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May 19, 2015

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Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas Honors BAFTA LA's Donald Haber for Service to the Community

Saying his leadership brought the magic of film and theater to thousands of South Los Angeles residents, [Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas](#) awarded a scroll Tuesday to David Haber, the longtime executive director and chief operating officer of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts Los Angeles.

“The residents of Los Angeles County are grateful for the spirit of service you have brought, especially in the Second District,” Supervisor Ridley-Thomas said during a ceremony at the Los Angeles County Hall of Administration. “I give you a heartfelt ‘thank you’ for all the fun, the pleasure, and the fulfillment of dreams that you have brought to our community.”

But the unassuming Mr. Haber, who is set to retire May 31 after 17 years with BAFTA LA, said the community deserved much of the credit.

“Throughout this journey, different stakeholders and organizations came together and worked together,” he said. “It was community that really did all the heavy lifting – they were just spectacular in the way they united to make sure their kids had a safe place to come to.”

With its Inner City Cinema program, BAFTA has worked with the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation since 2005 to screen free movies at several local parks. In partnership with Warner Bros., BAFTA also helped donate a state-of-the-art sound system to the Hellen Keller Park Community Center, and

hosts a holiday party every year where thousands of children and families receive gifts and enjoy first-class entertainment.

With [Inner City Shakespeare](#), BAFTA enabled at-risk youth from local schools to stage *Romeo & Juliet*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and other works by the greatest playwright and poet of all time. Performances are scheduled May 23 and 24 at Ted Watkins Park.

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