



OLGA GARAY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIR
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Olga is the executive director of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), a position she assumed on August, 1, 2007. Reporting directly to the Mayor of Los Angeles, and managing a nearly \$23-million budget, the executive director is the chief administrative officer of the DCA. Los Angeles, the country's second largest city with a population of 4 million, is home to the largest creative workforce in the United States.

Most recently, Olga was an independent producer and performing arts consultant who worked with organizations such as: the Lincoln Center Festival, the National Performance Network, El Museo del Barrio, the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, the Carnival Performing Arts Center, and Leveraging Investments in Creativity.

As program director for the arts for the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (1998-2005), Olga was responsible for the planning, design, management, and evaluation of the Arts Program, which provides approximately \$13 to \$20 million annually to leading performing arts organizations throughout the country, making it one of the largest national arts funders in the United States. She developed several major programs, including the Leadership Presenting Institutions and Midsized Presenting Organizations Program; a Theatre Initiative created in collaboration with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation that has awarded \$34.5 million to date; and the \$16.25 million Talented Students in the Arts Initiative, a collaboration with the Surdna Foundation. A total of \$145 million was awarded to arts organizations throughout the country during Olga's seven year tenure.

Prior to that Olga was director of Cultural Affairs at Miami Dade College where for seven years she supervised three art galleries and curated a performing arts presenting program. Olga started working in the arts as a program officer in the mid 1980s at the Miami-Dade Cultural Affairs Department and went on to become assistant director of the agency. In 2006 she received a "Bessie", the New York Dance and Performance Awards and was named the Cuban Artists' Fund Distinguished Honoree. She received the 2003 "Fan Taylor Distinguished Service Award" for exemplary service to the field of professional presenting from the Association of Performing Arts Presenters.

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