

2010 John Anson Ford Human Relations Awards

“Empowering Youth through Arts and Action”

LOS ANGELES, California (Tuesday, October 12, 2010)—The Commission on Human Relations held its 2010 John Anson Ford (JAF) Human Relations Awards, “Empowering Youth through Arts and Action,” at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration. This year, the Commission honored REACH-LA (First Supervisorial District Award) for training over 300 young women in advocacy, health and leadership education at Ramona Continuation High School in Boyle Heights, the Watts Village Theater Company (Second Supervisorial District) for addressing relations between Latinos and Blacks in South Los Angeles through community-based arts programming, The Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center’s Legal Services Department (Third Supervisorial District) for providing comprehensive culturally-responsive services to marginalized populations of LGBTQ people, the Boys and Girls Clubs of the South Bay (Fourth Supervisorial District) for continued efforts to address violence in the Harbor Gateway area and the Valle Del Oro Neighborhood Committee and the NOMAD LAB (Fifth Supervisorial District) for providing safe space for arts-based programming for youth and adults in the community of Valle Del Oro in Newhall.

The Commission also honored Grammy Award winning producer, KC Porter, with the 2010 County-wide Yvonne B. Burke Courage Award, an award created to recognize celebrities who have promoted understanding among people. Mr. Porter is widely recognized by his peers and the GRAMMY awards for his fluent translation of the universal language of music including numerous successful partnerships with artists like Carlos Santana, Janet Jackson, Luis Miguel, Ricky Martin, Chaka Khan, and Toni Braxton, helping them to cross over into new cultural markets. KC Porter’s commitment to social justice and youth development led him to co-found Oneness, a non-profit dedicated to eliminating racism and discrimination through music and the arts. His role as Creative Director of Oneness has led Mr. Porter to work on projects building cultural knowledge and improving human relations with youth from Los Angeles to Guatemala.

The reception ceremony was emceed by Chair of the John Anson Ford Human Relations Awards Committee, Commissioner Lea Ann King. JAF Awards were presented by Commission President, Dr. Sandra E. Thomas and remarks were delivered by CSS Director, Cynthia D. Banks and Commission Executive Director, Robin S. Toma, Esq.,. Awardees were later honored with a scroll presentation at the Board of Supervisors meeting.