



**MEDIA ALERT**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 26, 2006

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### **Macy Gray and Xzibit to Speak at 2006 Art Matters Conference**

Los Angeles—Macy Gray, Grammy Award Winning Recording Artist, and Xzibit, Multi-Platinum Recording Artist, confirmed their participation at the Department of Cultural Affairs' 2006 Art Matters Conference. They will join First Lady Corina Villaraigosa to speak during the morning's welcome session.

This conference will take place on Friday, October 27, 2006, at California State University, Los Angeles in the Golden Eagle Building from 9:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. Service providers (professionals and practitioners) and teenagers from local high schools will engage in interactive sessions that deal with a number of topics related to the arts and youth culture in Los Angeles. Sessions will build on one another and culminate at the end of the day with attendees gaining skills, knowledge, and resources to better serve our city's young people.

"Given the recent national concerns about youth violence and safety, this is a timely conference. It's an opportunity for young people and those who advocate for them to work together to identify and access positive arts and cultural resources. Their interaction and dialogue will lead to positive outcomes, and DCA will continue to support the conference's mandate," said Karen Constine, Interim General Manager of DCA.

Professional Panel and Workshop topics include:

- Art of Engagement: Techno Youth Culture
- New Directions: Funding and Policy in the Arts
- Current State of Foster Care and Probation
- Youth Voices
- Social Implication of Hip Hop
- Classroom Blogging

DCA launched its Art Matters Initiative in 2003 with the Art Matters in Juvenile Justice, Education, and Community Conference, which attracted nearly 1,000 people. The needs voiced by attendees led to the development of the Art Matters Summit, the Art Matters Outcomes Report, subsequent DCA sponsored youth conferences, and an annual grant program that highlights youth voices and violence prevention.

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## Art Matters—2

Registration materials for the Art Matters 2006 Conference are available at [www.culturela.org](http://www.culturela.org). Registration fees are as follows:

If postmarked prior to October 20, 2006,

Individual/Professional \$75 and College Student with ID \$50

If postmarked October 21-27, 2006,

Individual/Professional \$100 and College Student with ID \$75.

California State University, Los Angeles is located at 5151 State University Drive, Los Angeles, 90032. Campus maps and driving directions are available at

<http://www.calstatela.edu/univ/maps/cslamap.htm>.

A series of related public events will occur in connection with the Art Matters Conference. DCA presents the official conference exhibit, *Movement: Hip Hop in L.A.—1980s to Now*, curated by Raymond Codrington, Ph.D. This exhibit looks at hip hop as one of our most important cultural influences and examines the uniqueness of hip hop in LA through photography, street art, and video.

Official Conference Exhibit:

### ***Movement: Hip Hop in L.A.—1980s to Now***

November 3 to December 3, 2006

Exhibit Opening Reception: Friday, November 3, 2006, 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

kolor graphics bureau

1640 N. Spring Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Additional Conference Programs:

### **Women in Hip Hop Culture Panel**

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

While women have played important roles in hip hop, their involvement is often marginalized. This panel draws attention to the ways that hip hop is used to both create and challenge ideas related to gender and considers how women will continue to influence the creative direction of hip hop. Bringing together a diverse set of experiences, panelists will illustrate the ways that gender and hip hop come together.

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Art Matters—3

**Graffiti Art Demonstration and Discussion**

Sunday, November 12, 2006, 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
kolor graphics bureau  
1640 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

This panel examines graffiti as both an artistic and social movement. Panel members from different perspectives within the graffiti movement will place graffiti in its proper historical context in the effort to understand the roots and rise of the art form and to create an informed dialogue. Live graffiti art demonstrations will also take place.

**Urban Film Festival**

Saturday, November 18, 2006, 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.  
Barnsdall Gallery Theatre, Barnsdall Park  
4800 Hollywood Blvd.  
Hollywood, CA 90027

This festival presents a series of independently produced films that deal with urban life, specifically focusing on hip hop culture. The films are meant to spark dialogue about social and political issues as well as popular culture in Los Angeles. The one day festival includes screenings of films as well as a question and answer session with film makers, academics, and hip hop practitioners. The festival serves as a way to present a diverse representation of both hip hop and urban life.

**Youth and Popular Culture Jam**

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 using hip hop as a teaching and learning tool. The jam encourages youth to use hip hop in a positive way to create an artistic and personal vision for themselves and society.

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#### Art Matters—4

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 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](http://culturela.org) website.

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