



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

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MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Big Read Program Announces the
Chinese American / African American Symposium
“Perpetuation of the Model Minority, Stereotypes and Myths”**

Los Angeles - The Big Read Program announces the Chinese American/African American Symposium “Perpetuation of the Model Minority, Stereotypes and Myths,” an open dialog to discuss experiences and cultural similarities of Chinese American and African American cultures in the United States. This event will be presented free to the public from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., on Saturday, April 30, 2011 at the California African American Museum in Los Angeles.

The **Chinese American /African American Symposium** and the showing of the film “The Joy Luck Club” will serve as the culmination of the City of Los Angeles’ “Literacy Month” and a series of activities in Leimert Park that include the reading of Amy Tan’s novel “*The Joy Luck Club*” by several schools, community centers, churches, and organizations in the Baldwin Hills/Crenshaw/Leimert Park communities. They have joined the Chinatown community, museums, the public library, and local high schools throughout Los Angeles in reading the novel, and in participating in projects presented by the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) as part of its annual Big Read Program in LA.

Discussion will include presentations by some of the young people and adults that have read the book and will explore elements of the book that relate to traditions in the African American family that parallel those of the Chinese American family in context of historical moments, media perpetuation of the model minority stereotypes, and cultural and ethnic myths.

Panelists include **Professor Jan Lin, PhD.**, Associate Professor of Sociology at Occidental College, **Janette Robinson-Flint**, Executive Director, Black Women for Wellness, **Mr. Steve Wong**, Curator for the Chinese American Museum, **Charmaine Jefferson**, Executive Director of the California African American Museum, and **Dr. Kwaku Lynn**, Historian and Professor of African Studies. The discussion will be moderated by **Dr. David Horn**, Professor of African Studies at California State University at Northridge.

The panelists will share their thoughts on international ties, strengthening families, and building economic sustainability in the community. Participation will also include Crenshaw High School students traveling to China on a tour sponsored by Bernard and Shirley Kinsey in association with The Los Angeles Urban League.



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Participating organizations include: The KAOS Network, We Can Foundation, FAMILI and Audubon Middle School, The Los Angeles Urban League, art historians Bernard and Shirley Kinsey, LA Commons, The Leimert Park Book Fair, Lucy Florence Coffee House and Cultural Center, and the California African American Museum.

The California African American Museum is located at 600 State Drive - Exposition Park- Los Angeles, California, 90037. For more information, please call 213.202.5508.

About the Big Read Program

The Big Read is an annual program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest, and is sponsored by the Department of Cultural Affairs City of Los Angeles.

About the 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 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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