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CITY OF LOS ANGELES ANNOUNCES FIRST CREATIVE CATALYST ARTIST IN RESIDENCE ALAN NAKAGAWA AT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

LOS ANGELES, CA (June 6th, 2016)

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The City of Los Angeles today announced Alan Nakagawa as the first Creative Catalyst Artist in Residence at the Department of Transportation (LADOT). The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) developed the Creative Catalyst Artist in Residence Program to challenge artists to work with city departments on innovative ways to connect Angelenos with the city's vision for a safer, more sustainable, and dynamic Los Angeles.

The program taps into L.A.'s unmatched creative energy and stimulates outside-the-box thinking in the city's approach to pressing issues. As the first department to receive an artist residency, Mr. Nakagawa will work with LADOT to engage on Vision Zero — a citywide strategy to eliminate all traffic fatalities by 2025.

"Art and culture are central to the vibrancy of our city's neighborhoods," said Councilmember Mike Bonin. "The Creative Catalyst Artist in Residence partnership between LADOT and DCA acknowledges the important of creatively tackling our most pressing problems to improve quality of life. Vision Zero sends an

important message that traffic deaths are unacceptable and preventable, and I look forward to Alan's imagination and ingenuity in addressing this issue across all our diverse Los Angeles communities.”

"LADOT is committed to creativity and innovation, from our renowned ATSAC system to the city's first transportation technology strategist," said Seleta Reynolds, GM of LADOT. "Alan will continue this tradition, with a focus on how we can infuse art into design to create safer streets. We welcome Alan and look forward to working on Vision Zero together."

Mr. Nakagawa's training is in studio arts, sound, and public art. His most recent position was as a Senior Public Arts Officer for LA Metro, and his past experience includes working with hundreds of communities across Los Angeles and multi-disciplinary public transportation design teams. Mr. Nakagawa has a 25 year public art administration background, and for 28 years was the lead-artist for Collage Ensemble Inc., a Los Angeles-based inter-disciplinary and inter-ethnic arts collective. This opportunity afforded him unique training in the ways to approach problems and find solutions in his hometown, Los Angeles. Over the last eight years, Mr. Nakagawa built a solo art career incorporating his diverse art and design-based experiences.

“Alan built his art career on listening. This is the starting point for all his projects – to ask the right questions, learn from experts, and develop creative approaches that balance need with aesthetics. Designing solutions that are expressive, colorful, and effective is what fuels his art making practice,” said Danielle Brazell, General Manager of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs. “This program is the perfect example of how departments can work together to tap the unlimited potential of artists in L.A. A 21st century city must embrace collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity. DCA is uniquely positioned to foster the spirit of creativity within civic government as a force for positive change.”

The Creative Catalyst Artist in Residence was selected through a community-driven process and contracted to work within the LADOT as a part-time consultant/contractor. The selection process was managed by DCA and LADOT. The selected Creative Catalyst will be contracted by DCA and receive a \$20,000 stipend for one-year, co-funded by both departments, renewable based on available funding.

“Honored and humbled, I feel that I've been training for the Creative Catalyst Artist in Residence all my life,” said Alan Nakagawa. “I look forward to adding to the vibrant cultural fabric of Los Angeles while working with diverse communities, the Vision Zero team and LADOT. Thank you for entrusting me with this privilege and unique opportunity.”

For more information about the Creative Catalyst Artist in Residence Program please contact Joe Smoke,

DCA's Grants Administration Division Director, at joe.smoke@lacity.org.

About Alan Nakagawa

Alan Nakagawa has been creating audience participatory sound experiences for the past decade. He has created a repertoire of installations and sound works that breakdown and then expand our understanding of listening and invisible form. Nakagawa is a recipient of a 2013 Cultural Exchange International Grant from DCA and a 2012 California Community Foundation Mid-Career Fellowship. He has been featured on KCET TV's Artbound and holds a Bachelors of Fine Arts from Otis Art Institute, a Masters of Fine Arts from the University of California Irvine, and is a Monbusho (Ministry of Culture and Education, Japan) Scholar. He has received training through the University of California Los Angeles Oral History Program and has lectured at various universities and nonprofit organizations. He curates the weekly experimental music webcast Ear Meal; co-founded and directed Collage Ensemble Inc., managed mural projects for the Social and Public Art Resource Center, and is currently a Senior Public Arts Officer for LA Metro.



About the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

As a leading, progressive arts and cultural agency, DCA empowers Los Angeles' vibrant communities by supporting and providing access to quality visual, literary, musical, performing, and educational arts programming; managing vital cultural centers; preserving historic sites; creating public art; and funding services provided by arts organizations and individual artists.

Formed in 1925, DCA promotes arts and culture as a way to ignite a powerful dialogue, engage LA's residents and visitors, and ensure LA's varied cultures are recognized, acknowledged, and experienced. DCA's mission is to strengthen the quality of life in Los Angeles by stimulating and supporting arts and cultural activities, ensuring public access to the arts for residents and visitors alike.

DCA advances the social and economic impact of arts and culture through grant making, public art, community arts, and strategic marketing and development. DCA creates and supports arts programming, maximizing relationships with other city agencies, artists, and arts and cultural nonprofit organizations to provide excellent service in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles.

About the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT)

The Department of Transportation leads transportation planning, design, construction, maintenance, and

operations within the City of Los Angeles. LADOT partners with other agencies to improve safe, accessible transportation services and infrastructure in the city and the region.



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