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Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa joined artists, First Lady Maria Shriver, and regional arts leaders to launch the inaugural Los Angeles Arts Month 2009, a new tradition celebrating the rich arts and diverse communities found throughout the city. During the month of January, events are planned to unite the "rich tapestry of galleries, small performance venues, and lively festivals" found throughout the city. Led by the Department of Cultural Affairs and Cultural Affairs Commission, LA INC., The Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Arts for LA, Los Angeles Arts Month represents collaboration between dozens of local arts organizations, arts and civic leaders, artists, philanthropists, and committed public and private partners.

At the center of Los Angeles Art Month, the 14th Annual Los Angeles Art Show is opening at its new location, the Los Angeles Convention Center. After achieving record-breaking sales in 2008, this year's event provides a combination of historic and contemporary art spanning five centuries with 175 prominent galleries from around the globe exhibiting at the over 200,000 square foot venue. The LA Art show is scheduled for an extended weekend show, running January 22 - 25, with an opening night Gala on Wednesday, January 21. This year's show marks the second year of an ongoing affiliation between the LA Art Show and the International Fine Print Dealers Association (ifpda) Print Fair, which is showing concurrently at the convention center.