



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

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MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 2, 2006

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2006 Art Matters Conference Official Exhibition
Movement: Hip Hop in L.A. - 1980s to Now

Los Angeles— The Department of Cultural Affairs' 2006 Art Matters Conference presents *Movement: Hip Hop in L.A. - 1980s to Now*, an unprecedented examination of the hip hop experience in L.A. from its underground beginnings to national prominence.

Movement... is the official exhibit of the 2006 Art Matters Conference organized by the Department of Cultural Affairs' Youth Arts and Education Program, featuring an examination of hip hop's elements: rap, dee jaying, street art, and break dancing.

Curated by Raymond Codrington, Ph.D., a noted cultural anthropologist whose work brings popular culture into non-traditional settings, the exhibit features seminal photographs, video footage, visual art, text, and a live art space that situate hip hop in a social and political context that is uniquely West Coast. *Movement...* will run from November 3 through December 3, 2006, at the kolor graphics bureau, 1640 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. The opening reception will be Friday, November 3, 2006, 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. For more information on the opening reception, please call 213.202.5568 or e-mail: hiphopexhibit@yahoo.com

As part of American culture, hip hop has been recognized as a national cultural icon as evidenced by the Smithsonian Institution's National American History Museum's announcement that they are also developing a hip hop exhibit. This exhibit, in conjunction with *Movement...*, demonstrates that hip hop is part of the mainstream and an important aspect of America's history and American culture.

"*Movement...* represents a contemporary look at the diversity of hip hop culture. As one of America's most important cultural products of the 20th Century, hip hop needs to be understood as a viable medium that impacts our society on many levels," said exhibit curator, Raymond Codrington, Ph.D.

Karen Constine, Interim General Manager of DCA, said: "As the work of the Department moves forward, our active engagement with projects related to popular and youth cultures will continue to influence new directions for the arts and arts policy in Los Angeles and beyond."

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Movement: Hip Hop in L.A.—2

Brief History of Hip Hop:

As one of the most vibrant forms of popular culture of the late 20th century, hip hop has become the most recognizable influence on youth culture in Los Angeles. Its impact can be seen in everything from dress to political organizing. Its influence is visibly intertwined into the everyday experiences of young people. Since its early days in the 1980s, hip hop brought together a multicultural collective of youth from all parts of Los Angeles to participate in this cultural phenomena.

Movement... embraces the hip hop experience in Los Angeles to provide an unprecedented view of its vitality and social significance to look at hip hop culture through a critical perspective. While other hip hop exhibits tend to focus primarily on the fashion and style associated with hip hop culture, *Movement...* addresses the context and energy of hip hop culture in Los Angeles.

Several events are being sponsored in conjunction with the exhibit. All events are free to the public.

Women in Hip Hop Culture Panel—Sponsored by DCA
Tuesday, November 7, 2006, 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
National Center for the Preservation of Democracy
111 N. Central Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Panelists include:

Marvette Perez, Curator and Director, Hip Hop Initiative, Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History
Cheryl Keyes, Ph.D., UCLA, Department of Ethnomusicology
L.A. Nevins, Dancer and Entrepreneur
Asia 1, Organizer of the B-Boy Summit and Dancer
Medusa, Noted MC

While women have played important roles in hip hop, their diverse involvement is often marginalized. The panel, which includes participants from the Smithsonian Institution hip hop initiative, draws attention to the ways that hip hop is used to both create and challenge ideas related to gender. The panel also considers how women will continue to influence the creative direction of hip hop in the future. By bringing together a diverse set of experiences ranging from stage to the classroom, panelists will offer informed perspectives that illustrate the ways that gender and hip hop come together.

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Movement: Hip Hop in L.A.—3

Graffiti Art Demonstration and Discussion—Sponsored by DCA
Sunday, November 12, 2006, 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
kolor graphics bureau
1640 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Panelists include:

James Prigoff, Urban Historian and Author
Wisk One, Co-writer of *The History of Los Angeles Graffiti Art*
Robert "Relax" Reiling, Co-writer of *The History of Los Angeles Graffiti Art*
ManOne, Crewest Gallery
Chaz Bojorquez, Contemporary Artist

This panel examines graffiti as art and social movement. Panelists will discuss the art, politics, and commerce of graffiti. Panel members will place graffiti in its proper historical context in an effort to understand the roots and rise of the art. This panel includes different perspectives to create an informed dialogue around the creativity and culture found in the graffiti movement. Live graffiti art demonstrations will take place.

Urban Film Festival—Sponsored by DCA
Saturday, November 18, 2006, 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.
Barnsdall Gallery Theatre, Barnsdall Park
4800 Hollywood Blvd.
Hollywood, CA 90027

Contemporary films capturing the urban experience in Los Angeles and beyond.
Films will be followed by a panel discussion.

Youth and Popular Culture Jam—Sponsored by DCA
Saturday, December 2, 2006, 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.
kolor graphics bureau
1640 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

This one-day event celebrates the creativity of hip hop culture. Youth will be able to engage in the diversity of Hip Hop's elements through hands on workshops, demonstrations, and entertainment. The event involves some of L.A.'s most innovative artists and educators that are using hip hop as a teaching and learning tool. The jam encourages youth to use hip hop culture in a positive way to create an artistic and personal vision for self and society.

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Movement: Hip Hop in L.A.—4

ABOUT DCA:

The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) serves as a leader to generate and support high quality arts and cultural experiences for Los Angeles residents and visitors. DCA advances the social and economic impact of the arts and assures access to arts and cultural experiences through grant making, marketing, public and community arts programming, arts education, and creating partnerships with artists and arts and cultural organizations in every community in the City of Los Angeles.

DCA grants \$3.4 million annually to over 300 artists and nonprofit arts organizations and awards the Artist-in-Residence (A.I.R.) and City of Los Angeles (C.O.L.A.) Individual Artist Fellowships. It provides arts and cultural programming in numerous Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers, theaters, and several arts and education programs for young people. The Department directs public art projects and manages the City's Arts Development Fee, Art Collection, and Murals Program. DCA markets the City's cultural events through development and collaboration with strategic partners, design and production of creative promotional materials, and management of the culturela.org website.

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