

L.A. Theatre Works

(Venice, CA)

Virtual Theatre Works

Total Award: \$75,000 over 1 Year

Presidential Authority Grant

To support *Virtual Theatre Works* for the interpretation and dissemination of theater works that address issues of social justice through live theatre recordings, radio broadcasts, audio publishing and educational outreach. L.A. Theatre Works (LATW) uses innovative technologies to produce, promote and preserve significant works of dramatic literature. The organization was founded in 1974 to use theater to serve incarcerated men and women. In 1980 the founders realized that recorded plays could be a valuable teaching tool for diverse constituents throughout the country. Each year LATW records ten to fourteen shows. The recordings highlight the American canon of dramatic literature with an emphasis on telling the American experience through personal, communal and cultural perspectives. The plays and the companion curriculum have addressed such issues as; integration, separation of church and state, the House un-American Activities Committee investigation of the entertainment industry, the Chicago Conspiracy Trial, the Pentagon Papers and significant culture and class clashes in the United States. LATW will record ten or more new performances, produce an original two-hour weekly radio show called "The Play's the Thing," generate earned income from the sale of recordings from its audio theater collection, provide audio plays to more than 2,500 public secondary schools with curriculum study guides; partner with libraries to make recordings of plays available to patrons, and provide artistic residencies for children in community venues.

Program Contribution Breakdown:

\$75,000 Arts and Culture Program: *Objective I, Strategy 3*