

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

JUNE 22, 2009

Arts Internship Program

The County’s Arts Internship Program, administered by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, has been in existence since 1999, and is celebrating its 10th Anniversary this summer. The Program was designed to provide paid internships for undergraduate students in the non-profit performing, presenting, literary and municipal arts organizations. Over the course of ten weeks, the Program provides the students with meaningful, relevant and practical experience working in the arts arena, while at the same time gives the participating organization the assistance of new staff to further the goals and missions of its organization. The Program has developed leaders in the arts sector and has also instilled a deep appreciation of arts and public service in almost 1,300 past participants. This summer, we have placed 125 interns with 95 participating organizations.

Past participants have become leaders in the various discipline areas associated with the arts from both the creative and business aspects, as well as in policy development in the government and public policy sectors.

- MORE -

MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

ANTONOVICH _____

KNABE _____

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It is clear that these types of programs are invaluable, not only to the individual intern and to the participating agency, but to the local communities as well, in the form of personal and economic development. As the individual intern participates in the Program, they also acquire the skills necessary to make a positive impact on their own communities by developing programs, performing associated volunteer activities, serving as a role model, or by helping children develop self-esteem, talent, skills, and self-confidence, often in areas in the County which do not offer many alternatives. In addition, these interns develop real-life, relevant and practical business skills which they can take anywhere, thus making them valuable commodities themselves. We must continue to provide these opportunities for our youth and the Arts Internship Program is a shining example of how government, public and non-profit entities can work together to build our future.

It is when the economic situation is most challenging that we must make the most difficult decisions. The County must make a financial commitment to this Program and in our youth which will definitely pay dividends with other social and economic returns. However, funding for the Program is not included in the 09-10 County budget, and is slated to be eliminated in the summer of 2010. The funding for the Program should also be viewed as an investment into the economic viability of our community in addition as a job training program. One of the main priorities of the County is the development and training of youth, as evidenced in some of the youth job-training programs we have developed Countywide, and this should be equally as important.

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THEREFORE, I MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Chief Executive Officer to:

- 1) Restore funding in the amount of \$500,000 to the Arts Internship Program in the 2009 – 2010 budget year; and
- 2) Work with the Executive Director of the Arts Commission to:
 - a) improve and revamp the program to make the Program more competitive for funding in 2010-2011 fiscal year from other sources; and
 - b) identify other grant sources to help underwrite the cost of the Program in 2010-2011; and
 - c) report back in writing every three months on the progress of a) and b) above.

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