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**Department of Cultural Affairs
And
Councilmember David Ryu
Announce
the Citywide COVID-19 Emergency Response Program
for Individual Artists**

A citywide opportunity for individual artists to reimagine public art, applications accepted until September 1, 2020, or until 600 applications are received.

LOS ANGELES, CA – The Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) and Councilmember David Ryu announce the Citywide COVID-19 Emergency Response Program. A [motion](#) presented by the Councilmember allows a repurposing of Art Development Fees to create a \$340,000 relief fund geared specifically toward individual artists. The program asks artists to reimagine public art in their communities after the pandemic. Eligible artists can receive one-time funding of \$500 to \$1500.

Art Development Fees play an essential role in allowing the Department to provide arts and cultural services to the community. These funds support arts projects, facilities, and arts education programs that are free or low-cost for the people of Los Angeles.

“Local artists and arts nonprofits are the creative heart of Los Angeles,” Councilmember Ryu said. “The work of writers, musicians, painters, and all artists help make Los Angeles the vibrant and dynamic city we love. We need to be supporting these artists - and finding new ways to bring their creativity to the public.”

While providing economic relief to support artists, this is also an opportunity for artists to create art for their neighborhoods. Artists will address the question of how people will inhabit physical spaces once the city reopens. The Citywide COVID-19 Emergency Response Program will create an opportunity for new voices to envision and illustrate our virtual and physical spaces, our new ‘third’ public realm.

“As a creative capital, Los Angeles must ensure that artists are able to access funding to help weather the pandemic, its economic aftermath, and envision a

new social contract that places people and community at the center,” said Danielle Brazell, General Manager of the Department of Cultural Affairs.

“Los Angeles’ arts and culture economy is facing a prolonged recession, and supporting the city’s innovators is critical to the sector’s recovery. Arts for LA is proud to work closely with Councilmember David Ryu and the Department of Cultural Affairs to ensure this funding is made available to artists now, and we look forward to the launch of the Arts Relief Fund program for arts organizations,” said Gustavo Herrera, Executive Director of Arts for LA.

The Citywide COVID-19 Emergency Response Program will focus on individual artists with the greatest risk of hardship. Artists must demonstrate financial need and the detrimental impact of COVID-19, such as the ability to pay rent, utility bills, loss of employment, etc.

Eligibility

A limited amount of funding is available. The application deadline is September 1, 2020 or until 600 applications are received.

All applicants must:

- Reside within the City of Los Angeles
- (Please visit <http://neighborhoodinfo.lacity.org/> to verify your home address is within the boundaries of the City of Los Angeles. Addresses falling outside of the City of Los Angeles would yield a ‘Nothing Found’ result via this online tool.)
- Demonstrate professional creative experience over at least the past two (2) years on an attached resume.
- High school or college students creating projects for school accreditation are ineligible.
- Employees of the City of Los Angeles are ineligible to apply.

Complete program details, guidelines, and application instructions can be found [here](#).

About the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

As a leading arts and cultural agency, DCA empowers Los Angeles’ vibrant communities by supporting and providing access to quality visual, literary, musical, performing, and educational arts programming; managing vital cultural centers; preserving historic sites; creating public art; and funding services provided by arts organizations and individual artists.

Formed in 1925, DCA promotes arts and culture as a way to ignite a powerful dialogue, engage LA's residents and visitors, and ensure LA's varied cultures are recognized, acknowledged, and experienced. DCA's mission is to strengthen the quality of life in Los Angeles by stimulating and supporting arts and cultural activities, ensuring public access to the arts for residents and visitors alike.

DCA advances the social and economic impact of arts and culture through grant-making, public art, community arts, and strategic marketing and development. DCA creates and supports arts programming, maximizing relationships with other city agencies, artists, and arts and cultural nonprofit organizations to provide excellent service in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles.

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