



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs  
Partners with Los Angeles County Arts Commission  
to Present the First Los Angeles Arts Datathon  
Exploring Data to Increase Access to the Arts**

April 22, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Downtown Los Angeles

**LOS ANGELES** - The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs and the Los Angeles County Arts Commission present the first Los Angeles Arts Datathon bringing together people from across the region to examine the significance of arts data for all residents and visitors. The datathon takes place on April 22 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at [The Reef](#), the downtown Los Angeles campus of Claremont Graduate University and Sotheby's Institute of Art - Los Angeles.

Research has long demonstrated that the arts are good for people and for communities. Participation in the arts [improves individual health](#) and benefits children [socially and emotionally](#). The arts bring people together across many lines: demographic, economic, and social. The arts are an effective [tool for community empowerment](#). People express

themselves, their communities, and their cultures in arts and cultural spaces. What's more, in the Los Angeles region, the arts are a [major part of the local economy](#), offering substantial career and business opportunities.

In a region as big, diverse, and sprawling as Los Angeles, "How can everyone have real and meaningful access to the arts?" The inaugural Los Angeles Arts Datathon will bring together local arts agencies with artists, arts administrators, educators, students, community advocates, and researchers as well as other professionals in culture, museums, and urban planning to address this question.

"We want to use all the tools available to us to improve cultural equity and inclusion in the arts," said **Laura Zucker, Executive Director of the LA County Arts Commission**. "If we are serious about improving access to the arts then we have to begin with the facts." Zucker continues, "This datathon takes place during L.A.'s Arts Month and it's serendipitous that it is on the same day that across the country, Americans will be marching in support of science. Facts DO matter."

A wealth of data has been collected about arts, the organizations that provide arts and cultural services, arts programming and participation, arts education, and creativity. Participants in the Los Angeles Arts Datathon will explore this data to come up with new ideas about how to put the data to work.

"As a progressive and innovative civic arts agency, the Department of Cultural Affairs is excited to participate in this collective effort to improve our arts ecosystem," said **Danielle Brazell, General Manager of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs**. "At this initial arts datathon, participants will explore available data to gain a greater understanding of how we can increase access to arts, build infrastructure, and promote policy across the Los Angeles region."

The datathon will take place on **Saturday, April 22, 2017 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.** at [The Reef](#), the downtown LA campus of Claremont Graduate University and Sotheby's Institute of Art - Los Angeles. The datathon website is <http://artsdatathon.org>.

### **About the Department of Cultural Affairs**

As a leading, progressive arts and cultural agency, the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs 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.

### **About the Los Angeles County Arts Commission**

The Los Angeles County Arts Commission fosters excellence, diversity, vitality, understanding, and accessibility of the arts in Los Angeles County, encompassing 88 municipalities and nearly 140 unincorporated areas, and provides leadership in cultural services. The Arts Commission funds over 360 nonprofit arts organizations through a two-year \$9 million grant program, implements *Arts for All*, the regional initiative dedicated to ensuring all students receive quality arts education in the county's 81 public school districts, funds the largest arts internship program in the country, and manages the County's civic art policy. The Arts Commission also produces free community programs, including the Emmy® Award-winning *LA County Holiday Celebration* for public television.

#ArtsDatathon

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