



MEDIA ALERT
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Media Contact: Deborah Hong
Public Information Director
213.572.8898
deborah.hong@lacity.org

**City of Los Angeles
selected
for
Phi Beta Kappa Society’s
Arts & Sciences Cities of Distinction Award**

Los Angeles – The City of Los Angeles announced today that it will receive the Arts & Sciences Cities of Distinction Award from the Phi Beta Kappa Society in recognition of the quality, depth, range and vibrancy of its community engagement with the arts and sciences. Danielle Brazell, General Manager of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), will accept the award on the city’s behalf during a ceremony at the Los Angeles Theatre Center on October 17, 2017.

“Los Angeles is the creative capital of the world, so culture isn’t an afterthought for us – it’s part of who we are, and it’s essential to the health and happiness of our people,” said Mayor Eric Garcetti. “Art has the extraordinary power to transform perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors, especially when it lives in places that are accessible to everyone.”

The event acknowledges the outstanding contributions of the city’s Department of Cultural Affairs to this municipal effort. “A city’s cultural vibrancy doesn’t just happen. It takes careful planning, financial support, and public commitment to its importance,” says Phi Beta Kappa Secretary/CEO Frederick M. Lawrence. “We applaud DCA not only for its cutting-edge programs that appeal to residents and visitors alike, but also for its equitable grants program, accessible public programs, and deep commitment to providing cultural opportunities for all.”

“We are so appreciative of this award recognizing that creativity is the lifeblood of LA. DCA honors and celebrates our city’s cultural and artistic diversity,” said DCA General Manager Danielle Brazell. “We are committed to supporting, showcasing, and advocating for the arts and the artists contributing both to the economy in LA and the vitality of LA.”



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The event will also award \$5,000 to four exemplary local organizations that build creative exchanges with new and diverse audiences in the arts, humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, or mathematics. Mayor Garcetti congratulates the recipients: The [Citizen Science Program](#) at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, The [TOPS Science Outreach Program](#) at Occidental College, [WriteGirl](#) , and The [United States Veterans' Artists Alliance](#).

As the nation's most prestigious academic honor society, Phi Beta Kappa is best known for inducting outstanding undergraduate students across the nation. It launched the Arts & Sciences Cities of Distinction Award in 2016 to spotlight cities or metropolitan regions for their exceptional artistic vitality, cultural vibrancy, and scientific engagement. Previous recipients of this award include the cities of Chicago, Portland, Oregon, and Atlanta.

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

As a leading, progressive arts and cultural agency, DCA empowers Los Angeles's vibrant communities by supporting and providing access to quality visual, literary, musical, performing, and educational arts programming; managing vital cultural centers; preserving historic sites; creating public art; and funding services provided by arts organizations and individual artists.

Formed in 1925, DCA promotes arts and culture as a way to ignite a powerful dialogue, engage LA's residents and visitors, and ensure LA's varied cultures are recognized, acknowledged, and experienced. DCA's mission is to strengthen the quality of life in Los Angeles by stimulating and supporting arts and cultural activities, ensuring public access to the arts for residents and visitors alike.

DCA advances the social and economic impact of arts and culture through grantmaking, public art, community arts, performing arts, and strategic marketing and development. DCA creates and supports arts programming, maximizing relationships with other city agencies, artists, and arts and cultural nonprofit organizations to provide excellent service in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles.

For more information, please visit culturela.org or follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/culturela](https://www.facebook.com/culturela), Instagram [@culture_la](https://www.instagram.com/culture_la), and Twitter [@culture_la](https://twitter.com/culture_la).

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