Enriching Lives

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Executive Director

September 28, 2006

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

47th ANNUAL LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOLIDAY CELEBRATION (ALL DISTRICTS) (4 VOTES)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve the proposed 47th Annual Los Angeles County Holiday Celebration program to be held Sunday, December 24, 2006 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at the Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, and authorize the Executive Director to make changes in programming that may be necessary due to production requirements.

2. Direct the Executive Director to implement all production aspects of the live and televised programs and to sign the necessary agreements with KCET-TV, Greenlight Entertainment, and others as necessary.

3. Direct Five Star Parking to make free parking available to participants and attendees in the Music Center garage all day on December 24th. Lot 17 should also be available to accommodate any overflow. Appropriate signage regarding free parking should be posted at all entrances to the Music Center garage. Free parking is also needed in the Music Center garage for cast and crew during rehearsals from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on December 2nd and 3rd and equipment load-in throughout the week of December 18th through 23rd from 7:00 a.m. to midnight, as

well as during load-out for crew, approximately December 26th through 28th.

4. Request the Music Center to make arrangements with the Music Center caterer to insure that Kendall's Brasserie and the Spotlight Café will be open for business throughout the duration of the program, and that any food/beverage items sold in the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion be appropriate in cost and menu for the anticipated audience.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The first annual holiday program was held on December 24, 1959 and has been an ongoing community tradition for the past 46 years.

At their meeting on September 11, 2006, the Arts Commissioners unanimously approved the proposed roster of participants. The proposed roster is presented to your Board each year in compliance with a motion approved by your Board on July 12, 1983. Approval at this time is necessary to complete the program production.

Performers are selected through a competitive application process. This year there were 105 applications submitted. The proposed program features a record 48 performing groups, 44% of them debut performances, and 40% youth groups. Altogether, this year's program will feature nearly 1,300 performers.

Selection criteria is based upon:

- Artistic excellence within a performance discipline/age category
- Suitability of the performance material to a multi-cultural, multi-denominational holiday themed program
- Suitability of the performance for the 2,600 seat Dorothy Chandler Pavilion and the technical capability of the production
- Ability of performing group representatives to meet all deadlines and to work cooperatively with other organizations and production staff

The live audience for the 46th Annual Holiday Celebration last year totaled 6,649 and the broadcast ratings for KCET reached approximately 585,000 households, or 760,500 viewers.

Highlights from the 2005 production have been edited into a one-hour national broadcast that will air in December on PBS. Last year over 206 stations aired a total of 391 broadcasts, a 72% increase in stations and a 136% increase of numbers of broadcasts. Eight of the top ten markets aired 22 broadcasts, five in prime time.

The 2006 national PBS broadcast has been approved and will be available as a hard feed on December 14 at 10:00 p.m. which means full subscribing member stations are almost certain to carry the broadcast as it is delivered to them as part of their PBS package of programming. As a soft feed, stations can elect to carry the broadcast and determine the time slot in which it airs as it suits their schedules. This soft feed will be made available on November 20th for those stations starting their holiday programming before Thanksgiving. The Holiday Celebration will also be offered by soft feed as a pre-assembled package of several hours of holiday programming for Christmas Day, so it may air in many markets across the country twice.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals
The recommended action is consistent with the County Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence, as the program will provide the public with free access to a high quality cultural event.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:
The County's cost to produce this program is $761,000: $414,000 is from General Funds, and $332,000 from the Cable TV Franchise Fund. Additionally, the Music Center contributes $15,000 to the program and there is no fee for the use of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. The American Federation of Television & Radio Artists waives 20% of the professional singers' and dancers' day rate and the International Association of Technical & Stage Employees and Professional Musicians Local 47 waive fees for the KCET broadcast on December 24th.

Funds have been allocated for this purpose by your Board as part of the approved Fiscal Year 2006-2007 budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:
Not applicable.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS):
With the implementation of the new County Cable Channel, the Arts Commission is negotiating future rights for the local and national versions of the Holiday Celebration that would enable broadcasting via video on demand.

Respectfully submitted,

LAURA ZUCKER
Executive Director

Attachments (1)

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Manuel Valenzuela, County Counsel
Sachi Hamai, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Stephen Rountree, President, Music Center
Dave Lambertson, Director, Internal Services Department

LZ:pm

S:Holiday\2005\BOS\board letter

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION
PROPOSED 2006 47th ANNUAL LOS ANGELES COUNTY
HOLIDAY CELEBRATION ARTISTS

*indicates groups new to the *Holiday Celebration* program this year.

(Office District-Member District-Performance District) – Applicants identify the County districts in which their offices are based, where the majority of their members reside, and where the majority of their performances take place.

Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers, the renowned a cappella choir specializing in concert version performances of traditional African American spirituals will return to this year's *Holiday Celebration.* (4-All-All)

Angahara Dance Ensemble will perform a a piece that combines classical Indian dance with jazz-influenced freestyle movement. (3-All-All)

Antelope Valley High School Vocal Music-Travel Ensemble returns this year to perform an arrangement of seasonal works led by choral director John Crocker. (5-5-5)

Activities for Retarded Children and Adults (ARC) Handbell Choir, which has become an audience favorite and is featured in the 2006 national broadcast, returns to this year's local program with holiday repertoire. (3-3-3)

Beth Shir Sholom*, consisting of a 20-voice choir and 10-piece band from the Beth Shir Sholom synagogue in Santa Monica, will perform an arrangement of spiritual and celebratory Jewish music. (3-3-3)

Burbank Chorale*, founded in 1920 and the longest continuously performing arts organization in the San Fernando Valley, will feature 60 voices singing classical choral selections in their first *Holiday Celebration* performance. (5-5-5)

Celtic Spring, who wowed television audiences across the country as finalists on NBC's "America's Got Talent" with their Irish fiddling and step dancing, open their celebration set with a Christmas carol played on violins. (N/A-All-All)

Chinese Classical Music Ensemble, which did the soundtrack of the X-box video game "Jade Empire;" plays a Chinese New Year song on traditional instruments - Chinese long zither, butterfly harp and violin. (1-All-1)

Clear Cosmo Art Studio* will debut on this year's *Holiday Celebration* with *Pure Lotus*, a dance that uses the lotus flower to symbolize compassion. (1-All-All)

Cypress Masterworks Chorale has performed at such prestigious venues as the Hollywood Bowl, Carnegie Hall, Sydney Opera House, and the Vatican. It will debut on the *Holiday Celebration* with an arragenement of classical and contemporary holiday songs. (N/A-4-4)

Danza Floricanto, the oldest professional Mexican folk dance troupe in Los Angeles, will perform a medley of European-influenced dances from turn of the century Mexico. (5-1-1)

Djanbazian Dance Academy* will perform a dance to live piano accompaniment, inspired by an old Persian fable. (5-5-All)

Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles will return to this year's *Holiday Celebration* with culturally diverse holiday repertoire. (3-All-All)

Grupo Folklorico Sabor de Mexico, an award winning dance troupe based in Carson, will perform a medley of dances evocative of the Sinaloa region on the western coast of northern Mexico. (2-2-All)

Golden State Pops Orchestra* will partner with the **Sheridan Ball Singers*** to present an arrangement of favorite holiday songs with 40 voices and a 10-piece orchestral ensemble. (4-All-4)

Harmonic Bronze Handbell Ensemble features 12 to 18 year old musicians and will perform *On This Day Earth Shall Ring*. (5-5-5)

Harmonies of St. Thomas Girls Choir consists of 27 vocalists ranging from ages 8 to 19. Most of the girls in this East Los Angeles-based choir come from Latin-American immigrant families and sing classical repertoire both in English and in Spanish. They have performed abroad and have collaborated with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. (1-1-1)

Inspirational Voices of Free! will feature 14 women vocalists who will perform an inspirational piece written especially for the *Holiday Celebration.* (4-3-3)

JazzAntiqua Dance & Music Ensemble will dance to a jazzy, soulful version of Carol of the Bells. (2-All-All)

Jazz Tap Ensemble, internationally known for their blend of rhythm tap and live jazz, and pioneers of America's tap revival, showcase their Caravan Project featuring star tappers of tomorrow in the making. (3-All-All)

Jubilant Voices of Holman United Methodist Church will return this year to sing their signature a cappella blend of classical and gospel repertoire. (2-All-All)

Jung Im Lee Korean Dance Academy, a youth group consisting of dancers from 12 to 18 years of age, will perform the Korean sword dance (Kommu), the oldest of all traditional Korean court dances. (2-All-All)

Kennedy Tap Company, a youth group, was featured on this year's national broadcast. They will return to the *Holiday Celebration* with a performance to *It Don't Mean a Thing if it Ain't got that Swing*. (2-All-All)

Khmer Arts Academy will perform a classical Cambodian dance that presents the apsaras, or heavenly dancers, symbols of Cambodian culture. (4-4-4)

Klezmatics* are world-renowned stars of the klezmer world. They will be performing at the Disney Concert Hall on December 21st and have agreed to stay and perform this year at the *Holiday Celebration*.

Little Willie G.* began his professional career with *The Midniters*, the legendary R&B group from East L.A., and scored with such hits as *Land of 1000 Dances* and *Whittier Blvd*. He will appear on this year's *Holiday Celebration* with his unplugged acoustic folkloric group, **Los Tamaleros**. (1-1-1)

Los Angeles Master Chorale*, winners of the prestigious ASCAP/Chorus America Award for Adventurous Programming, makes its Holiday Celebration debut. (1-All-All)

Mariachi and Folklorico Cielo Nuevo from **Middleton Street School*** will collaborate on performances from the southwestern Mexican state of Colima. This performance consists of 30 dancers and 24 musicians all under the age of 16. (1-1-1)

Mariachi Divas will return this year with a medley of popular American and Latin American holiday favorites sung in Spanish and English. (5-All-All)

Mariachi Reyna, a 12-piece, women's Mariachi ensemble, will return to this year's *Holiday Celebration* with vibrant music from Balaju and Veracruz, Mexico. (1-1-All)

Mariachi Sol de Mexico, the first mariachi ensemble to be nominated for a Grammy and veterans of 20 films, will perform *El Pajaro Ku*. (1-1-All)

Namaste Women's Choir*, a 25 voice ensemble, will perform works that evoke peace for the holiday season. This will be the group's first appearance on the *Holiday Celebration.* (3-3-3)

New Directions Choir* is made up of formerly homeless veterans and alumni of the New Directions treatment program. They will sing gospel and soul music a cappella for their first appearance on the *Holiday Celebration.* (3-All-All)

Nigerian Talking Drum Ensemble*, led by Francil Awe, will celebrate the holidays with a performance of traditional African drumming, singing, and dancing. (2-2-2)

Opera California, a Korean-American youth choir of 80 voices with a live band, will return to the program with a medley of Christmas carols sung in both English and Korean. (2-2-2)

Pasadena Tabernacle Youth Chorus*, a youth group made up of 60 vocalists, will perform a gospel piece for their first appearance on the *Holiday Celebration.* (5-5-5)

Salvation Army Tabernacle Children's Chorus, the largest and youngest choir on the program, is known for their fun "choralography" and light-hearted holiday songs. (5-5-All)

TRIP Dance Theatre, the modern dance company led by Monica Favand, and **Kitka***, the Eastern European vocal music ensemble, creates a new work especially for Holiday Celebration. (3-3-3)

Valleyaires Barbershop Chorus* will return to the *Holiday Celebration* this year with thirty-five male voices performing a selection of holiday songs in barbershop style harmonies. (3-3-3)

Viver Brasil Dance Company returns to the *Holiday Celebration* with a lively samba choreographed to live music, and singing in Portuguese. (3-All-3)

Vox Femina Los Angeles returns to this year's *Holiday Celebration*, singing an arrangement of culturally diverse holiday songs. (2-All-All)

West Angeles Angelic Choir*, from the West Angeles Church of God in Christ, will appear for the first time on the *Holiday Celebration*. The youth chorus members range in age from 6 to 12 years old and will perform a selection of gospel music. (2-All-2)

Westside Ballet* will bring the *Nutcracker* to the *Holiday Celebration* stage with their performance of *Snow*. This performance will feature 20 youth dancers from this ballet training company. (3-3-3)

Wiseguys City of Montebello Band*, an 18-piece big band made up of alumni musicians from Montebello High School, make their first appearance on the *Holiday Celebration*, performing swingin' holiday favorites. (1-1-1)