

**Los Angeles County Arts and Health Week 2024**

The benefits of the arts are many, and everyone deserves equal access to them. In a County as ethnically and culturally diverse and as geographically sprawling as Los Angeles, it is our responsibility to ensure that all the benefits of, and opportunities provided by, the arts are available and accessible to all residents, no matter who they are or where they live.

From arts education for young people to arts programming for senior citizens, the arts have been proven to improve individual lives and strengthen communities. They improve health and well-being and strengthen cognitive skills. There is growing research and proven connections demonstrating that arts can positively impact mental health, physical health, and public health, for all communities. Even more, the arts can bring people together across demographic, economic, and social lines. They are places where people can both see and express themselves, their communities, and their cultures in public performances, cultural activities, and exhibitions. Everyone should experience the healing power of the arts.

Recognizing the extraordinary need for more programs and initiatives that incorporate arts into health and wellness practice, LA Opera is convening a day for sharing ideas through discussion and experience, advised by renowned soprano and arts and health advocate Renée

MOTION

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

MITCHELL \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

HORVATH \_\_\_\_\_

Fleming, in collaboration with Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, First District; Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture); and Healing Arts —an initiative of the Jameel Arts & Health Lab — and the World Health Organization. Through the powerful art form of opera, LA Opera’s mission is to serve the public by producing world-class opera that preserves, promotes, and advances the art form while embodying the diversity, pioneering spirit, and artistic sensibility unique to Los Angeles. The company envisions a community in which all members have the opportunity to collectively engage with and enjoy the rich aesthetic, emotional, intellectual, and cultural experience of opera. LA Opera is a grantee of Arts and Culture’s Organizational Grant Program.

The mission of Arts and Culture is to advance arts, culture, and creativity. Arts and Culture provides leadership, services, and support in areas including grants and technical assistance for nonprofit organizations, countywide arts education initiatives, commissioning and care for civic art collections, research and evaluation, access to creative pathways, professional development, free community programs, and cross-sector creative strategies that address civic issues. All this work is framed by our longstanding commitment to fostering access to the arts, and the County’s Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative.

Moreover, Arts and Culture continues to deliver on its role of providing funding, resources, and support for our arts and cultural sector, while also finding new opportunities to catalyze cross-sector collaboration with artists, arts organizations, philanthropy, and County partners. These efforts expand ways for the County to support arts and culture as integral to equity and to healthy communities across aspects of civic life, from education, youth development, justice reform and prevention, health, infrastructure, aging, and more, and support the goals of the Countywide Cultural Policy adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

Through this work, Arts and Culture, alongside and in collaboration with County departments including Mental Health, Public Health, Health Services, Aging and Disabilities, and other partners, have begun to yield an important body of work at the intersection of arts and health that we can build upon. These collaborations include but are not limited to commissioning Civic Art in our County hospitals and facilities, providing healing-centered arts education programs to support our youth, awarding grants to community-based organizations delivering arts and culture activities, placing artists in residence with County departments, and more. The goal of each of these collaborations and projects is to widen access to the arts and promote healthy communities, social cohesion, cultural equity, inclusion, and belonging.

Healing Arts is a global outreach campaign by the Jameel Arts & Health Lab in collaboration with the World Health Organization. As a call to action for improved health and well-being through the arts, the campaign incorporates city and county-wide activations, exhibitions, dialogues, partnerships, and live events. In collaboration with UN and Government Agencies, universities, and cultural venues, Healing Arts socializes arts and health research to drive public engagement for the vital role of the arts in health. Past events include a Healing Arts Symposium at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (2021), the first Iraq Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale (2021), the Healing Arts Auction Series with Christie's (2020-present), and last year's historic WHO75 Healing Arts Concert in Geneva.

Los Angeles County Arts and Health Week's goal is to promote a deeper understanding of the essential connection between arts, health, and well-being, and to encourage greater practice in this area. This week is a collaboration between LA Opera, Arts and Culture, Renée Fleming, and WHO Healing Arts, and will bring awareness to the benefit of arts as part of health, highlighting arts and health research, events, and programs. The week will culminate with an

Arts and Health Summit convening of arts and health organizations with presentations and panel discussions that will feature Renée Fleming, Arts and Culture, County leaders, and community arts and health partners at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion on Friday, June 14, 2024, along with a special performance by Renée Fleming at LA Opera on Saturday, June 15, 2024.

As Los Angeles County Arts and Health Week demonstrates, recognition of the role of the arts in health continues to grow. Yet there is still more work to do to capitalize on this momentum and further integrate arts and culture into our health, civic, and community infrastructure. We must ensure everyone has access to the arts and use cross-sector collaboration as a strategy to positively impact health at individual, community, institutional, and policy levels. Arts can have a positive influence across social determinants of health, which are the conditions in the environments where people live, work, and play, to promote health equity for all. The five social determinants of health domains include economic stability, education access and quality, health care access and quality, neighborhood and built environment, and social and community context.

Los Angeles County can continue to lead and catalyze this work, both within its own County departments, facilities, and resources and by using its position to increase public awareness locally and beyond about the connection between arts and health. To support these aims it is important to build on the work of Arts and Culture, Public Health, Mental Health, Health Services, other relevant departments, and partners, and raise the visibility of arts as part of health and wellbeing.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Highlight the work of LA Opera, Arts and Culture, and County Health departments, by declaring the week of June 10, 2024, as Arts and Health Week in Los Angeles

County.

2. Increase awareness and visibility and catalyze opportunity for the continued growth of this work across the social determinants of health domains.
3. Encourage County departments and staff to attend the Summit and participate in related activities throughout the week, share resources with constituents, and promote Arts and Health Week to employees and on their social media in partnership with Arts and Culture.
4. Waive parking fees in the amount of \$6,000 for approximately 300 vehicles for individuals attending the Arts and Health Week Summit on June 14, 2024, to park at The Music Center, Lot 14 garage, excluding the cost of liability insurance.

# # #

HLS:ko