

Freewaves

Mission

Freewaves is dedicated to the creative exhibition of the most innovative and culturally relevant independent new media from around the world. Freewaves facilitates cross-cultural dialogues by inventing dynamic new media exhibition forms at established and unconventional venues in Los Angeles, on TV and online.

Definition of media arts

Media arts include the work of artists who use communications technology – such as video, film, web and mobile phone devices. Media arts are constantly changing, as artists seize and personalize new and commercial technologies. The work in Freewaves' events ranges from animation and documentaries to installations and websites. It can be shown anywhere: in a window, projected on a screen or wall, in a club, on a street corner, in a theater, media center or library and, most often, across from a comfy couch.

Activities

Freewaves produces major biennial festivals with follow-up tours, screening events and a website for media artists, curators, teachers and students. Since 1989, the organization has shown new media work by more than 3,000 artists in venues region wide, from large-scale screenings to public television and cable programming. Educationally, our past workshops have informed artists about new digital technology and software, and teachers have received videotapes and curriculum materials to present media arts at the high school and college levels.

Growing beyond its live festival format, Freewaves expanded into a far-reaching web project for its 2006 festival, "Too Much Freedom?," moving from the dream to the reality of exponentially increasing access to contemporary media arts. In the meantime, the convergence of new, lower cost production technologies with cost-effective networking and distribution on the Internet has facilitated Freewaves' growing online archive and website of new media resources, offering artists and audiences greater access to this cutting edge art form.

Statistics for the past eleven biennial festivals over Freewaves' 20-year history include:

- 500+ total festival events
- 130,000 festival attendees
- 400,000 hits/75,000 unique visits on www.freewaves.org during the festival
- 470,000 KCET public TV viewers (50,000 per one-hour show)

Diversified viewpoints (aesthetic, economic, professional, ethnic, gender, gender preference, geographic, age and political) are inherent in every aspect of LA Freewaves.

- In the Board of Directors, advisory panelists, curatorial committees, and community organizers selected to generate, implement and evaluate our programs.
- In the gamut of artistic visions, ranging from the studied academic to the wildly idiosyncratic.
- In the many different neighborhoods and types of venues we place our workshops, festivals and other programs.

Funders

Freewaves programs have been made possible through the generous support of the following foundations and municipal entities. Most of these have funded Freewaves consistently for the past 8-13 years:

Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Benton Foundation, California Community Foundation, California Arts Council, City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Dept., Durfee Foundation, Getty Grant Program, The James Irvine Foundation, Los Angeles County Arts Commission, Liberty Hill Foundation, The MacArthur Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Peter Norton Family Foundation, Pasadena Art Alliance and The Rockefeller Foundation.