



MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 27, 2011

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**American Indian Heritage Month
to Honor
Native American Indian Commission's 35th Anniversary**

The event celebrating American Indian Culture is FREE and open to the public.

Los Angeles - The City of Los Angeles will honor the 35th anniversary of the Los Angeles City/ County Native American Indian Commission at the **American Indian Heritage Month Opening Ceremony on Friday, October 28, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.** The event themed **"Many Tribal Nations, One Community"** and honoring the diverse indigenous communities in the City of Los Angeles, will begin with an award presentation at City Hall's Council Chambers followed by a program and reception on the Forecourt located at 200 N. Spring Street in Los Angeles, CA, 90012. The Commission's 35th anniversary also marks the 135th anniversary of the Battle of the Little Big Horn.

The Los Angeles City/ County Native American Indian Commission was created on June 25, 1976 through a joint effort of members of the Los Angeles American Indian community to improve the delivery of federal, state, local resources, and services to urban Indian communities. Los Angeles has the largest urban Indian population in the United States. Through the Commission, local American Indian residents have the opportunity to impact the decisions and programs that affect their lives.

"Our City's American Indian community is a living mosaic of tribal nations who come together as one to celebrate a vibrant and enduring heritage," said Mayor Villaraigosa. "This month we honor the Native American Indian Commission which continues to serve and advocate for this community – a community whose sacrifices and contributions strengthen Los Angeles."

Los Angeles is the only major city in the United States to create and support the development of a Native American Indian Commission, and celebrate American Indian Heritage. American Indian Heritage Month launches a month-long calendar of cultural events; arts activities; and free music classes for elementary, middle, and high school students presented by the City of Los Angeles, The Walt Disney Company, Nielsen, Fox Audience Strategy, and the



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Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) through its Music LA Program. The music classes celebrate, preserve, and promote various Southern California native music traditions. American Indian musical and cultural forms are explored and presented in their historical contexts, relying heavily on precious knowledge passed down generation after generation through oral tradition and inter-generational teaching.

A list of all activities and events is available at www.culturela.org.

For more information, call (213) 922-9762, or follow us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/HeritageLA>.

American Indian Heritage Month Events Sponsored by the City of Los Angeles

**American Indian Heritage Month Opening Ceremony
October 28, 10:00 AM to 12:15 PM**

City Hall (Council Chambers and Spring Street Forecourt)
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

- Presentation to City Council by Mayor Villaraigosa and Proclamation Ceremony
- Followed by Opening Ceremony Reception at Spring Street Forecourt

DCA's Music LA American Indian Heritage Month Free Classes – November through January

United American Indian Involvement, Inc. (UAI) and Southern California Indian Center, Inc. (SCIC)

UAI's Seven Generations Child and Family Counseling Services will work together with Southern California Indian Center, Inc. to offer the fifth annual Music LA American Indian Heritage Month Program for youth, focusing on the song and dance traditions of the Pow Wow. Activities that will be incorporated in UAI's 8-week Music LA Program are Drumming, Singing, Dancing, Arena Traditions, and Regalia Design.

United American Indian Involvement (UAI)

1125 West 6th Street, Suite 103
Los Angeles, CA 90017

and



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The Autry Griffith Park
4700 Western Heritage Way
Los Angeles, CA 90027-1462
Contact: Brighid Pulskamp
(213) 241.0979 ext. 7155
bpulskamp.uaii@gmail.com

Pukúu, Cultural Community Services

Pukúu will offer 8 weeks of Music LA classes for youth ages 6 though 18 at the Rudy Ortega Sr. Park in San Fernando. This program will focus on the music, song, and dance of two Southern California Tribes, Quechan and Tataviam.

Rudy Ortega Sr. Park
2025 Fourth Street
San Fernando, CA 91340
Contact: Mark Villasenor
(818) 336.6105
music@pukuu.org

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

The Department of Cultural Affairs generates and supports high quality arts and cultural experiences for Los Angeles' 4 million residents and 25 million annual visitors. DCA advances the social and economic impact of the arts and assures access to arts and cultural experiences through grant making, marketing, public art, community arts programming, arts education, and partnerships with artists and arts and cultural organizations in neighborhoods throughout the City of Los Angeles.

DCA managed a portfolio of \$36.3 million in fiscal year 2009/10 which consisted of: \$9.6 million in Transient Occupancy Tax funds; \$11.4 million in funds from the Public Works Improvements Arts Program; \$8.9 million from the Private Arts Development Fee Program; \$5.1 million in City related and indirect costs; and over \$1.3 million in private and public funds raised during the year. DCA grants approximately \$3 million annually to over 280 artists and nonprofit arts organizations through its long-established Grants Administration Division. 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.

The Department also administers the City's Private Arts Development Fee and Public Works Improvements Arts Programs, a portfolio of approximately \$20.3 million in fiscal year 2009/10. In addition, the agency raises outside public and



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private funds, over \$15 million since fiscal year 2006/07, used to re-grant to LA-based arts and cultural organizations for special grant initiatives and to fund DCA programs and facilities. 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 visited by over 2.7 million people annually.

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