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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 31, 2006**

### **Dreaming Our Future Youth Conference:** **A Remarkable Opportunity for Los Angeles Teens**

Los Angeles – The Office of Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa and the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) are pleased to announce the **Dreaming Our Future Youth Conference: Celebrating African American Heritage**, to take place in **Leimert Park Village**, bounded by Crenshaw Boulevard, West 43<sup>rd</sup> Place, and Leimert Boulevard. The Conference will be held **Friday, February 17, 2006**, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\***MEDIA COVERAGE OPPORTUNITY AT 2:00 P.M., FEATURING MAYOR ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA AND A PERFORMANCE BY SURPRISE CELEBRITY MUSICIANS, HUGE ICONS OF HIP HOP CULTURE**\*\*\*\*\*

This highly participatory youth conference will convene 400 teens from high schools and community organizations to promote youth engagement in the cultural, civic, and educational resources available within Los Angeles. Involving youth of all backgrounds, **Dreaming Our Future** will celebrate diversity. In a day-long series of interactive workshops, students will have the opportunity to work with artists, cultural bearers, and youth advocates from noted cultural and educational institutions to explore critical contemporary issues that resonate with teens such as identity, community, creative expression, and the power of voice and choice. The conference will also feature an information resource fair on careers, financial services, health, and other programs available to Los Angeles youth.

Dreaming Our Future is organized and presented by the Youth Arts & Education Program of the City of Los Angeles **Department of Cultural Affairs** in partnership with the **Office of Mayor Antonio R. Villaraigosa**, demonstrating the Mayor's commitment to our youth. Dreaming Our Future is part of the Youth Arts & Education Program's **Art Matters Initiative**, an educational program and advocacy forum emphasizing resources in the arts and creative solutions that empower young people and service providers, to build a stronger, safer, and more vibrant Los Angeles.

Generous support for Dreaming Our Future has been provided by Disney. Event support has been graciously provided by the Leimert Park Merchants Association.

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