006-07 through its Organizational Grant Program. In June, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a doubling of the appropriation for grants to nonprofit arts organizations. The 2006-07 grant awards are the first to reflect that increase.

With additional grant funds, the Arts Commission was able to provide a greater degree of assistance to local arts organizations in several ways simultaneously:

- Grants were made to 29 more arts organizations than in 2005-06 (a 15% increase)
- The average grant size increased, and
- For the first time, two-year commitments were made to organizations with budgets exceeding \$100,000. Approximately half of the grantees have received two-year awards for 2006-07. Two-year awards will enhance organizational stability and reduce the administrative burden for arts organizations. The remainder of the grantees will receive two-year awards in the next grant cycle, with all grantees receiving multi-year awards by 2007-08.

Third District Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky noted "These arts grants are an investment in intellectual creativity. They fund employment opportunities and afford access to cultural experiences for all County residents regardless of their economic circumstances. The arts foster

understanding, insight and empathy - a field of endeavor that doesn't just produce financial wealth, but increases our value as individual human beings and as a community."

Marjorie S. Lyte, President of the Arts Commission, said "The funding of non-profit arts organizations serving County residents is our core program. The number of organizations and services continues to grow. The increased appropriation enables us to meet the challenge of supporting them."

Organizational arts grants by Los Angeles County for 2006-07 broken down by size of organization:

SMALL BUDGET (under \$100,000) – 70 grants totaling \$513,200

MID-SIZE BUDGET 1 (\$100,000-\$500,000) – 82 grants totaling \$816,700

MID-SIZE BUDGET 2 (\$500,000-\$1,500,000) – 43 grants totaling \$1,176,300

LARGE BUDGET (more than \$1,500,000) - 33 grants totaling \$2,011,800

Grant size ranged from \$2,000 to \$254,800. (Both are two-year grants.)

In addition, 55 organizations in the small budget category will receive \$174,500 in 2006-07, for the second year of two-year grants awarded in 2005-06. These grantees bring the total number of arts organizations receiving County funds this fiscal year to 283.

A complete list of grantees for 2006-07 is online on the Arts Commission's web site, [http://lacountyarts.org/anncmt\\_granteesbycategory0607.pdf](http://lacountyarts.org/anncmt_granteesbycategory0607.pdf)

Grantee projects supported by County funds in 2006-07 include:

**Arts education**

Comprehensive, sequential arts instruction in music and visual art for every student attending Broadway Elementary School (P. S. Arts, \$22,400)

Salaries for the Master Teacher Program  
(Claremont Community School of Music, \$37,600 over two years)

Training in the arts for classroom teachers by professional artists and more Artists-in-the-Classroom programs  
(Friends of the Cerritos Center, \$11,300)

**Free events**

Production of the 20<sup>th</sup> season of free public theater in Carlson Park  
(Culver City Public Theatre, \$2,100)

More than 100 free concerts  
(Colburn School, \$92,600 over two years)

Free visual arts exhibition program and related educational activities  
(Palos Verdes Art Center, \$26,300)

“First and Central” summer concerts, a free outdoor music and film series  
(Japanese American National Museum, \$45,300)

**Creation of new work**

An adaptation of Sinclair Lewis’s *Babbitt*  
(A Noise Within, \$40,400 over two years)

“Native Voices at the Autry,” an ongoing initiative to develop and present new work for the stage by Native American writers  
(Autry National Center, \$143,000 over two years)

Creation of a modern dance project  
(San Pedro City Ballet, \$4,000)

**New positions/higher salaries for artists and arts administrators**

Addition of a full-time technical director to the staff and increased actor fees  
(The Theatre@Boston Court, \$28,800 over two years)

First-time salary for the executive director  
(Santa Clarita Symphony, \$11,900 over two years)

New position of orchestra manager to expand education and performances  
(Verdugo Young Musicians’ Association, \$5,000 over two years)

New administrative assistant  
(Millard Sheets Gallery, \$26,000 over two years)

Upgrading dancers’ salaries with a 15-week contract  
(Lula Washington Dance Theatre, \$43,600 over two years)

**Providers of services to arts organizations/artists**

Latino Media Resource Guide  
(National Association of Latino Independent Producers, \$17,000)

Development and implementation of a strategic marketing plan  
(Center for Cultural Innovation, \$26,600 over two years)

**People with special needs**

Community Outreach Program, including gallery, community exhibits, website, and accessible art workshops

(Arts and Services for Disabled, \$48,000 over two years)

Infinite Dreams, a dance and drama curriculum serving special needs populations (Bethune Theatredanse, \$7,000)

The doubling of the County's budget for arts grants runs counter to the current trend of funding for the arts from governmental agencies. The appropriation makes the Arts Commission the largest public funder of the arts in L.A. County with an annual grants budget for the region greater than that of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs or the National Endowment for the Arts.

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 60 free concerts each year in public sites. The 2006-07 President of the Arts Commission is Marjorie Lyte.

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