



MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BLK Publisher Alan Bell to Speak on Remembering Our History

LOS ANGELES – The William Grant Still Arts Center is pleased to present Alan Bell, the founder of two historic gay publications, who will speak on “Remembering Our History: Making Sure the Future Knows What Came Before.” His discussion will focus on the role the media has in preserving history as well as the importance of preserving the media outlets themselves. The presentation will take place on Saturday, May 28, 2011 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the William Grant Still Arts Center, 2520 West Westview Street, Los Angeles, CA 90016.

Bell was founder, publisher, and editor of **BLK**, the nation’s first national monthly newsmagazine focused specifically on the Black Lesbian and Gay community. **BLK** and its sister publications, **Blackfire**, **Black Lace**, and **Kuumba**, ran from 1988 to 1994. Previously Bell had founded **Gaysweek**, New York City’s first Lesbian and Gay weekly newspaper.

“Remembering Our History” is part of **Images: Iconic, Insurgent, Divine, and Decadent**, an exhibition of Los Angeles Black Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender art and historical artifacts from 1940 to the present accompanied by lectures, panel discussions, literary performances, and film screenings. **Images**, a presentation of the Black LGBT Project founded by C. Jerome Woods, runs through July 9, 2011. Admission is free.

The William Grant Still Arts Center is a facility of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs.

The Black LGBT Project is supported, in part, by the Mayme Clayton Library & Museum and PASEO at the University of Southern California.

Alan Bell will be available for media interviews before and after the event.



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

The **Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)** 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's operating budget and managed portfolio totaled \$36.7 million in fiscal year 2009/10. It consisted of: \$9.6 million in Transient Occupancy Tax funds; \$12.2 million in funds from the Public Works Improvements Arts Program; \$8.6 million from the Private Arts Development Fee Program; \$4.9 million in City related and indirect cost allocations; and \$1.4 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. DCA 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 \$20.8 million in fiscal year 2009/10. In addition, DCA raises outside public and private funds, over \$14 million since fiscal year 2007/08, used to re-grant to LA-based arts and cultural organizations for special grant initiatives and to support DCA's special programming 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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