



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

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**First Annual LA Youth Theatre Festival  
to  
Advance Expression Through the Arts  
at  
Vision Theatre**

Los Angeles - Conscious Youth Global Network and Conscious Youth Los Angeles in association with the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) and the Vision Theatre are pleased to announce the first annual **LA Youth Theatre Festival at Leimert Park Village** in the Vision Theatre and surrounding theaters. The festival will be held from April 14 through 19, 2015, highlighting themes from both African American Heritage Month and Women’s History Month, with a focus on the cultural and artistic impact of the African Diaspora on humanity.

“This is a celebration of a shared cultural history through staged performances by young people of all races,” said LA Youth Theatre Festival at Leimert Park Village producer, Bikbaye Inejnema.

The five-day festival will include more than 20 performances, Q & A sessions with directors and actors, panel discussions, spoken word performances, singers, a children’s book fair, and arts vendors. Theater groups from high schools, universities, and production companies from all across Southern California have been invited to perform and engage in the weekend activities. The event will bring together people of all races and ages to this central Los Angeles cultural hub that has a strong theatrical history and an even stronger future in the performing arts.

This is the first youth-driven event in an area strong in theater culture, a culture which will only grow with the multi-million dollar restoration of the Historic Vision Theater. Formerly called the Leimert Theater, it was built in 1929 and is a cornerstone to the new Leimert Park Vision 20/20 plans.

Following the completion of the first of four phases, plans are underway to start the remaining three (3) restoration and construction phases in the spring of 2015, with a projected completion date in late 2016. It will be one of the



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city's premiere performance venues that will serve as the centerpiece and heart of a thriving community of African American and other diverse cultures. This event will be the first annual event with a focus on building youth theatre in Los Angeles.

The festival is a program of DCA's Vision Theatre produced by Conscious Youth Global Network (CYGN), a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting young people, ages 13 to 30, to become self-aware, empowered, and engaged in positive social transformation using the arts as a tool for learning and expression.

The event is expected to bring more than more than 5,000 artists and visitors to the Leimert Park community and businesses over the five days. Interested actors, sponsors, advertisers, and vendors should contact Bikbaye Inejnema at [Bikbaye@google.org](mailto:Bikbaye@google.org) or Leslie Clarke at [Leslie@CYGN.org](mailto:Leslie@CYGN.org).

**About the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs**

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 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.

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