

Welcome to the fourth Gender Equity Newsletter. We've created this newsletter to help keep the community of gender equity advocates informed of progress and opportunities over time. Please let us know if you have contributions or suggestions. We thank you for your involvement and commitment to this work.

-Mayor Garcetti's Gender Equity Team

Highlighting Department Programs

Department of Cultural Affairs Opens "A Woman's Place..." Exhibit at the William Grant Still Arts Center

Over time, women haven't always been recognized for their ability to use the arts to achieve social justice for other women. Further, the unique approach that women of color apply through the arts has also often gone unrecognized. Three years ago, Amitis Motevalli, the Director of the William Grant Still Arts Center, set out on a passion project to change that and bring to light the artistic works of five women of color who have dedicated their lives to radical social change, grassroots education and the art of teaching people how to be compassionate, effective activists.



As she formulated the concept, she presented it to the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA). DCA immediately saw the need to bring this exhibit to life, in line with the City's focus on creative women, and spread the word. With the support of DCA, Amitis curated the exhibit in collaboration with the Oakland based Eastside Arts Alliance. The exhibit, 'A Woman's Place...', is a first of its kind for DCA. It was three years in the making and made its debut late last month.

The exhibit features archives, ephemera, art work, installations, performances and dialogues that explore the life and work of Angela Davis, Ericka Hugging, Yuri Kochiyama, Elizabeth 'Betita' Martinez and Jewel Thais-Williams. The five women have built a legacy as educators, dedicated to communities and the sharing of political ideals through community organizing, journalism, writing and creating support networks for young women. Amitis shared, "through the exhibit, we hope to inspire new generations of women of color to approach their lives in the framework of this lineage." An aspect of the exhibition will invite selected allied women artists of color to create work inspired by the archives and transformative work of these remarkable women. The exhibit opened on Saturday, September 23rd and will be open to the public at no cost until November 18, 2017, along with special workshops led by some of the featured women. Click [here](#) for more information on the exhibit and workshops.

Founded in 1977, [The William Grant Still Arts Center](#) is a community arts facility operated by the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs. The Center offers various programs as well as a place for the community and neighborhood to come together. The programs at the Center are low cost or free so that they can welcome a wide array of community members and expose their visual and performing arts exhibits to the entire community. Notable programs the Center has started include the annual Black Doll



Show, the African-American Composers Series of exhibitions incorporating cultural heritage with arts education. They have also exhibited work, and exhibitions of archives curated directly from the community.

Department of City Planning Awarded Grant to Write a Women's Rights Historic Context in the City

On July 12, 2017 the Department of City Planning, Office of Historic Resources was selected to receive a 2017-18 Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant, one of several federal grants awarded annually to local governments to assist with historic preservation programs by the California Office of Historic Preservation. The grant money will be used to create a Women's Rights historic context for SurveyLA's Citywide Historic Context Statement. A context statement is created in order to assemble the significant places related to a specific topic area or theme. Historic context components already produced for SurveyLA include those focused on LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender), Latino, Jewish, African American, and Asian American themes. The production of a Women's Rights historic context will enable the City to identify the places where influential women lived or significant events occurred. This will enable the City to recognize these locations as historic at the local or national level. It will also create awareness and historical context for the history of Los Angeles women.

The project will begin in October 2017 and is expected to be completed by September 30, 2018. The final product will include a timeline covering feminist movements beginning with women's suffrage through the 1970s. Work for the context will be conducted by staff from the Office of Historic Resources and a historic preservation consultant firm in consultation with experts in the field of women's history. If you are interested in learning more about the project or wish to help in any way possible please contact Janet Hansen at janet.hansen@lacity.org.

Gender Equity Recommended Articles

Ranked and Mapped: Which countries Have the Most Women in Parliament

"Women worldwide hold less than a quarter of seats in parliaments and senates." In a survey conducted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union across countries, Western style democracies are nowhere near the top rankings of countries with the highest number of women in parliament. Currently, Rwanda has held the number one rank, while maintaining a 64% rate of women in parliament since 2004. The United States ranks 98th, with less than one in five seats in Congress currently held by a woman. Some parliament gains are as a result of mandated gender quotas for elected office, which has gained traction in Latin American countries. Other countries, including those in the Nordic region, attribute their high number of women in leadership positions to decades of reform. "Strong child care provisions, flexible working options for parents, and lengthy paternity leave offerings have led to a very high female labour force participation and allowed more women to rise to positions of leaderships." While there has been some progress, there is still much work to be done. To learn more, click [here](#).

Interested in seeing something featured in the newsletter? Contact Caroline.Menjivar@lacity.org

This newsletter is brought to you by the Mayor's Office of Budget and Innovation Gender Equity Team. For more information, contact

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