



**MEDIA ALERT**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs**  
**Awarded**  
**National Endowment for the Arts Grant**  
**To Support**  
**LA/Islam Arts Initiative in Los Angeles**

Los Angeles, CA - National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Acting Chairman Joan Shigekawa announced today that the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) is one of 886 nonprofit organizations nationwide to receive an NEA Art Works grant. DCA is recommended for a \$75,000 grant to support the **LA/Islam Arts Initiative**.

In the fall of 2014, DCA, in partnership with the NEA, the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Arts, and the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts), will launch this extensive regional celebration of Islamic Art. The project will draw connections between a visiting exhibition to DCA's Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, *Doris Duke's Shangri La: Architecture, Landscape, and Islamic Art*, commissioned by the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art, and a companion contemporary exhibition commissioned by DCA to showcase current art making in the Islamic world. The aim of the project is to provide a framework for the work being exhibited and presented by DCA and its partners within the context of twenty-first century Los Angeles.

The initiative is also being designed to foster a greater understanding of classic and contemporary Islamic art, identity, and history, and their relevance to current global cultural issues. Iraqi-born Rijin Sahakian has been selected as guest curator for the DCA-commissioned contemporary art exhibition, and the work of local, national, and international artists will be presented.

NEA Acting Chairman Shigekawa said, "The NEA is pleased to announce that the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs is recommended for an NEA Art Works grant. These NEA-supported projects will not only have a positive impact on local economies, but will also provide opportunities for people of all ages to participate in the arts, help our communities to become more vibrant, and support our nation's artists as they contribute to our cultural landscape."



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Art Works grants support the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and enhancement of the livability of communities through the arts. The NEA received 1,515 eligible applications under the Art Works category, requesting more than \$76 million in funding. Of those applications, 886 are recommended for grants for a total of \$25.8 million.

For a [complete listing of projects](#) recommended for Art Works grant support, please visit the NEA website at [arts.gov](http://arts.gov).

### **About DCA**

The **Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)** generates and supports high quality arts and cultural experiences for Los Angeles' 4 million residents and 40 million annual overnight and day visitors. DCA advances the social and economic impact of the arts and ensures access to diverse and enriching cultural activities through: grantmaking, marketing, development, public art, community arts programming, arts education, and building partnerships with artists and arts and cultural organizations in neighborhoods throughout the City of Los Angeles.

DCA's projected operating budget and managed portfolio totals \$52 million in fiscal year 2013/14. It consists of: \$13.4 million in City related and indirect cost allocations; \$10.5 million in Transient Occupancy Tax funds; \$9 million in one-time City funding; \$9 million in funds from the Public Works Improvements Arts Program (PWIAP); \$7.5 million from the Private Arts Development Fee Program (ADF); and \$2.4 million raised to date this fiscal year in private and public funds from foundation, corporate, government, and individual donors.

DCA significantly supports artists and cultural projects through its Public Art Division by administering a portfolio totaling \$16.5 million in PWIAP and ADF funds in FY13/14. Of this amount, typically 15% to 20%, or between \$2.5 and \$3.3 million, is attributable to artists' fees.

DCA's Marketing and Development Division has raised \$26 million over the last 12 fiscal years to re-grant to LA-based artists and arts and cultural organizations, and to support DCA's special programming and facilities. DCA also grants approximately \$2.3 million annually to 268 artists and nonprofit arts and cultural organizations through its long-established Grants Administration Division. Additional special project support of more than \$1.5 million is also awarded annually for a total of approximately \$3.8 million invested each year in LA's creative community.



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DCA provides arts and cultural programming through its Community Arts Division, managing numerous neighborhood arts and cultural centers, theaters, historic sites, and educational initiatives. DCA's Marketing and Development Division also markets the City's arts and cultural events through development and collaboration with strategic partners, design and production of creative catalogs, publications, and promotional materials, and management of the [culturela.org](http://culturela.org) website visited by over 3 million people annually.

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