

Focus On The Arts

Arts Organizations

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years—Musical Theater West enjoys a high level of community support.

Long Beach Museum Of Art Creates "Home" For Community

Hal Nelson, director of the Long Beach Museum of Art, is optimistic about The Artful Teapot, the show that recently ended its nearly three month residency at the museum. "It was the most successful in the 52-year history of the museum," he says. "Over

20,000 visitors attended," Nelson believes that what distinguishes the museum is its dual use as both a fine art museum and a community center, making it a true "home for the arts in the heart of the community."

Together, the organizations raised \$750,000 to fund education programs. In addition, the museum pays the lion's share of a program that brings every LBUSD 5th grade child to a museum visit

2003. There will be no PCA funding in 2004, and the city's FY 2004 budget recommends only \$570,000. "We have good relationships with foundations, individuals and businesses, and we're hopeful we'll be able to supplement our funding through private sector support," Nelson says.

Even as the museum gears up to launch a major exhibition of Latin American art, Shirley Zimmerman, which will include a day of Long Beach Symphony concerts celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, budgets are on Nelson's mind. "We're planning our belts. We may do less in the way of children's educational programs unless we're able to keep up with other sources," he says.

Nannette Brodie Dance Theatre On Scene 15 Years

The Nannette Brodie Dance Theatre celebrated its 15th season in November with a concert at the Martha Knobel Dance Theatre at CSULB. Working from studio space in Los Alamitos, the organization headed by Nannette Brodie has been funded by the PCA and Long Beach foundations, such as the Josephine Gumbiner Foundation and the Greater Long Beach Foundation. Grants have given the eight-member modern dance company the opportunity to present programs in schools where it works with both dance students and elementary school students.

The company has done residencies in the Western and Midwestern United States, Mexico and Eastern Europe. It performed at the Aquarium of the Pacific's opening gala with 22 dancers, a highlight in its history, says Brodie, who serves as both the artistic director and principal choreographer. She says, "The PCA has been our rock." Now, at a time when the PCA has less to give, donations from major foundations have slowed down as well. A major after-school program the company has offered at 12 Long Beach and Orange and Los Angeles County schools and Boys and Girls Clubs is on hold awaiting new funding. "We've had to be more resourceful, cinching our belts and looking at a broader geographical area," Brodie says.

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Aquarium Of The Pacific Showcases Arts and Cultures

Jerry Schutel, president and CEO of the Aquarium of the Pacific, sees culture and arts programming as essential to fulfilling the mission of the aquarium. "The best way to build natural capital, that is to conserve nature, is to build social capital—build relationships between and among people—because those go a long way in determining the relationships we have with nature," he says. The aquarium holds festivals to build these relationships as they celebrate the many over 200 sites that make up Long Beach's diverse population. The Boys Splash festival held earlier this month is no exception. In its second year, the festival drew 8,000 to 9,000 people over two days. Complementing by music, fine arts, crafts, food and games, the festival celebrates Hispanic culture. Dancers representing authentic cultural traditions included

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