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2006 IMAGINATION CELEBRATION OPENS APRIL 23RD AND CONTINUES THROUGH MAY 21 IN 20 CITIES

People of all ages can enjoy a wide variety of activities themed "Imagination on the Move"

SANTA ANA, CA --Imagination Celebration, an annual spring arts festival for children, teenagers, and families is presented by Arts Orange County in partnership with the Orange County Department of Education. Over 50 low-cost or free events are offered in twenty Orange County cities featuring theatre, dance, music, film and visual arts. Beginning April 23rd and continuing until May 21st, the festival will feature events ranging from professional performances to student showcases, to hands-on workshops and community festivals.

The Imagination Celebration is an exciting collaboration with professional arts organizations, cities, schools, libraries, colleges, universities and community venues to offer affordable arts experiences in every Orange County community, according to Pat Wayne, Arts OC's Director of Programs and Education. The festival also provides an opportunity for organizations to jointly raise awareness to the importance of the arts and creativity. In a recent survey by the Orange County Business Council, 98% of Orange

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County residents indicated that the arts are important for a child's development and education. The festival provides many opportunities for parents to enjoy creative and educational activities with their children.

Some of the organizations participating in this year's festival include: South Coast Repertory Theatre, Laguna Playhouse, Pacific Symphony, Newport Beach Film Festival, Fullerton Museum Center, Children's Museum of La Habra, Bowers Kidseum, Irvine Barclay Theatre, UC Irvine, Chapman University, Santa Ana College, the City of Mission Viejo and the City of Cypress. Arts Orange County assists participating festival sites in event planning, provides marketing and media support and produces a festival brochure for mass distribution. For a detailed listing of events, visit www.ocImaginationCelebration.org or call 714-556-5160, X16 for a free brochure.

Major Sponsors

Major sponsors for the 2006 Festival include Robinsons-May, part of the Macy's family; the Disneyland Resort, the Orange County Department of Education, Peter and Mary Muth Foundation, C.J. Segerstrom & Sons, the Richard and Elizabeth Steele Fund, 4th District PTA and the Orange County Transportation Authority. The Orange County Register and KOCE TV, along with 30 others, provide media sponsorship.

History

Arts Orange County (Arts OC) and the Imagination Celebration of Orange County merged in September of 2005. The month-long arts festival for families and children is

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now under the management of Arts OC. Building on everything the arts council has been about for the past decade, this family arts festival provides a more public platform for cultivating creativity in our community. For the past twenty years, the Imagination Celebration has been dedicated to engaging children and families in the arts and was founded by the Orange County Performing Arts Center on a model developed by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Only five other cities in the United States are approved as official sites by the Kennedy Center: Salt Lake City, Dallas, Forth Worth, Colorado Springs and Seattle. In Orange County, the Imagination Celebration enters its 21st year and has played a major role to spark imagination and creativity in an entire generation of Orange County children.

About Arts Orange County

Arts Orange County s mission is to establish Orange County as one of the leading creative communities in America. The organization was established in 1995 as a nonprofit countywide arts council. It is the state-local partner with the California Arts Council and is the official local arts agency of the County of Orange. Arts Orange County serves as a resource and advocate for the arts community, as a catalyst for leadership on arts issues, and as a sponsor of programs and services which enhance public awareness of arts activities and promotes the development of the arts and arts education in Orange County.

ARTS ORANGE COUNTY
Building a Creative Community

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