



March 9, 2010

Olga Garay
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues:

CULTURAL AFFAIRS
COMMISSION
Adolfo V. Nodal
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York Chang
VICE PRESIDENT
Celeste M. Alleyne
Richard Montoya
Lee Ramer
Josephine Ramirez
Gayle Garner Roski

I am pleased to invite you to apply for the next and final round of the Cultural Exchange International (CEI) Pilot Program. We are seeking quality proposals from LA-based arts organizations wishing to host an international artist or individual artists from Los Angeles who wish to conduct a residency abroad. **The deadline for this round of grant applications is April 2, 2010.** Grants are available for projects starting no sooner than August 1, 2010 and ending no later than June 20, 2011. Complete guidelines and the application can be found online at: http://culturela.org/grants/CEI/2010_CEI/2010_CEI_Spring_Application.pdf

CEI is designed to enhance Los Angeles as a national and international center, fostering cultural understandings through the expansion of networks and exchange of knowledge by creative professionals. To date, dozens of LA-based artists have received funding support to conduct international residencies of a minimum of two weeks and a maximum of three months. Residencies are typically hosted by an arts or cultural organization abroad, though artist-to-artist exchanges are also allowable. Additionally, CEI seeks to reach audiences throughout the City's rich and diverse communities engaging them in the residency projects of international arts / cultural professionals and their LA-based host organization.

CEI grants are made possible through generous support from the City of Los Angeles, the Durfee Foundation, the National Performance Network (NPN), the Trust for Mutual Understanding (TMU), and our international partners: the Foundation for International Cultural Activities (SICA) in collaboration with the Consulates General of The Netherlands in Los Angeles and New York, Theater Institute Netherlands, and the Music Centre, Netherlands; and the Sacatar Foundation in Brazil. In addition, we are working with the French Consulate General in Los Angeles and the University of Guadalajara, Mexico to develop specially curated projects.

Since the beginning of the CEI pilot program, DCA has worked diligently to bring on these additional national and international funding partners, thereby increasing the total amount available over the two-year life of the pilot program. This strategy, however, has propelled us to focus on specific geographic regions and disciplines according to the nature of the partnership. We encourage you to carefully consider projects that fall within these geographic locations as they will greatly improve your chances of receiving funding support.

As we finalize the Year 2 CEI guidelines and application forms, we have not received confirmation about a second grant from our Dutch partners. However, we are very hopeful that they will again contribute to fund residencies in Los Angeles and The Netherlands and / or The Netherlands Antilles, and we strongly encourage proposals that fit the criteria under this category.

As detailed in the CEI grant guidelines, there are several methods to apply for funding. Applicants are encouraged to carefully follow the directions and apply directly to the organization which best matches the proposed project, which is typically DCA - but not always. It is your responsibility as an applicant to follow the enclosed directions.

For more information, we invite you to attend a CEI Grant Workshop to be held on Friday, March 19, 2010, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at DCA's main office at 201 North Figueroa Street, Suite 1400, Los Angeles, CA, 90012. Please RSVP to Sherlan Abesamis by email at sherlan.abesamis@lacity.org by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 since space is limited. If you have additional questions, please contact Joe Smoke, Cultural Grants Program Director, at 213.202.5548 or via email at joe.smoke@lacity.org.

Sincerely,

Olga Garay
Executive Director
City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs