



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
City of Los Angeles

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

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### **DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS ANNOUNCES CULTURAL EXCHANGE INTERNATIONAL PILOT PROGRAM**

Los Angeles - The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) is pleased to announce the Cultural Exchange International (CEI) Pilot Program, a two-year grants program intended to celebrate the arts and culture of our City's lively and thriving communities. Its intent is also to build bridges around the world and contribute to the cultural capital of the region.

The goal of the CEI Pilot Program is to enhance Los Angeles as a national and international art center, fostering cultural understanding through the expansion of networks and fostering an exchange of knowledge between arts professionals. Additionally, CEI seeks to reach out to audiences throughout the City's rich and diverse communities engaging them in the work that international artists and their LA hosts will create over the next two years.

With generous funding support from the Durfee Foundation, DCA will award between three to seven grants, generally ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000, in each of the four (4), six-month grants cycles from Fall of 2008 until 2010. DCA is seeking additional funding partnerships to leverage the City and Durfee Foundation investments, which total \$450,000, by obtaining additional public and private matches. If successful, the current guidelines may be modified throughout the two-year pilot to allow for projects that target specific countries or regions.

The CEI Pilot Program will allow DCA to bring international arts professionals (artists, arts administrators, arts/cultural educators and scholars, creative entrepreneurs, and cultural experts) to Los Angeles to exhibit, present, perform, conduct research, and enter into collaborative relationships with arts organizations and artists. LA audiences will be treated to concerts, visual arts exhibitions, film screenings, panel discussions, master classes, and a whole host of activities that will allow them to experience the arts and culture of peoples from around the world.



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Similarly, LA arts professionals who want to share LA's multicultural riches will be able to represent this world-class city and, upon their return, share experiences with LA audiences through workshops, panel discussions, exhibitions, and performances. Public presentations will take place at both DCA managed theaters and arts centers and local arts, cultural, and educational institutions.

The CEI Pilot Program grant guidelines and a cover letter from DCA Executive Director Olga Garay are available online at <http://www.culturela.org/grants/initiatives.html>. For more information about the CEI Pilot Program guidelines and application, please contact Joe Smoke, DCA's Cultural Grant Program Director, at: [joe.smoke@lacity.org](mailto:joe.smoke@lacity.org).

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

The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) provides leadership and support to Los Angeles' cultural institutions, artists, and neighborhood-based arts organizations in animating, strengthening, and sustaining a cultural ecosystem to the benefit of all Angelenos and the City's 25 million annual visitors; and to concurrently position Los Angeles as a cultural crossroads and leader in the United States and the world.

DCA advances the social and economic impact of the arts and assures access to arts and cultural experiences through grant making, marketing, public and community arts programming, arts education, and creating partnerships with artists and arts and cultural organizations in every community in the City of Los Angeles.

DCA grants \$3.2 million annually to over 300 artists and nonprofit arts organizations and awards the Artist-in-Residence (A.I.R.) and City of Los Angeles (C.O.L.A.) Individual Artist Fellowships.

The Department provides arts and cultural programming in its numerous Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers, theaters, and historic sites, and manages several arts and education programs for young people. It directs public art projects and manages the City's Arts Development Fee and Percent for Arts Programs, and the Art Collection and Murals Programs.

DCA markets the City's cultural events through development and collaboration with strategic partners, design and production of creative promotional materials, and management of the culturela.org website.

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