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# INNER-CITY ARTS HOSTS ART BEYOND BORDERS: PAINTING WITH OLGA SINCLAIR, PRESENTED BY SNAP INC. ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2017

Los Angeles's Largest Participatory Art Painting Class Led by Renowned Panamanian Artist Olga Sinclair in Celebration of Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA

LOS ANGELES (Oct. 4, 2017)—<u>Inner-City Arts</u>, a leading youth arts education organization for underserved children, hosts the first-ever *Art Beyond Borders: Painting with Olga Sinclair, Presented by Snap Inc.* event in celebration of the Getty-led <u>Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA</u> (PST). Art Beyond Borders will bring together 1,000 children from <u>The Partnership for Los Angeles Schools</u> for the city's largest youth-oriented painting class led by lauded <u>Panamanian Artist Olga Sinclair</u>. This non-public event is scheduled for Sat., Nov. 4 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Inner-City Arts campus in downtown Los Angeles.

The theme of this year's *PST* is described by the Getty as "a far-reaching and ambitious exploration of Latin American and Latino Art in dialogue with Los Angeles." Building on the theme, this event emphasizes cultural and artistic expression to communicate across cultural barriers, creating a shared experience through participatory arts education.

"Art Beyond Borders serves to advance and strengthen our mission to bring arts education to Los Angeles's underserved youth," stated Inner-City Arts President and Chief Executive Officer Bob Smiland. "When children are exposed to the creative process, they are more likely to excel in school and become more engaged adults. We believe in the transformative power of creative learning to foster social equity in the communities we serve and are thrilled to host the city's largest participatory art event in celebration of PST."

Mary Ritti, Snap Inc.'s vice president of communications added, "Supporting youth and art in our local community is very important to us and we are grateful for the opportunity to partner with Inner-City Arts on this special event that celebrates the creativity of our young LA artists."

Inner-City Arts will close the 700 block of Kohler St. to street traffic, transforming it into a park-like venue for the children to paint. Each child will be given a canvas and a palette of primary colors, allowing for individual exploration and self-expression as Sinclair leads them through an instructional session. Sinclair will pay homage to her father, revered **Panamanian artist Alfredo** 

<u>Sinclair</u>, who is hailed as being the "father of abstract painting in Panama." Through the abstract art form, she will guide the group through a visual language of shape, form, color and line, allowing each child's unique perspective and style to be nurtured and explored.

"As an artist and arts advocate, I have seen first-hand the positive impact that arts education has on children," said Olga Sinclair. "Through my foundation fosart.org, we share a common goal with Inner-City Arts to expose children to the multiple facets of this curriculum. I relish in the opportunity to teach a group of a 1,000 kids in an art lesson knowing that this may spark a creative interest in a child that has been previously unknown to them. That is the power of art."

Sinclair holds the *Guinness World Record*<sup>TM</sup> for the most participants contributing to the same painting simultaneously. The record was set in 2014 when a total of 5,084 children ages 1-18 contributed to the final artwork in celebration of the Panama Canal centennial.

Art Beyond Borders is generously sponsored by The Hothem Family and Snap Inc.

#### **ABOUT INNER-CITY ARTS**

Founded in 1989, Inner-City Arts is a learning oasis in the heart of downtown Los Angeles. Under the guidance of professional teaching artists, Inner-City Arts' students are immersed in a safe and supportive environment where they engage in a variety of visual and performing art forms in studio and theater settings. Services include classes during the instructional day for elementary students, afterschool, weekend and summer workshops for teens and creativity-based professional development for educators.

Children who attend Inner-City Arts develop skills that are highly valued in the 21st-century workforce such as collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. We have also found consistent and significant gains in student proficiency in English language arts— a 15% average increase among English language learners and a 10% average increase among whole school populations where we provide services, as well as a 6.5% average gain in mathematics. More information available at: www.inner-cityarts.org.

#### ABOUT OLGA SINCLAIR / FOSART.ORG & ART BEYOND BORDERS

Olga Sinclair was born in Panama City, Panama in 1957 to the grand master painter Alfredo Sinclair. At age 14, she first participated in a group exhibition of professional artists. She studied Fine Arts in Madrid, Spain, at the Academy of Applied Arts, in London. Sinclair earned her BA degree in Interior Design from the Universidad Santa Maria la Antigua in Panama City.

Sinclair has received several awards, honors, and national and international recognition for her artistic and social work. She has had over 40 solo and 200 collective exhibitions in several continents including Asia, Europe and America. Olga is a cultural beacon in Panama serving as its Cultural Ambassador as well as serving on various foundations and national councils.

She currently chairs the Olga Sinclair Foundation (fosart.org) whose vision is to bring under served children in contact with art. She has hosted hundreds of workshops all over the world and this will be her first ever USA Workshop, *Art Beyond Borders*. For more information about the U.S. division, a501(c)(3) organization, Friends of Olga Sinclair Foundation, please visit <a href="https://www.fosart.org">www.fosart.org</a>.

#### ABOUT SNAP INC.

Snap Inc. is a camera company that believes reinventing the camera represents the greatest opportunity to improve the way people live and communicate. The company's products, Snapchat and Spectacles, empower people to express themselves, live in the moment, learn about the world, and have fun together.

Since opening their doors in Los Angeles six years ago, Snap has taken a hands-on approach to giving back -- including meaningful partnerships with local nonprofits that support youth, education, and the arts. To learn more, visit: <a href="https://www.snap.com/en-US/">https://www.snap.com/en-US/</a>.

#### THE PARTNERSHIP FOR LOS ANGELES SCHOOLS

The Partnership for Los Angeles Schools is one of the largest, in-district public school transformation organizations in the United States. Organized as a non-profit that manages 18 L.A. Unified schools to dramatically improve academic outcomes for all students through sustainable and scalable educational solutions. For more information, please visit: <a href="https://www.partnershipla.org">www.partnershipla.org</a>.

### ABOUT PACIFIC STANDARD TIME: LA/LA

For more information on the Pacific Standard Time initiative, including participating institutions and events, please visit <a href="https://www.pacificstandardtime.org">www.pacificstandardtime.org</a>.