

## Los Angeles Poverty Department

(Los Angeles, CA)

### *Agents and Assets*

To support *Agents and Assets*, a performance and residency process that supports and creates awareness and stimulates organizing around drug policy reform. Los Angeles Poverty Department's (LAPD) mission is to create performance work that connects lived experiences to the social forces that shape the lives and communities of people living in poverty. This country's drug policy affects everyone in our society, but the adverse consequences of the War on Drugs have disproportionately weakened low income communities. LAPD created *Agents & Assets* in 2001 to dramatize the transcripts from the 1998 Congressional hearing about allegations of government involvement in drug trafficking in communities of color to finance the war in Nicaragua. LAPD has developed collaborations with traditional arts organizations, community-based activists and faith-based organizations working with homeless and formerly homeless clients. *Agents & Assets* was workshopped in Los Angeles and has been produced in Detroit and Cleveland. In May of 2005, it was remounted in Los Angeles at the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy and Compton Community College. In 2005-06, LAPD will engage in residencies in Philadelphia and Baltimore; develop a curriculum guide for high schools and universities; publish a book of conversations convened around the *Agents & Assets* project; create and distribute a DVD which will include a composite of the performances and interviews; conduct research about the communities and produce a theater piece with the people most impacted by the issues.

### ***Program Contribution Breakdown:***

**\$45,000** Arts and Culture Program: *Objective I, Strategy 1*

**Total Award: \$45,000 over 1 year**