

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Los Angeles, CA

May 16, 2013

Winners Recommended in UK Cultural Exchange Program

The British Council's West Coast office and the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) will announce the recommended winners of the Cultural Exchange International (CEI) UK program at a luncheon on Thursday, May 23, 2013.

The three winners are emerging cultural leaders in the UK, who address contemporary social issues through art and culture. They will each receive fellowship grants of \$6,500 to travel to the US, where they will carry out 2 to 3-week-long residencies with host organizations in Los Angeles.

In the first phase of the exchange program, launched last year, three Los Angeles-based arts professionals won awards to travel from the US to the UK. One winner, Sabra Williams, an actress who works to rehabilitate prisoners through theatre in California, spent her residency in the UK visiting arts organizations that work with British offenders.

This year's awardees are:

- **Richie Cumming**, an outreach officer at the National Galleries of Scotland, who is also an artist and curator. Richie will work with the **Social and Public Art Resource Center (SPARC)** in Venice, CA, to learn about their work on community-based public art works and their ability to engage with disenfranchised youth. He also hopes to paint his own mural design on a legal graffiti spot.
- **Orode Faka**, a director/facilitator, dancer/choreographer, and community artist whose live arts production and management agency supports development projects for marginalized communities. Orode will work with **Inner-City Arts** to research arts education programming, and with **EngAGE**, a nonprofit that provides arts programs to seniors living in affordable senior apartment communities in southern California.
- **Sally Lockey**, lead cultural producer for Flo-culture, a company that specializes in digital technology for arts and cultural engagement. Sally will learn how the **Los Angeles Library** photographic archives are being digitized and stored, shared with the LA community, and used as a creative resource.

The British Council and DCA are also delighted to extend and expand the exchange program through 2013/14. Next year, three winners from Los Angeles and three winners from the UK will go on exchanges concurrently. The British Council and DCA will jointly fund the expanded program, each contributing \$20,000.

The chief executive officer of the British Council, Martin Davidson, and the chair of the British Council, Sir Vernon Ellis, will both attend the lunch at DCA's Downtown LA Headquarters, and will be available for interviews.

They will be joined by last year's winners, the LA-based organizations that will host this year's UK winners, the panelists who chose this year's winners, and other LA-based arts organizations.

Media are warmly invited to attend the lunch.

- WHAT:** Luncheon announcing the winners of the British Council and the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs' Cultural Exchange International (CEI) Program
- WHEN:** Thursday, May 23, 2013, Noon to 1 p.m.
- WHERE:** City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs
201 North Figueroa Street, Suite 1400, Los Angeles, CA 90012

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About the British Council

The **British Council** creates international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and builds trust between them worldwide. We are a Royal Charter charity, established as the UK's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. Our 7000 staff in over 100 countries work with thousands of professionals and policy makers and millions of young people every year through English, arts, education and society programmes. We re-energize the transatlantic relationship and partner with US-based organisations to work on shared agendas worldwide.

A quarter of our funding comes from a UK government grant, and we earn the rest from services which customers pay for, education and development contracts we bid for, and from partnerships. For more information, please visit: www.britishcouncil.org/usa. You can also keep in touch with the British Council through <http://twitter.com/usabritish> and www.facebook.com/britishcouncilusa.

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 overnight and day visitors. DCA advances the social and economic impact of the arts and ensures access to diverse and enriching cultural activities through: grant making, marketing, 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.

DCA's operating budget and managed portfolio totals \$40.6 million in fiscal year 2012/13. It consists of: \$11 million in funds from the Public Works Improvements Arts Program (PWIAP); \$10.8 million in City related and indirect cost allocations; \$6.7 million from the Private Arts Development Fee Program (ADF); \$9.2 million in Transient Occupancy Tax funds; and over \$2.9 million in private and public funds raised from foundation, corporate, government, and individual donors.

DCA significantly supports artists and cultural projects through its Public Art Division by administering a portfolio totaling \$17.7 million in PWIAP and ADF funds in FY12/13. Of this amount, typically 15% to 20%, or between \$2.55 and \$3.4 million, is attributable to artists' fees. DCA's Executive Director and the Marketing and Development Division have raised over \$21 million since FY07/08 to re-grant to LA-based artists and arts and cultural organizations for re-granting initiatives and to support DCA's special programming and facilities. DCA also grants approximately \$2.2 million annually to over 300 artists and nonprofit arts and cultural organizations through its long-established Grants Administration Division. Additional special project support of more than \$1.5 million is also awarded annually for a total of approximately \$3.7 million invested each year in LA's creative community.

DCA provides arts and cultural programming through its Community Arts Division, managing numerous neighborhood arts and cultural centers, theaters, historic sites, and educational initiatives. DCA's Marketing and Development Division also markets the City's arts and cultural events through development and collaboration with strategic partners, design and production of creative catalogs, publications, and promotional materials, and management of the culturela.org website visited by over 3 million people annually.