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# Academy of Visual & Performing Arts Culver City High School

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## AVPA Students and LACMA After Dark

Culver City, CA, March 23, 2006

How many teens can say that they helped plan an event at a major metropolitan museum? Two students from Culver City High School's Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) can. AVPA art students Unique Campa (junior) and Alexa Giffen (sophomore) are both on the planning committee for the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's (LACMA) After Dark event. Giffen will also co-host the event. After Dark is an evening of art workshops, live music, dance, and friends for teens ages 13-17 (18 with valid school ID). This free event will be held on Saturday, April 1, 2006 from 7-10 p.m. at LACMA East, 5905 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles. Students will need to show a valid school or California ID.



This is the second year Campa has worked on the LACMA's event committee for After Dark. She chose to participate again because it was so much fun the first time. According to Campa, "I'm really excited about this year's event because of how many decisions the students got to make for it. I'm looking forward to the event and the experience of working on the committee has been awesome." Giffen agrees. "I'm excited to be planning it and working it as well! The people we've been working with are really great and full of ideas, so we managed to come up with some awesome stuff for the event."

Both Giffin and Campa were selected for the committee because of their involvement in LACMA's High School Internship Program. They are two of the four AVPA students selected to participate in the program in which students work with staff and exhibiting artists on special projects. Only fifteen students were selected from the entire Los Angeles area to participate in the LACMA program.

Kristine Hatanaka, director of AVPA's art program, is always thrilled when her students get internship opportunities because she sees how valuable the experiences are for them. She adds, "Getting to work on the After Dark Event Committee is such a bonus for Alexa and Unique. Working with other adults and students to put this event together gives them a broader range of experience. I can see their skills and confidence growing while at the same time they're working and having fun. I feel fortunate that my students can take advantage of this amazing educational opportunity."

The Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) at Culver City High School offers a comprehensive arts curriculum after regular school hours for students who are committed to excellence in Art, Film, Theatre, Dance, and Music. Established in 1996, AVPA enjoys tremendous support from the community as well as from Sony Pictures Entertainment and other design, recording, and theatre companies in the area. For more information about the Academy, go to [www.avpa.org](http://www.avpa.org) or contact Tony Spano at 310-842-4200 6094 or x6009.

**Photo caption:**

(L-R) Unique Campa and Alexa Giffen hold up flyers for the LACMA After Dark event they helped plan.

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