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Department of Cultural Affairs Grantee Barbara H. Clark **Awarded as Unsung Hero of the Year by KCET**

Los Angeles – The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) is pleased to announce that one of its **Artists-in-Residence (AIR) program** grantees, **storyteller Barbara H. Clark**, has received a **2006 Unsung Hero of the Year Award** from KCET. Awards will be bestowed in a special invitation-only evening on Thursday, February 16, at KCET studios in Hollywood.

Since the inception of the AIR program in 2002, storyteller Barbara H. Clark has been a popular and consistent grantee. For the past four years, Ms. Clark has been in residency at the Vineyard Senior Citizens Center, located in the West Adams area of City Council District 10, conducting story-writing and storytelling workshops with members of the Center, a project she has titled, "**Tell Me a Story.**" Using instruction and demonstration, Ms. Clark leads senior citizens through the writing and the telling of personal life-stories, culminating with two storytelling concerts. AIR grantees are required to conduct a minimum of eight participatory workshops and at least one public presentation. Ms. Clark far exceeded this requirement, conducting at least 30 workshops a year at Vineyard Senior Citizens Center that included two public presentations of community concerts. She has conducted weekly two-hour workshops eight months out of every year of her residency.

AIR offers financial grants to individual artists for the design and implementation of participatory art programs with target audiences at community organizations not traditionally focused on art programming. AIR grants are awarded through a competitive application process. AIR awards are intended to foster new collaborations, the growth of new skills, and an increase of arts appreciation. The dual functioning of AIR projects is to foster the employment of artists as creative resources, and to position the arts as a vital part of neighborhood improvement and community dialogue. Annual AIR awards are \$10,000 per artist.

In recognition of Black History Month, KCET devotes February to special programming highlighting the history and accomplishments of African Americans. Unsung Hero of the Year Awards are bestowed to a select group of individuals chosen for their outstanding service to Southern California's African American communities. KCET will run profiles of these individuals throughout February. These are the 5th Annual Unsung Hero Awards, and three individuals have been named. This year's honorees are Barbara H. Clark; Dr. John Davis, Founder, African-American Studies Department at Loyola Marymount College; and Denise Roberts, founder of The Denise Roberts Breast Cancer Foundation.

