

**MAYOR ERIC GARCETTI
CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

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**MAYOR GARCETTI ANNOUNCES CITY'S FIRST CREATIVE CATALYST ARTIST IN RESIDENCE
ALAN NAKAGAWA
AT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

LOS ANGELES — Mayor Eric Garcetti today announced **Alan Nakagawa** as the City's first **Creative Catalyst Artist in Residence** at the Department of Transportation (DOT). The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) developed the Creative Catalyst Artist in Residence Program to challenge artists to work with City departments on innovative ways to connect Angelenos with Mayor Garcetti's vision for a safer, more sustainable, and dynamic Los Angeles.

The program taps into L.A.'s unmatched creative energy and stimulates outside-the-box thinking in the City's approach to pressing issues. As the first department to receive an artist residency, DOT will work with Mr. Nakagawa to design an accessible, targeted campaign to engage L.A. communities with Vision Zero — a citywide strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities within 10 years.

"Art has the power to transform our perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors," said Mayor Eric Garcetti. "We have an important message to deliver: traffic deaths and injuries are not inevitable, and we can save lives through better planning, design, and enforcement. The Creative Catalyst Artist in Residence Program will help engage and educate Angelenos by pairing the creative genius that thrives in Los Angeles with critical initiatives to improve quality of life in Los Angeles."

Mr. Nakagawa's art training is in studio arts, sound, and public art. He is currently a Senior Public Arts Officer for LA Metro and his past experience includes working with hundreds of communities across Los Angeles and multi-disciplinary public transportation design teams, as well as working on multi-agency public transportation team projects and multi-disciplinary arts collaborations. Mr. Nakagawa has a 25 year public art administration background, and for 28 years was the lead-artist for Collage Ensemble Inc., a Los Angeles-based collaborative inter-disciplinary and inter-ethnic arts collective that afforded him highly unique training in the ways to approach problems and find solutions in his hometown of Los Angeles. Over the last eight years, Mr. Nakagawa built a solo art career incorporating his diverse art and design-based experiences.

Seleta Reynolds, General Manager of the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation, said: "Mr. Nakagawa will serve as an ambassador for L.A.'s vibrant creative workforce, reflecting the numerous ways that designers, performers, and curators can help animate the delivery of public services within DOT, to make its transportation services more appealing, enjoyable, safe, and personable. We believe art has the ability to startle people out of their everyday to remind them that they are traveling through the heart of a neighborhood and to spark their imagination no matter how they move through our city. Vision Zero is a bold goal: zero traffic fatalities by 2025, which will require conventional tools like engineering and enforcement, as well as unconventional tools like art and storytelling. We plan to infuse art into the design and function of the public realm to create safe, beautiful, great streets."

"Alan built his art career on listening. This is the starting point for all his projects – to listen, ask the right questions, learn from experts, and develop creative solutions balancing need with aesthetics. Designing solutions that are expressive, colorful, and effective is what fuels his art making practice," said Danielle Brazell, General Manager of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs.

Ms. Brazell continued: “The Creative Catalyst Artist in Residence Program is the perfect example of how departments can work together using the unlimited potential of artists in L.A. A 21st century city must embrace collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity. DCA is uniquely positioned as an agency to foster the spirit of creativity within civic government as a force for positive change.”

The Creative Catalyst Artist in Residence was selected through a community-driven process and contracted to work within the DOT as a part-time consultant/contractor for a period of 24 months. The selection process was managed by DCA and DOT. The selected Creative Catalyst will be contracted by DCA and receive a \$20,000 stipend co-funded by both departments.

For more information about the Creative Catalyst Artist in Residence Program please contact Joe Smoke, DCA’s Grants Administration Division Director, at joe.smoke@lacity.org.

About Alan Nakagawa

Alan Nakagawa has been creating audience participatory sound experiences for the past decade. He has created a repertoire of installations and sound works that breakdown and then expand our understanding of listening and invisible form. Nakagawa is a recipient of a 2013 Cultural Exchange International Grant from DCA and a 2012 California Community Foundation Mid-Career Fellowship. He has been featured on KCET TV’s Artbound and holds a Bachelors of Fine Arts from Otis Art Institute, a Masters of Fine Arts from the University of California Irvine, and is a Monbusho (Ministry of Culture and Education, Japan) Scholar. He has received training through the University of California Los Angeles Oral History Program and has lectured at various universities and nonprofit organizations. He curates the weekly experimental music webcast Ear Meal; co-founded and directed Collage Ensemble Inc., managed mural projects for the Social and Public Art Resource Center, and is currently a Senior Public Arts Officer for LA Metro.

About the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

As a leading, progressive arts and cultural agency, DCA empowers Los Angeles’ vibrant communities by supporting and providing access to quality visual, literary, musical, performing, and educational arts programming; managing vital cultural centers; preserving historic sites; creating public art; and funding services provided by arts organizations and individual artists.

Formed in 1925, DCA promotes arts and culture as a way to ignite a powerful dialogue, engage LA’s residents and visitors, and ensure LA’s varied cultures are recognized, acknowledged, and experienced. DCA’s mission is to strengthen the quality of life in Los Angeles by stimulating and supporting arts and cultural activities, ensuring public access to the arts for residents and visitors alike.

DCA advances the social and economic impact of arts and culture through grant making, public art, community arts, and strategic marketing and development. DCA creates and supports arts programming, maximizing relationships with other city agencies, artists, and arts and cultural nonprofit organizations to provide excellent service in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles.

For more information, please visit culturela.org or follow on Facebook at [facebook.com/culturela](https://www.facebook.com/culturela); Instagram [@culture_la](https://www.instagram.com/culture_la); and Twitter [@culture_la](https://twitter.com/culture_la).

About the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation (DOT)

The Department of Transportation leads transportation planning, design, construction, maintenance, and operations within the City of Los Angeles. DOT partners with other agencies to improve safe, accessible transportation services and infrastructure in the city and the region.

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