



ARTS & CULTURE PRIORITIES FOR THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles is the only metropolitan area that can boast the highest number and greatest concentration of creative industries jobs in the U.S., representing 1 in 6 jobs locally, 13% of total local private wage and salary income, earning revenues of \$7.7 billion and has expected growth of 7% by 2019 (LAEDC).

However, arts and creativity are not only a major local economic force; they are also vehicles for social change. The arts are a way to say we are alive, we have a voice, and we can talk about sensitive things by opening communication and building bridges.

Arts for LA supports the City of LA's commitment to promoting arts and culture in order to build a more prosperous, safe, livable, and sustainable city. Through the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), the City of Los Angeles advances the social and economic impact of arts and culture through grantmaking, public art, community 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 to all residents and visitors in neighborhoods throughout LA.

Our Arts and Culture Priorities for the City of Los Angeles in the coming year include:

ADOPT A RACIAL EQUITY POLICY

We celebrate the City of Los Angeles' focus on racial equity started in 2015 by Council President Wesson and Councilman O'Farrell and continued through the embRACE program. embRACE is a partnership between the Department of Cultural Affairs, the Human Relations Commission, and the LA Police Department, and began as a way to foster stronger race relations, engaging residents across the city through dialogue and arts-based activities. Phase I is complete and Phase II is underway, resulting in a wealth of data and a series of pilot programs addressing collective healing by connecting community members and law enforcement. As Phase III launched in March 2017, the focus is on addressing the inequities within our institutions and government systems. Given this tremendous cross-department partnership, and the deep role the arts play in promoting communication, trust, and bridge building, the arts sectors supports the creation and adoption of a citywide, clear, comprehensive Racial Equity Policy.

CREATE A RACIAL EQUITY FUND

No single department's budget is able to cover the costs resulting from the programs needed to make embRACE a success. We support the city's creation of a centralized fund to properly resource the programming to achieve racial equity across the city. A dedicated fund is needed to equitably reach all neighborhoods; we ask the city to investment in its existing commitment to promote healing and remove institutionalized racism.

FUND THE COMMISSIONING AND CONSERVATION OF LA'S FINE ART MURALS

Murals enhance the visual landscape of our city and are a signature LA art form that fosters neighborhood pride and contributes to the unique tapestry of our diverse communities. We urge the council to begin investing again in the restoration and commission of new fine art murals needed to maintain our city's legacy as a mural capital, which requires ongoing funding in the DCA budget.

SUSTAIN AND INCREASE FUNDING FOR DCA

Given the size of our local creative economy and the reach of DCA, including how the agency is bringing greater visibility to the region, fostering relationships with both arts organizations and individual artists, working across the city with various departments such as Metro and LAPD, and increasing delivery of services through new innovative programs, we support sustaining and increasing funding for DCA to meet the growing demands of the community and the individual neighborhoods benefiting from this vital investment.