



**MEDIA ALERT**  
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**LOS ANGELES SELECTED  
FOR  
WORLD CITIES CULTURE FORUM'S  
GLOBAL LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE PROGRAM  
TO  
STRENGTHEN ARTS AND CULTURE SECTOR**

*City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs  
and  
LA County Department of Arts and Culture  
will*

*Address Access to the Arts  
through  
Cultural Data Mapping and Olympic Games' Cultural Olympiad*

Los Angeles - The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) and the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture join international cities chosen for the [World Cities Culture Forum's](#) (WCCF) Global Leadership Exchange Program. The WCCF exchange program tackles global issues including culture as an expression of democratic participation; providing access to creative space; addressing risk at cultural institutions; and funding that supports diverse art forms. The goal of the leadership program is to exchange ideas (virtually, for now) to strengthen support for culture. For the next two years, participating government and creative leaders will work to find innovative solutions to challenges in the creative sector, including inequity and economic hardship intensified by COVID-19. LA joins an 18-city collective with Amsterdam, Austin, Barcelona, Chengdu, Lagos, Lisbon, London, Melbourne, Milan, Montreal, New York, Paris, Stockholm, Sydney, Vienna, Warsaw, and Zurich in the project. The leadership program is supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies and Google Arts and Culture.

The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs led by General Manager Danielle Brazell and the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture led by Director Kristin Sakoda will have a principal role in two projects—a multi-city Cultural Data Mapping exchange to share best practices in data collection of



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cultural assets to manage resources effectively; and a Cultural Olympiad two-way exchange between Los Angeles City and County, and their Paris counterparts, to embed frameworks for cultural equity and inclusion in the 2024 and 2028 Olympics.

“As with any exchange program, common goals are to create opportunities for all participants to engage, learn, and work together to solve critical issues and challenges, and ensure better outcomes for prosperity,” said Danielle Brazell, General Manager of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs.

“The City of Los Angeles and its Department of Cultural Affairs and LA County and its Department of Arts and Culture are fully engaged in our continued roles as strategic partners with the World Cities Cultural Forum and are excited about the possibilities for collaboration with our international friends through the Global Leadership Exchange Program. We look forward to sharing our best practices in cultural asset mapping and listening to our colleagues across the globe relate how they expand access to arts and culture so we can share and apply valued lessons learned to LA’s equity and inclusion strategies for the Cultural Olympiad and the games.”

“The Department of Arts and Culture is honored to take part in the World Cities Culture Forum global leadership exchange, elevating the arts as a core part of our region’s future and participating on a global stage, said Kristin Sakoda, Director of the LA County Department of Arts and Culture. “Through our work in Research and Evaluation we have long believed in the value of cultural data. The mapping exchange is an opportunity to share models with multiple cities around the world, learn new ways to collect data, tell the stories of arts and culture in our communities, map the distribution of cultural resources, inform cultural policy, and expand equity in the most populous county in the U.S. We are equally thrilled to work with the City of LA and our counterparts in Paris to explore frameworks to embed the values of cultural equity and inclusion in the Olympic Games and Cultural Olympiad as we look to the significant impact of welcoming the global audience to the LA County region in 2028.”

The Arts and Culture sector is vital to major cities around the world providing benefits to local communities and visitors. The exchanges will bring WCCF member cities together to set the groundwork for policy and action as a global, cities-led cultural network. This network will identify best practices in cultural asset mapping, creating a supportive foundation for cities to improve and enhance support for culture, especially as they support art’s role in cross-sector policy development and pandemic recovery. A public session will be held virtually for the Cultural Data Mapping exchange in December 2021. An in-person exchange will be explored for the Paris/LA Cultural Olympiad in 2022.



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### **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, development, design, and digital research. 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](http://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).

### **About the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture**

The mission of the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture is to advance arts, culture, and creativity throughout LA County. The department provides leadership, services, and support in areas including grants and technical assistance for nonprofit organizations; professional development opportunities; public art commissions and the supervision of the County's civic art collection; countywide arts education initiatives; research and evaluation of the arts sector; the formation of career pathways in the creative economy; free community programs; and cross-sector creative strategies that address civic issues. This work is framed by the County's [Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative](#) and a longstanding commitment to fostering access to the arts. For more information, please visit the [Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture](#).

### **About the World Cities Culture Forum**

The World Cities Culture Forum is a leading collaborative network of the world's major creative cities supporting dynamic government leadership. The Forum's members champion culture as an essential driver for the social and economic success of cities through sharing ideas and data, designing innovative and equitable policy, and advancing positive change. The World Cities Culture Forum



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includes 40 cities – Abu Dhabi, Amsterdam, Austin, Barcelona, Brasilia, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Chengdu, Dubai, Dublin, Edinburgh, Guangzhou, Helsinki, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Lagos, Lisbon, London, Los Angeles, Melbourne, Milan, Montreal, Moscow, Nanjing, New York, Oslo, Paris, San Francisco, Sao Paulo, Seoul, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Stockholm, Sydney, Taipei, Tokyo, Toronto, Vienna, Warsaw, and Zurich. The World Cities Culture Forum is an initiative of the Mayor of London, convened by BOP Consulting. For more information, please visit [worldcitiescultureforum.com](http://worldcitiescultureforum.com).

**About Bloomberg Philanthropies**

Bloomberg Philanthropies invests in 810 cities and 170 countries around the world to ensure better, longer lives for the greatest number of people. The organization focuses on five key areas for creating lasting change: the Arts, Education, Environment, Government Innovation, and Public Health. Bloomberg Philanthropies encompasses all of Michael R. Bloomberg’s giving, including his foundation, corporate, and personal philanthropy as well as Bloomberg Associates, a pro bono consultancy that works in cities around the world. In 2020, Bloomberg Philanthropies distributed \$1.6 billion. For more information, please visit [bloomberg.org](http://bloomberg.org) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [Twitter](#).

**About Google Arts & Culture**

Google Arts & Culture is an innovation partner for cultural institutions. The team provides technologies that help preserve and share culture and allow curators to create engaging exhibitions online and offline in museums. The Google Arts & Culture app is free and available on [the web](#), on [iOS](#) and [Android](#), allowing users to explore exhibitions from over a thousand museums.

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