



COUNTYWIDE CULTURAL POLICY REPORT BACK

2022-23



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Cover art - Canopy of Blossoms at the Department of Mental Health in Los Angeles by Suzy Taekyung Kim

*Amory Center
for the Arts*

**Celebrate the diversity of the region and
highlight the contributions of those who
have been historically excluded.**



On August 30, 2022, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the Countywide Cultural Policy Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan) as a roadmap for how Los Angeles County can meaningfully contribute to the cultural life of the region and support the goals of the Countywide Cultural Policy (Cultural Policy).

This report provides updates on early implementation actions led by the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture), as well as ways in which Departments across the County fulfill Cultural Policy goals.

The Cultural Policy, which was adopted by the Board on June 23, 2020, originated out of the [LA County Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative](#) (CEII). Begun in 2015 at the direction of LA County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, CEII produced 13 recommendations that would address long-standing inequities in the arts and culture field. On June 26, 2017, the Board unanimously approved two motions to fund five CEII recommendations, one of which was to establish the Cultural Policy. Brief updates on the other funded CEII recommendations can also be found herein.

Although several motions by the Board since the adoption of the Strategic Plan last August have named specific strategies for funding, none have been fully funded. Despite limited resources and staffing, Arts and Culture provided leadership and coordination on implementation of the policy and delivered rich and dynamic work as part of existing and previously funded programs.

This year's first Cultural Policy annual report comes amidst many challenges, crises, and concerns in the County and the world – from social isolation and mental health to the health and viability of the performing arts to the homelessness crisis and much more. In this, the most populous County in the nation, we at the Department of Arts and Culture believe that arts, culture, and creativity will play an increasingly important role across policy areas in the health, wellbeing, and economic and social resiliency of its people and the vitality of its communities. The arts can be leveraged as an innovative strategy and part of the solution to our collective challenges. The Strategic Plan includes several opportunities to do just that.

We look forward to continued partnership with the Board of Supervisors; County Departments; the Los Angeles County Arts Commission; our municipal, arts service, and arts funder colleagues; and, of course, the many talented artists and arts and culture organizations. We are grateful for the leadership of our cultural community and their important contributions to the vision, key needs, and strategies in the Cultural Policy and Strategic Plan. Together, we work to ensure a thriving, equitable, and robust arts and cultural sector, with access to arts, culture, and creativity for the County and all the diverse communities we serve.



Kristin Sakoda
Director, Los Angeles County
Department of Arts and Culture

CEII Funded Recommendations

The following are updates to program activities on the funded Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative (CEII) recommendations since the previous final report, which was filed with the Board of Supervisors on June 27, 2022. Because the focus of this document is the Countywide Cultural Policy, or CEII Recommendation #1 (Los Angeles County Cultural Policy), it is not reflected in this section.

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission (Arts Commission) provides leadership on CEII, serving as advisors, ambassadors, and advocates to the Board of Supervisors, the Department of Arts and Culture, and the County at large. This past June, having completed its Board-directed obligations, the Arts Commission's CEII Advisory Committee held its final meeting. However, the Arts Commission will continue to engage this work through a Cultural Equity, Access, and Inclusion subcommittee. The Department of Arts and Culture continues to embrace the principles of CEII as a core value of its work.



Recommendation #2: Requirement for cultural organizations that contract with the County to include statements, policies, or plans for cultural equity

One hundred percent of the 241 Fiscal Year 2023-24 Organizational Grant Program applicants that advanced to the panel process in 2023 met the requirement. Two new trainings were offered to support grantees in operationalizing CEII values and tracking progress on goals, with a particular focus on building the capacity of new grantee organizations.



Recommendation #3: College Arts Pathways: Paid arts internships for community college students

Since the last report, 223 arts internships at 143 grantee organizations were successfully launched. 47 community college students participated in the program, a 24% increase over the previous year. In response to feedback from interns and host organizations, the Arts Internship Program maintained increased flexibility: internships launched on a rolling basis and took place over expanded timelines with flexible hours and hybrid work formats. Alumni of the program are sometimes hired into permanent positions by the host organization post residency. For example, former interns were hired by A Noise Within, Floricanto Dance Theatre, and Long Beach Opera. Through this program, the County invests more than \$1 million per year in the next generation of arts leaders and provides college youth with meaningful experiences that benefit them wherever their paths may lead.



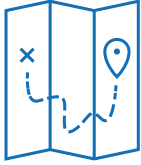
Recommendation #4: Creative Career Pathways for Youth (formerly Teen Arts Pathways): Develop pathways that provide youth with access to careers in the arts and creative industries

The Department's Arts Education and Youth Development Division uses multiple strategies to provide youth, ages 14-24 years old, with concrete entry points into the creative workforce. Through the LA County Arts Ed Collective's Advancement Grant program, more than \$392,000 has been provided since 2018 in matching grants to school districts to support youth access to pathways in creative careers. Since its launch in April 2022, Creative Careers Online (CCO), an online creative career exploration tool, has been used by more than 10,000 unique visitors, who learned about creative jobs and accessed content by 17 County Departments and agencies. 750 educators learned about Creative Career Pathways for Youth and CCO through 22 events, and 60 youth from Best Buy Teen Tech Centers served as CCO Ambassadors, in partnership with Greater LA Education Fund. In 2023, a solicitation was issued for a consultant to develop a Media Career Pathways Prototype to be launched in 2024 for LA County opportunity youth, youth in or transitioning out of foster care, youth impacted by the justice system, and low-income youth of color, with the goal of creating pathways to family-sustaining careers in the arts and creative sectors.



Recommendation #7: Placement of artists to work cross-sector to address social problems

Since the last report, three artists completed their Creative Strategist-Artist in Residence (Creative Strategist) residencies. For his residency with LA City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC), Creative Strategist Jacob Pratt (Dakota and Ojibway from Cote First Nation), conceived of and directed a short video that explores the County's Native American community from three distinct perspectives. As part of the culminating project for her residency with the Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA), Phung Huynh provided arts activities for the 2023 World Refugee Day event at the Gloria Molina Grand Park. Olga Koumoundouros' residency with the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) grew into a three-year partnership between Arts and Culture, OVP, and the Department of Public Health to implement *Violence, Hope and Healing in Los Angeles County: The Storytelling Project*, which used trauma-informed storytelling and photography to illuminate the ways violence impacts our communities and uplift pathways for self-expression and healing. Through User Utility Tax funding, the two-year Creative Strategist residency with the Aging and Disabilities Department continued to engage community members in intergenerational, multilingual arts programming at community and senior centers in the County's First District. Two new residencies launched in 2023 with the Department of Human Resources and the Homeless Initiative.



Recommendation #8: Private developer requirement for public art in the unincorporated areas

Since launching the Public Art in Private Development (PAPD) Ordinance on September 15, 2021, the Civic Art Division identified 69 eligible projects with \$3,513,727.29 in compliance requirements and collected \$1,217,244.34 in-lieu compliance payments, held in the Public Art in Private Development Fund. These private development projects will fund seven developer-managed public art projects, cultural facilities, conservation, and artistic and cultural services and programs within each project's site area or a five-mile radius. A full report summarizing the activities of the PAPD Ordinance program will be provided to the Board in 2024.



ABOVE: Christine Sun Kim, Institute of Contemporary Art LA (developer-Palatine Capital Partners), Bounce Back, 2023 (temporary acrylic mural), Photo by Jeff McLane/ICA LA.

Department of Arts and Culture - Cultural Policy Implementation

Since the adoption of the Countywide Cultural Policy in June 2020, Arts and Culture has begun to lay the foundation for the policy's implementation, building cross-Departmental partnerships, and prototyping programs, positioning the County to take full advantage of future investments in Cultural Policy strategies.

On April 20, 2021, in a [motion](#) authored by Supervisor Solis and former Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, the Board directed Arts and Culture to implement recommendations in the October 23, 2020 Cultural Policy Report Back – actions that the Department could take to implement the Cultural Policy with existing staffing and resources. The following are updates on these Early Implementation Actions since the July 1, 2022 Cultural Policy Report Back:

County Department Coordination, Support, and Collaboration

Arts and Culture initiated several cross-sector collaborations and leveraged a modest annual budget of \$50,000 to support integrating the arts into County operations and initiatives. The Department provided funding for artists and arts organizations for a range of projects including Indigenous Peoples Day 2022, the 2022 Burial of the Unclaimed Dead, May is Mental Health Month, and LA County Library's 50th Anniversary of Hip-Hop. In celebration of Arts Month, in April 2023, Arts and Culture partnered with the Department of Human Resources to provide content for County employees to engage with the arts and creative expression. In June 2023, Arts and Culture co-hosted, with LA Opera Connects, Healing Arts, and the World Health Organization, a daylong Arts and Health Summit to highlight the importance of arts in health, healing, and wellbeing.



ABOVE: Mea Lath from Modern Apsara Company performs a traditional Cambodian dance at World Refugee Day 2023. Photo by Monica Almeida.

Finally, utilizing one-time funding provided for Cultural Policy Strategy No. 16 (Recognize American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) Communities), Arts and Culture and the LANAIC funded artists and culture bearers for activities at County facilities including the American Indian Resource Center, San Dimas Canyon Nature Center, Sorenson Library, and Vasquez Rocks Nature Center.

County Strategic Plan and the County’s Anti-Racism Agenda

Arts and Culture participated alongside other County Departments in the Countywide Strategic Planning process. In addition to ongoing participation in Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative (ARDI) work, Arts and Culture was named as a collaborator with ARDI on several Equity Fund Spending Plan strategies, which will be implemented in 2024.

Cultural Impact Assessment

Arts and Culture collaborated with the Department of Regional Planning on the Historic Cultural Context Statements for the Westside and South Bay Area Plans. Both Departments will continue to explore the role of cultural preservation, cultural districts, and other opportunities for incorporating the arts into planning and community development.



ABOVE: College students participating in the Arts Internship Program attend the Arts and Health Summit. Photo by Monica Almeida.

Land Acknowledgment

Developed over many months of collaboration with designated representatives from local Tribes, on November 1, 2022, the Board unanimously adopted the [Countywide Land Acknowledgment](#), through a motion authored by Supervisors Solis and Janice Hahn. The motion also directed Arts and Culture and the LANAIC to hire a consultant, with one-time funding of \$150,000, to develop a toolkit and resources for Departments, municipalities, and cultural entities to guide implementation of the Land Acknowledgement.

In January 2023, Arts and Culture and the LANAIC convened County leadership on this work. Through a consultant, Arts and Culture and the LANAIC held six focus groups in 2023 with staff from across the County, including from the County's cultural institutions, to hear what resources they would need. Additionally, Arts and Culture and its consultant reached out to all 22 tribal governments, with generally five tribal affiliations, that have ties to the region, as identified by the State of California Native American Heritage Commission. Eight Tribes with traditional lands that intersect with the County's boundaries expressed interest in participating in this work.

The first set of content: 1) Countywide Land Acknowledgment Implementation Guide, 2) Land Acknowledgment Quick Guide, 3) How to Deliver the Countywide Land Acknowledgment, 4) Frequently Asked Questions, 5) Glossary of Terms, and 6) Pronunciation Guide will be made publicly available on lacounty.gov in December 2023.



ABOVE: Dr. Theresa Stewart Ambo, member of the Nohaaxre Miyii Pokuu' Tongva Basketweaving Collective at Kuruvungna Springs. Photo by Renae Wootson.

Arts and Culture Needs Assessment

The [Arts and Culture Needs Assessment](#) (Needs Assessment) is an interactive, web-based data tool that was created at the direction of the Board, through one-time funding of \$250,000 for a consultant, to create a baseline of the County's investments in arts and culture, as well as gaps and opportunities for improvement, to ensure all LA County communities have equitable access to the arts in the region. The Needs Assessment shows investments from large arts and culture institutions to small community-based arts nonprofits and everything in between. Collectively, these investments constitute one of the many important services the County provides to its residents.

Data collected for the Needs Assessment show that the County is expanding cultural equity and investing in arts and cultural programming that reflects the diversity of the County and reaches 99.6% of zip codes. Data can be explored by race, income, geography, and other factors, using the embedded Equity Dashboard.

In January 2023, this project was successfully completed and was made accessible to the public via lacountyartsdata.org. On April 27, 2023, the Department's Research and Evaluation Division hosted the [Arts Atlas Datathon](#). Attendees learned how to look up County investments in the arts in their community, contributed to a map of favorite community-



ABOVE: The Arts Atlas Datathon was held on April 27, 2023 at Plaza de la Raza. Photo by Wendy Cubillo.

based arts and culture locations, and did a deep dive into the Needs Assessment maps, the data behind them, and how to use both.

Data in the Needs Assessment will be periodically updated as time and financial resources permit.

*Embodied at LA County Hall of
Justice in Downtown Los Angeles
by Alison Saar.*

**Arts and culture are foundational
to quality of life for vibrant
and resilient communities.**



County Department Implementation

The Cultural Policy provides guidelines and direction for how all County Departments can contribute to cultural equity and ensure that all individuals and communities can participate fully and equitably in cultural life through the arts. Many Departments partner with Arts and Culture to integrate arts, culture, and creativity into their services and operations or programming, some have arts-based activities as part of their core mission, while others provide resources, support, or participation that promotes cultural equity. The following are updates on activities reported by Departments.

<p>Aging and Disabilities</p>	<p>The Department hosted a Creative Strategist, administered by Arts and Culture, who developed and implemented intergenerational arts programming in service centers in the County’s First Supervisorial District. In addition, the Department Director participated in the Arts and Health Summit on June 9, 2023.</p>
<p>Agricultural/Weights & Measures</p>	<p>No response received.</p>
<p>Alternate Public Defender</p>	<p>The Department created a storytelling curriculum for its new attorney and law clerk training programs. New hires shared their unique histories and cultural stories, creating a tapestry of rich experiences. This practice not only enhanced the Department’s cultural awareness but also catalyzed the development of more inclusive cultural policies and equity. Additionally, the Department participated in a leadership meeting about the Countywide Land Acknowledgement.</p>
<p>Animal Care and Control</p>	<p>The Department supports this policy by displaying public art in all seven animal care centers.</p>
<p>Assessor</p>	<p>No response received.</p>
<p>Auditor-Controller</p>	<p>The Department provided support services to Arts and Culture and others that contributed to the implementation of the Cultural Policy.</p>
<p>Beaches & Harbors</p>	<p>The Department offered a variety of free arts and cultural events for the public, such as outdoor concerts, drum circles, social dance lessons, a visual arts class, Zumba, and movie nights. The Department also held arts and crafts sessions at special beach cleanups as part of their annual “Can the Trash!” poster art contest for youth in grades 3-5.</p>

<p>Board of Supervisors, Executive Office</p>	<p>The Board of Supervisors' Executive Office maintained a creative team on staff including photographers, videographers, graphic designers, and calligraphers.</p>
<p>Chief Executive Office (CEO)</p>	<p>The CEO provided support services to Arts and Culture and others that contribute to the implementation of the Cultural Policy. CEO assisted with the placement of the County Land Acknowledgement on lacounty.gov and is currently producing “success story” videos that spotlight arts organizations that received American Rescue Act funds.</p>
<p>Child Support Services (CSSD)</p>	<p>CSSD integrated arts, culture, and creativity into its operations by commissioning an art installation outside its headquarters, participating on a workgroup to develop a toolkit for the Countywide Land Acknowledgment, and cultivating employee engagement to support and promote cultural equity through their various Employee Resource Groups' activities and events, including Culture Chats, Virtual Book and Media Club, Heritage and Cultural Month celebrations, and Lunch & Learns.</p>
<p>Children and Family Services (DCFS)</p>	<p>The Department believes in the value of the arts for children and youth as a form of therapy, healing, and expression. DCFS continues to incorporate a wide range of arts, from music, fashion, and graphic design to cultural celebrations and technology, into their services to support the well-being of its children and youth in care. Prior to COVID-19, the Department established an Art of Life Project for its youth to promote arts and culture and hosted an art gallery event to showcase the youth’s work.</p>
<p>Consumer & Business Affairs</p>	<p>In addition to public art through the LA County Civic Art Policy, the Office of Immigrant Affairs (OIA), housed within the Department, hosted a Creative Strategist, administered by Arts and Culture, throughout FY 2022-23. Through interactive art activities led by the Creative Artist, OIA built trust with vulnerable immigrant and refugee communities and encouraged them to access public services offered by the County and others. Arts activities and performances were included in the World Refugee Forum at Gloria Molina Grand Park in June 2023, organized by OIA, Arts and Culture, the Creative Strategist, and other County and nonprofit partners.</p>
<p>County Counsel</p>	<p>The Department provided support services to Arts and Culture and others that contributed to the implementation of the Cultural Policy.</p>
<p>Development Authority (LACDA)</p>	<p>LACDA continued to offer arts and culture events and resources to its tenants to promote cultural equity.</p>
<p>District Attorney</p>	<p>In addition to public art in the Hall of Justice through the LA County Civic Art Policy, the Department continued its employee book club.</p>

<p>Economic Opportunity (DEO)</p>	<p>The Department broadly supports the creative economy with a focus on workers, entrepreneurs, and small businesses. DEO houses the LA County Film Office, which promotes filmmaking in LA County with FilmLA and other initiatives. In the past year, DEO and the Film Office responded to the Writers Guild of America and SAG-AFTRA strikes by demonstrating economic impact and aggregating cross-sector resources through a webinar and resource fair and is in the process of building and funding a Business Interruption Fund. DEO has leveraged American Rescue Plan funds to extend the Film and Digital Media Career Pathways Pilot Program and register a new pre-apprenticeship for digital editors with Venice Arts. DEO also worked with Arts and Culture to develop a Media Career Pathways Program.</p>
<p>Fire Department</p>	<p>In addition to an Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, the Department celebrates cultural diversity through the Asian Pacific Islander Group, the Women’s Fire League, the Stentorians, and Los Bomberos Association. All newly constructed fire stations include public art through the LA County Civic Art Policy. The Department partners with the LA County Fire Department Museum to celebrate the history of American fire service and contributions made to that history by LA County firefighters. Lastly, the Firefighters Pipes and Drums perform as a traditional highland pipe band at services for firefighters who die in the line of duty or from work-related injury or illness.</p>
<p>Health Services</p>	<p>In addition to public artworks in its facilities through the LA County Civic Art Policy, the Department partnered with Arts and Culture to incorporate the arts into the annual Burial of the Unclaimed Dead. Health Services also promoted cultural heritage through the arts by hosting music and dance performances for the community on healthcare campuses and utilized the arts to promote healing and wellbeing through Occupational Therapy Vocation Services, where patients create handcrafted items such as paintings, greeting cards, jewelry, and ceramics.</p>
<p>Human Relations Commission</p>	<p>The Commission continues to address the challenges of hate, bias, bullying, and bigotry with four programs that build community equity, inclusion, and healing. One such program, LA vs Hate, uses cultural art interventions through murals, performances, and social media to raise awareness of the dangers of normalizing hate, the importance of reporting hate acts through 211 LA, and building a network in all five districts to implement prevention strategies to stop future hate acts.</p>
<p>Human Resources (DHR)</p>	<p>DHR partnered with Arts and Culture to provide opportunities for County employees to access arts, culture, and creativity through Arts Month digital activities and videos, and through “Dance into Wellness” at two Countywide Wellness Challenge events, which also included art and creative activities as methods to reduce anxiety and stress, promote resilience and total wellbeing. In July 2023, DHR began hosting a Creative Strategist, administered by Arts and Culture. DHR also led a workgroup with Mental Health, Health Services, Coroner, and Chief Executive Office to identify potential projects for the Creative Strategist to develop.</p>

<p>Internal Services</p>	<p>The Department provided support services to Arts and Culture and others that contributed to the implementation of the Cultural Policy.</p>
<p>Justice, Care and Opportunities</p>	<p>The Department took over the operations of the Developing Opportunities Offering Reentry Solutions (D.O.O.R.S.) Centers. The Center in South LA has public art through the LA County Civic Art Policy and has been partnering with Arts and Culture since 2019 to provide healing-centered arts services for clients. The Department partnered with Arts and Culture to identify and manage arts service providers for the D.O.O.R.S. Centers in South LA and the Antelope Valley.</p>
<p>LA City/County Native American Indian Commission (LANAIC)</p>	<p>LANAIC is housed administratively in the Department of Arts and Culture. Arts and cultural activities included hosting a Creative Strategist residency and supporting Library and Parks and Recreation with contracting American Indian and Alaska Native artists and culture bearers for public activities and signage.</p>
<p>Library</p>	<p>Library views all of its programs and activities as arts and culture, which it provided to the public through its 85 branches, juvenile detention facility location, four Cultural Resource Centers, a mobile vehicle that provided STEAM programs in the community, and bookmobiles. Programs were also facilitated through LA County museums and a sustained partnership with Arts and Culture, Parks, and Beaches and Harbors among others. In addition, Library participated on the Countywide Land Acknowledgment working group.</p>
<p>Medical Examiner</p>	<p>In addition to public art through the LA County Civic Art Policy, the Medical Examiner integrated art through a meditative pathway intended to serve grieving families and are working with an arts consultant to integrate wellbeing through the arts strategies in their new bereavement rooms. Through its Wellness Connections Team, employees develop department-wide events to support mental and physical wellbeing that include activities to connect staff with their “interior life” and offer opportunity for baking, mindfulness coloring exercises, and creation of memory jars for the Department’s Día de Los Muertos Ofrenda.</p>
<p>Mental Health</p>	<p>Once again, for May is Mental Health month, the Department incorporated arts and creativity into its awareness campaign. Many of its facilities, including the Jacqueline Avant Children and Family Center and Rancho Los Amigos Restorative Care Village, include public art through the LA County Civic Art Policy. In addition, the Department Director participated in the Arts and Health Summit on June 9, 2023.</p>
<p>Military & Veterans Affairs</p>	<p>The Department organized five cultural programs including a Veteran’s Day celebration focused on Native American culture, film screenings, visual displays, and speaker series for Black History and Women’s History Months. In addition, the departmental building has murals, paintings, and other artworks.</p>

<p>Museum of Art (LACMA)</p>	<p>All of LACMA's programs and activities are by definition arts and culture and support the Countywide Cultural Policy. LACMA, the largest art museum in the Western US, welcomed nearly 1 million visitors to its campus to see exhibitions and participate in programs designed to promote cultural diversity across time and place. LACMA also operates the largest art education program in schools and has continuously increased its efforts to share its collection with localities throughout the region.</p>
<p>Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHMLAC)</p>	<p>NHMLAC is a public-private partnership between the LA County Museum of Natural History Foundation and the County of Los Angeles, and includes NHM in Exposition Park, La Brea Tar Pits in Hancock Park, and William S. Hart Museum in Newhall. NHMLAC protects and shares more than 35 million objects, one of the world's most extensive and valuable collections of natural and cultural history, and uses these collections for groundbreaking scientific and cultural research, public and education programs, and community engagement.</p>
<p>Parks & Recreation</p>	<p>The Department offered a wide range of arts and cultural programming. Examples include Parks After Dark, arts programming for seniors, concerts in the park, programs with youth, and classes ranging from theater to visual arts. In addition, the Department participated on the Countywide Land Acknowledgment working group.</p>
<p>Probation</p>	<p>The Department partnered with Arts and Culture and its contracted community-based organizations to provide healing-centered arts education to youth in Probation detention centers, camps, and halls. In addition, it partnered with Arts and Culture and multiple agencies to embed arts programming in the Reentry Opportunity Center in South Los Angeles.</p>
<p>Public Defender</p>	<p>Through the LA County Civic Art Policy, eight artists were selected to create site-specific artworks for the Department's newly renovated office space in the LA County Hall of Records.</p>
<p>Public Health</p>	<p>In addition to public art in its facilities through the LA County Civic Art Policy, the Department offered a range of arts programming. <i>In Violence, Hope and Healing in Los Angeles County: The Storytelling Project</i>, the Office of Violence Prevention partnered with Arts and Culture and a Creative Strategist to highlight the stories of nearly 100 LA County residents impacted by violence. The MLK Community Healing and Trauma Prevention Center used the arts to promote healing and wellness through painting workshops, Wazobia and Aztec dance, drumming circles, cooking classes, and a summer art academy for youth. The Policies for Livable, Active Communities, and Environments (PLACE) and other Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention programs used art activities to engage community members in pedestrian planning.</p>

<p>Public Social Services</p>	<p>The Department initiated a creative expression activity called DPSS Speaks, as part of its annual charitable giving event, “Funmania,” in which employees are asked to share a written or spoken word piece reflecting on the Department’s mission and values.</p>
<p>Public Works</p>	<p>The Department offered a wide array of programming that incorporated arts and culture including an annual multicultural fair, a STEAM program with presentations at schools, an Environmental Defenders program that used the arts to teach environmental concepts, and a new Utility Box Beautification Program, which asks communities to recommend artwork for streetlight controller boxes.</p>
<p>Regional Planning</p>	<p>The Department participated on the Countywide Land Acknowledgment working group. In addition, the Department collaborated with Arts and Culture on the development of a Historic Context Statement for the Westside and South Bay Area Plans.</p>
<p>Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk</p>	<p>The Department firmly believes in making cultural participation accessible to everyone. From hosting events like the Women and Girls Initiative STEAM Event, where kids explore arts and sciences, to the modern artwork in its remodeled Ballot Processing Center, the Department embraced diversity. Various forms of modern art were used in voter education and outreach initiatives to creatively engage and reach voters to make their voices heard. Lastly, the annual pop-up Valentine's Day weddings, surrounded by florals and artwork, made the couples' big day that much more memorable.</p>
<p>Sheriff</p>	<p>No response received.</p>
<p>Treasurer & Tax Collector</p>	<p>As part of the County’s Fair Chance Hiring initiative and in coordination with the Department of Economic Opportunity, the Department featured an art installation with portraits of system-impacted individuals in its public lobby. The installation displayed throughout the month of April 2023 and was seen by thousands of residents paying their property tax bills.</p>
<p>Youth Development</p>	<p>The Department partnered with the Arts Education Collective to ensure that youth have access to meaningful arts education to develop the skills that allow them to reach their full potential.</p>

Strategic Plan Implementation and Priorities for 2024

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has, time and again, made known its desire to realize a future where all County residents have equitable access to arts and culture. In 2022 and 2023, the Board approved the following motions to explore funding for:

1. **Strategy 1 (Expand Grants to Organizations Serving Diverse Communities)** – Increase Organizational Grant Program (OGP) budget to address inflation and the increase in the number of small and mid-size arts organizations, a cornerstone of the County’s arts sector.
2. **Strategy 6 ((Re)-Establish the Free Concerts in Public Sites)** – Relaunch and make permanent the Free Concerts in Public Sites program.
3. **Strategy 10 (Support School Districts to Advance Equity in Arts Education)** – Stabilize and provide ongoing County funding for the Advancement Grant program and the staff that administers these matching grants to school districts for quality arts education.
4. **Strategy 16 (Recognize American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) Communities)** – Establish an ongoing fund, in collaboration with the LANAIC, to hire AIAN artists and culture bearers for County events and ceremonies.

Thus far, funding has been provided for a staff position to support grant administration for Strategy 1 and one-time funding of \$25,000 to prototype projects for Strategy 16. The remaining strategies have not yet been funded.

Due to one-time recovery grants, investments by the County in the arts reached a historic level in 2023, as Arts and Culture distributed more than \$31 million to more than 750 nonprofit organizations. During this year, the Department’s annual disbursements of roughly \$5.25 million for OGP and the Community Impact Arts Grant program were joined by pandemic recovery and other one-time grants, such as Creative Recovery LA (funded through the American Rescue Plan) and the Performing Arts Recovery Grant (a one-time partnership between Arts and Culture and the former Ford Theater Foundation). However, significant challenges and opportunities remain ahead to increase and diversify the ways the County supports the arts and creative sector and advances cultural equity.

The 18 strategies in the Board-adopted Strategic Plan would activate the Cultural Policy and expand access to arts and cultural resources for County residents. They would also further stabilize and foster the growth of the region’s artists and community-based arts organizations. Moreover, many of these strategies directly

support Board Directed Priorities and other cross-sector policy areas, such as youth and families, child welfare, justice reform and prevention, health services, career pathways, the economy, and anti-racism and equity. Finally, many strategies directly support the Board’s aims to increase equity and access to arts, culture, and recreation for the upcoming World Cups and 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Increasing funding for the Department of Arts and Culture’s Organizational Grant Program (Cultural Policy Strategic Plan Strategy 1) continues to be a top priority to address decade-long growth of the grantee pool and economic inflation which has chipped away at the impact of available program funds. Since the 2009-11 grant cycle, the purchasing power of the average OGP grant has fallen nearly 42 percent. As the arts sector continues its recovery, increased access to stable funding is critical for organizations to survive and to help our communities thrive.



ABOVE: Current Organizational Grant Program grantee *Ebony Repertory Theatre* (est. 2007) is a professional theater company that creates, develops, and presents programs that reflect African-American literary, artistic, and cultural achievements..

Over the course of the past 18 months, numerous people have contributed their time, talent, and effort to support the suite of work summarized here, and to advance cultural equity, inclusion, and access for all. The Department of Arts and Culture expresses its immense gratitude to the Board of Supervisors for its leadership, and to the many artists, Arts Commissioners, culture bearers, arts administrators, County CEO, County staff, and others who guided and informed this work. A special thank you to the members of the Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative Advisory Committee, without whom none of this would have been possible.



ABOVE: Top left: Board of Supervisors, Arts Commissioners, artists, Arts and Culture and other LA County staff announce \$31 million in grants through the one-time Creative Recovery LA, Organizational Grant Program (OGP) and Community Impact Arts Grant (CIAG); Top right: A woman at Potrero Heights Park Community and Senior Center participates in a drum circle led by Freedom Drum Circles; Bottom left: Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative Advisory Committee members at LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes; Middle right: Culture Shock Los Angeles Dance Troupe (OGP recipient); Bottom Right: Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural (OGP recipient)



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