COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-3873
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

WENDY L. WATANABE
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

March 18, 2013

TO: Audit Committee

FROM: Wendy L. Watanabe
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **SUNSET REVIEW FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION**

RECOMMENDATION

The Audit Committee recommend to the Board of Supervisors (Board) to extend the Los Angeles County Arts Commission's (Commission) sunset review date to March 1, 2017.

BACKGROUND

The Board established and has continued the Commission pursuant to Los Angeles County Code Chapter 3.38. The Board approved the most recent sunset review date extension in March 2011.

The Commission provides leadership in all arts disciplines. Most of the Commission's approximately $8.9 million budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011-12 was used to pay for professional service costs to operate the John Anson Ford Theaters (Ford Theaters), arts programs for schools, the Civic Art Program, the annual County Holiday Celebration, and free public concerts. Approximately $7.6 million of the Commission's budget is funded with net County cost, and the remainder with State and federal grants.

The Commission has 15 members, three appointed by each Supervisor. Commission members receive $20 for each general and executive meeting they attend, up to four meetings per month. The Commission is required to meet at least 12 times per year. Between March 2010 and September 2012, the Commission met 29 times (approximately 11 times per year), with an average attendance of 11 (73%) members. Members are also reimbursed for necessary travel expenses. Commission member fees and travel totaled approximately $1,300 during FY 2011-12, or less than 1% of the Commission's operating budget.

JUSTIFICATION

During this review period, the Commission's accomplishments included the following:

- Awarded $4.1 million in Organizational Grant Program grants and contracts to 184 regional non-profit arts organizations in FY 2011-12, and $3.8 million to 166 regional non-profit arts organizations in FY 2010-11.

- Provided leadership and staffing for the *Arts for All* initiative, which provides arts education to public school children in kindergarten through 12th grade. The Commission also enhanced the existing *Arts for All* website to include additional information and resources for website visitors.

- Oversaw the County's Civic Art Program for capital projects, led project coordination committees, commissioned artists, and oversaw artwork production for County facilities.

- Funded the largest arts Internship Program in the country, in conjunction with the Getty Foundation, to provide college students training and experience with arts organizations. The Commission also worked with the City of Los Angeles and the British Council to begin developing a partnership for an abroad program, where eligible Internship Program alumni can study arts in the United Kingdom.

- Administered the performing arts series at the Ford Theaters, including technical (e.g., lighting, sound, etc.) and marketing assistance.

- Sponsored over 100 free concerts at various Los Angeles County community venues that provided diverse music programming to County residents.

- Provided a series of technical assistance workshops, coaching, and peer learning sessions to help grantee organizations engage and sustain relationships with individual donors and generate renewable income, and strengthen their ability to effectively communicate using new media.

- Produced the annual County Holiday Celebration, a music and dance show, and the accompanying highlights program, televised nationally on the Public Broadcasting Service.

The Commission's objectives for the next review period are to:

- Continue to implement the *Arts for All* initiative by coaching school district staff to develop arts education policies and plans, offering professional development to district leaders for arts education, and strengthening partnerships with local and national colleagues.

- Provide project management for the Civic Art Program, including guidance to departments for maintaining County-owned artwork.

- Develop future arts leaders to serve in staff, board, and volunteer positions through the ten-week paid Internship Program, and encourage eligible individuals who have completed the Program to participate in the partnership abroad.

- Automate the existing grant review process by requiring grantees to upload their reporting documentation into the grants system, and their mailing lists into the Arts Census system.

- Continue to operate the Ford Theaters through partnerships with local arts organizations and producers.

- Continue to produce the annual Los Angeles County Holiday Celebration, and identify and secure sponsorships for the Celebration.

Please call me if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Robert Smythe at (213) 253-0101.

WLW:JLS:RS

Attachment

c: Mattie McFadden-Lawson, President, Arts Commission
Laura Zucker, Executive Director, Arts Commission
Angie Johnson, Chief, Commission Services

COMMISSION SUNSET REVIEW
LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION
REVIEW COMMENTS

Mission. (Does the mission statement agree with the Board of Supervisors' (Board) purpose and expectations?)

The stated mission is as set forth in the ordinance establishing the Los Angeles County Arts Commission (Commission). **CONCUR.**

Section 1. Relevance. (Is the mission still relevant and in agreement with the Board's purpose and expectations?)

The Commission supports a variety of cultural arts services by providing information and resources to the community, artists, educators, arts organizations, and municipalities. The Commission promotes the Board's goals for community and municipal services by providing access to cultural programs through the arts.

The Commission's mission appears to be **RELEVANT**.

Section 2. Meetings and Attendance. (Are required meetings held and is attendance satisfactory?)

The Commission is required to meet a minimum of 12 times per year. The Commission met 29 times from March 2010 to September 2012 (approximately 11 times per year), with an average attendance of 11 (73%) members.

Although the Commission's meeting frequency was slightly less than required, the Commission's average attendance and accomplishments are satisfactory.

The Commission's meeting frequency and attendance is **SATISFACTORY**.

Sections 3 and 4. Accomplishments and Results. (Are listed accomplishments and results significant?)

During this review period, the Commission's accomplishments included:

- Recommended to the Board contracts and grants to non-profit organizations totaling $4.1 million and $3.8 million in Fiscal Years (FY) 2011-12 and 2010-11, respectively.
- Provided leadership and staffing for the *Arts for All* initiative.
- Oversaw the County's Civic Art Program for capital projects, which integrates artwork into County facilities.

- Funded the largest arts Internship Program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Foundation.
- Sponsored over 100 free concerts at various Los Angeles County community venues.
- Operated the John Anson Ford Theaters (Ford Theaters).
- Implemented two educational initiatives for grantee organizations.
- Produced the annual County Holiday Celebration. However, the Commission was unable to secure sponsorships for the 2012 Holiday Celebration, despite contacting numerous companies.

The Commission's accomplishments and results are **SIGNIFICANT**.

Section 5. Objectives. (Are the objectives compatible with the mission and goals and relevant within the current County environment?)

The Commission's objectives for the next review period are to:

- Continue to administer the Organizational Grant Program and automate the grant review process.
- Continue to implement the *Arts for All* initiative.
- Provide on-going project management for the Civic Art Program.
- Work with the City of Los Angeles and the British Council to develop a partnership abroad program.
- Continue to operate the Ford Theaters.
- Continue to produce the annual County Holiday Celebration, and identify and secure sponsorships for the Celebration.

The Commission's future objectives appear **RELEVANT**.

Section 6. Resources. (Are the resources utilized by the entity in support of the entity's activities warranted in terms of the accomplishments and results?)

Most of the Commission's approximately $8.9 million budget for FY 2011-12 was used to pay for professional service costs to operate the Ford Theaters, arts programs for schools, the Civic Art Program, the annual County Holiday Celebration, and free public concerts. Approximately $7.6 million of the

Commission's budget is funded with net County cost, and the remainder with State and federal grants.

Commission member fees and travel totaled approximately $1,300 (less than 1% of the Commission's budget).

The Commission's expenses appear to be **WARRANTED**.

Section 7. Recommendation.

EXTEND THE SUNSET REVIEW DATE FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION TO MARCH 1, 2017.