

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EDITORS PLEASE NOTE: An electronic version of the free admission program brochure can be found at
<http://www.lacountyarts.org/docs/publications/dpss06museandgardens.pdf>

Los Angeles County's free admission program for low income families expands

29 cultural institutions are now participating

Through a joint effort of two Los Angeles County agencies - the Arts Commission and the Department of Public Social Services - low-income families receiving CalWORKs/Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and/or Food Stamp benefits can visit 29 regional museums and gardens for free. In addition, these families will enjoy free admission to the Big!World!Fun! family series at the Ford Amphitheatre this summer.

The Department of Public Social Services has sent an announcement of the free cultural offerings in nine languages to the 200,000 families who are CalWORKs/RCA and Food Stamp participants. Only families in these programs qualify. Free admission is conditional upon presentation of the family's Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card.

Twelve cultural institutions have just joined the program. These include:

African American Fire Fighters Museum
Cabrillo Marine Aquarium
California Heritage Museum
California Science Center
Craft and Folk Art Museum
Hammer Museum
Museum of Contemporary Art
Museum of Tolerance
Norton Simon Museum
Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits
The Pasadena Museum of California Art
Zimmer Children's Museum

Cultural institutions that have been with the program from the beginning and are continuing to offer free admission include:

Arboretum of Los Angeles County
Autry National Center (including Southwest Museum and Museum of the American West)
California African American Museum
Descanso Gardens
Ford Amphitheatre Big!World!Fun! family concerts
Japanese American National Museum
Long Beach Museum of Art
Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)
Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA)
Natural History Museum
Pacific Asia Museum
Santa Monica Museum of Art
Skirball Cultural Center
South Coast Botanic Garden
UCLA Fowler Museum
USC Fisher Gallery
Virginia Robinson Gardens

The Arts Commission and DPSS launched a pilot program in summer 2004. CalWORKs/RCA and Food Stamp participants were offered free access to nine Big!World!Fun! family events at the Ford Amphitheatre. In August 2004, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors charged the Arts Commission and DPSS to expand the program to County museums, gardens, and other venues.

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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. 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; 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 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.

The **Department of Public Social Services**, Bryce Yokomizo, Director, administers programs that provide services to individuals and families in need. These programs are designed to both alleviate hardship and promote family health, personal responsibility, and economic independence.