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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**The City of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission
Hosts Screening of “Way of Openness: An Honest Exchange on
Same-Sex Marriage” on Tuesday, March 19, 2013
at Barnsdall Gallery Theatre**

(March 7, 2013-LOS ANGELES-)—The City of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission (City HRC) will host an official screening of “Way of Openness: An Honest Exchange on Same-Sex Marriage” on Tuesday, March 19, 2013 at Barnsdall Gallery Theatre. Since proposed in 2008, Proposition 8 has led to heated debates, ugly name-calling, protests, and highly aggressive public debates centered on same-sex marriage. With the awaited Supreme Court decision on the horizon, City HRC challenges diverse community members to confront these differences and preserve the inclusive spirit of Angelinos.

“The City Human Relations Commission understands the need for a deep approach beyond the street protests and confrontations,” said Paula Cruz Takash, Commission President. “We look forward to an engaging conversation that provides a platform regardless of personal position.” Along with the Foundation for Religious Diplomacy (FRD), City HRC has worked with a group of faith representatives from opposing sides to engage in a meaningful way.

“Dialogue on same-sex marriage is such a minefield because it involves people's deepest, most non-negotiable moral beliefs,” said Melissa Inouye, a consultant with FRD. “Our objective is not to achieve mutual compromise, rather mutual respect.”

Way of Openness captured the outcomes of these intimate and emotional dialogues and provides an opportunity to continue the discussion. Video participants include members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Hollywood Adventist Church, African Methodist Episcopal Church, Metropolitan Community Church, Catholic Church, and Reform Jewish Movement.

While the dialogue process was challenging, it offered a new space for honest engagement. The project proves that people can talk about difficult issues and maintain both the integrity of their beliefs and the relationships with people who have different perspectives.

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The program will start with opening remarks followed by a screening and panel dialogue.

Panelists include:

- Judy Gilliland, Interfaith Relations The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Dr. Ryan Bell, Pastor Hollywood Adventist Church
- Najuma Smith-Pollard, Pastor African Methodist Episcopal Church
- The Reverend Dr. Neil Thomas, Senior Pastor, Founders Metropolitan Community Church, Los Angeles
- Sarah Bassin Rabbi Reform Jewish Movement

This groundbreaking religious dialogue on same-sex marriage blazes a trail for other communities to follow. Join us for this riveting conversation:

Way of Openness

March 19, 2013 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Barnsdall Gallery Theatre

4800 Hollywood Boulevard

Los Angeles, California 90027

For additional information please visit:

<http://www.beyondprop8la.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/LACityHRC>

About the Human Relations Commission (City HRC):

In January of 1966, the City of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission was created to assist in assuring to all people the opportunity for full and equal participation in the affairs of City government. City HRC promotes the general welfare and safety of all residents in the Los Angeles community through activities and programs designed to reduce discrimination, tension, and violence, and to advance improved inter-group relations.

City HRC welcomes credential requests.

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