

L.A.C.E.R. Afterschool Programs



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

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WILBUR MAY FOUNDATION PLEDGES 1 MILLION TO KEEP THE ARTS ACCESSIBLE TO LA YOUTH

Los Angeles, CA - (Feb. 22, 2018) - The Wilbur May Foundation, has granted the L.A.C.E.R. Afterschool Programs an unprecedented gift of 1 million dollars. In 2013, the foundation pledged \$500,000, and in 2018, they renewed their pledge with another \$500,000, thus donating 1 million dollars to keep arts opportunities available every day after school. The arts programming created by the grant has been named the Wilbur May Foundation ARTstars, Connecting Youth Through the Arts.

"It is critical that the youth of this nation receive the best education we can provide, and that education should include exposure to the arts," said Anita May Rosenstein.

L.A.C.E.R. commends the Wilbur May Foundation for their commitment to education equity and arts education in our community.

"In a time when arts education is being cut and arts grants are more and more restricted, the Wilbur May Foundation has been a beacon of change through their power of family philanthropy. This is the largest gift our agency has ever received, and it means the boys and girls of L.A.C.E.R. will have access to the highest quality arts education possible on campus, after school for free. We provide these arts opportunities and academic support that changes kid's lives," said Mr. William Seymour Frost, L.A.C.E.R. Executive Director.

The schools benefiting from this major grant are Hollywood and Fairfax High Schools and King, Bancroft, Le Conte and Irving Middle Schools. Classes include visual arts, rock band, marching band, Korean drumming, DJ workshops, recording and production classes, dance and drill teams. The grant not only funding instruction, class supplies and equipment; it funds performance opportunities for the students and training for instructors.

LACER is providing opportunities in the Arts, Academics, and Athletics every day after school and changing lives.

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Upcoming Wilbur May Foundation Connecting Youth Through the Arts Events

Include:

Starfest Art

Thursday, March 22nd, 2018

3:30 pm-5:30 pm at Le Conte Middle School

An art exhibition showing the works of all LACER student artists. Attended by the entire student body of LeConte M.S., all the parents of LeConte M.S., and the art students from each of the LACER program sites across Los Angeles.

Starfest Dance

Spring 2018

Students from all of LACER's dance programs join together to share their work with each other in a free community dance concert. Stay tuned for more information.



Starfest Music

Spring 2018

Music students from across all six LACER programs present their work, collaborate, and perform for their peers, family, and community in a free concert. Stay tuned for more information.

About Wilbur D. May and The Foundation

Wilbur D. May was born on December 28, 1898, in Denver, Colorado. He was the third son of David May, founder of the May Company department stores. He was a successful businessman, world traveler, and avid sportsman. Wilbur was also deeply concerned for the well-being of children and was a principal supporter of the Reno Y.W.C.A. and the Northern Nevada Children's Home, as well as countless other worthy causes. Wilbur rewarded outstanding children in the Northern Nevada Children's Home with trips to Europe, Hawai'i, and other destinations within the United States to share with them his passion for travel. May amassed an incredible travel collection as well as a fine collection of paintings and sculpture by world-renowned artists. When he died on January 20, 1982, he left plans for a museum and arboretum that were to be built to enhance the welfare and education of children. This tangible evidence of Wilbur's commitment to children is the Wilbur D. May Center, in Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, Reno, Nevada. The Wilbur May Foundation, comprised of family relatives, continue to enhance Wilbur's vision.

About L.A.C.E.R. Afterschool Programs

The L.A.C.E.R. Afterschool Program's mission is to provide underserved middle and high school youth with free arts and literacy-based after-school programs which include academic support, arts programming, and athletic activities in a safe and caring environment. The organization is a Los Angeles based local 501 (c) (3).

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