

COUNTYWIDE CULTURAL POLICY

In 2020, the County of Los Angeles adopted the Countywide Cultural Policy, a roadmap for how the County and its departments can meaningfully contribute to the cultural life of the region and prioritize cultural equity and inclusion.

The Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture leads and coordinates this work.

What is Cultural Equity?

Cultural Equity is the values, policies, and practices that ensure all people—including but not limited to those who have been historically underrepresented or marginalized—are represented in the development of policy and the fair and equitable distribution of cultural resources. Using a strengths-based approach, diverse forms of artistic and cultural expression are represented and supported, and existing cultural organizations, artists, communities, and artistic practices are valued.

How did we get here?

A recommendation of the Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative (CEII), the Department of Arts and Culture developed the Cultural Policy with input from the Arts Commission, CEII Advisory Committee, County leadership, and community members. The Cultural Policy was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2020, and a Strategic Plan to implement the policy was adopted in 2022.

Why does it matter?

LA County recognizes that arts and culture enhance diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging, and promote vibrant and resilient communities. Due to historic and systemic inequity, there is more work to be done to advance cultural equity, and to increase access to the arts and its many benefits for all residents.

What are the goals of the Cultural Policy?

1. Invest in cultural infrastructure and access to arts and culture
2. Advance arts and culture in every sector of civic life
3. Promote cultural equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging

How does the County achieve these goals?

- By expanding and diversifying equity-focused funding and resources for artists and cultural organizations
- By catalyzing collaborations between the Department of Arts and Culture and other County agencies and cultural partners to support positive outcomes for clients and communities
- By incorporating the arts into County facilities, protocols, trainings, and public events to promote inclusive civic spaces and celebrate the diversity of our communities

The County achieves these goals through the work of the Department of Arts and Culture and the Cultural Policy and Strategic Plan.

How can I learn more?

Visit lacountyarts.org/CEIICulturalPolicy to learn more and get involved.

