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RIDLEY-THOMAS HELPS LAUNCH COUNTY'S SUMMER ARTS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR 75 COLLEGE STUDENTS AFTER AVERTING SUSPENSION DUE TO BUDGET CUTS

LOS ANGELES – Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas welcomed 75 excited interns who will begin paid internships at arts programs and organizations throughout the County this summer, thanks to the Board of Supervisors who averted suspension of the County's Arts Internship program by allocating \$250,000 to fund the program.

The program was slated to be suspended because of the County's budget problems. But at Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' request, the Board agreed to use money from the County's Provisional Financing Uses fund to continue the program.

"This is not about fluff; this is about job creation, economic development, and education for our youth. It's about practical skill building and real life job experience for these interns as well as sustainability for the hosting arts organizations," the Supervisor told those in attendance at the intern orientation breakfast at Culver City City Hall.

The Supervisor added that the program "provides non-profits and community-based arts organizations with an infusion of new energy and creative ideas, as well as much-needed human resources."

The Arts Internship program provides 75 internships – 45 fewer than last year – for college students chosen to participate. In the program's 10 year history, the County has supported 1,292 paid interns, including 125 who participated in 2009.

Students in the program, the County's only external internship program, will be paid \$3,500 for 10 weeks of employment.

While some of the arts organizations that participate in the program include large organizations, many are smaller organizations that provide direct services and culturally appropriate programs.

“By funding this program, the Board has planted the seed of economic development for these organizations and the community in which they operate and serve,” the Supervisor said.

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Gender

- 77% Female
- 23% Male

Ethnicity

Of those who responded (26% declined):

- 30.8% Hispanic, Latin or Spanish origin
- 21.7% Asian Pacific Islander
- 5.5% African American

Geography

- Interns from 37 different cities (of 88 within the County)
- From 54 different zip codes (of 358 within the County)

Colleges

35 colleges are represented:

1. USC - 23% attend
2. UCLA - 15% attend

3. Azusa Pacific University
4. Biola University
5. Brigham Young University
6. Brown University
7. Cal Poly Pomona
8. Cal State Los Angeles
9. California Institute of the Arts
10. California State University Long Beach
11. California State University, Los Angeles
12. Colgate University
13. Columbia University
14. Dartmouth College
15. Dickinson College
16. Duke University
17. East Los Angeles College
18. Emery University
19. Los Angeles Harbor College
20. Mount Holyoke College
21. New York University
22. Oberlin College
23. Occidental College

24. OTIS College of Art and Design
25. Pepperdine University
26. Pitzer College
27. Scripps College
28. St. Olaf College
29. Syracuse University
30. Tulane University
31. UC San Diego
32. University of San Francisco
33. Wagner College
34. Washington University
35. Yale University

When you return to school, status will be:

- Sophomore 14%
- Juniors 31%
- Seniors 34%
- N/A, recent graduate 22%