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For Immediate Release:  
Contact: Anna Chang, Communications Manager  
[anna@heididuckler.org](mailto:anna@heididuckler.org)  
213-536-5820

## BELOVED MLK OUTPATIENT CENTER DOCTOR REMEMBERED WITH FELLOWSHIP

### Dr. Kerry English, Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center Creative Fellowship *Foster Up: Bringing Foster Youth and the Arts together*

Los Angeles, CA. , July 2020 — Heidi Duckler Dance (HDD) announces the establishment of the Dr. Kerry English Creative Fellowship. English passed away in April of this year. The program is being underwritten by his widow Olga Garay-English at \$15,000 per year for the first 5 years of the program which will fund two artists and two students for a six-month residency per year.

Olga Garay-English states: *"Kerry dedicated nearly half a century to serving abused and foster children in South LA. He spent nearly as much time as an avid arts supporter. The Dr. Kerry English Creative Fellowship in association with Heidi Duckler Dance FOSTER UP program marries his two great passions: helping foster youth and the arts. It is a privilege to establish this Fellowship to honor such a compassionate and giving human being."*

HDD will serve as the lead agency for the fellowship and will be in conjunction with HDD's program FOSTER UP, which believes innovation in the youth foster care sphere is critical to the future development and long-term growth of the youth. Exposure to the arts is key to assuring them a strong, successful transition to adulthood and freeing them from the intergenerational cycle of foster care, poverty, and hopelessness.

Dr. Janet Arnold-Clark, Senior Physician at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center Pediatric Hub states: *"Dr. English was a dedicated and caring physician who devoted his career to protecting children and enriching families in South Los Angeles. In his private life he was a passionate proponent of the arts. He brought much joy to his patients and colleagues, and inspired us all to pursue social justice in our community and treat those around us with kindness. This creative fellowship will continue his legacy of supporting foster youth by giving them an incredible opportunity to express themselves through the arts."*

FOSTER UP provides opportunities for foster care youth to develop their cultural literacy, confidence, creativity, and educational goals. The goals of FOSTER UP align perfectly with Dr. Kerry English's life-long dedication to both foster and abused youth as well as to the arts. It is within this program, the fellowship awarded to 2 artists and 2 students will take place.

Heidi Duckler states: *"I am so honored to carry on this legacy and will do my very best to fulfill this covenant. Kerry and Olga have meant so much to me and my work at the MLK Medical Center campus these past few years has only amplified my core belief in social justice and the arts."*

The fellowship program will begin September 2020.

**About Dr. English:**

Dr. Kerry English, pediatrician, long time director of the pediatric division at Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center and a board member for several nonprofit family and child support organizations, was also a well-known Los Angeles theatre and arts aficionado. English was committed to caring for children and engaging with diverse communities throughout his life. His long-term relationships testify to his belief in diversity and inclusion. Raised in Southern California, Kerry spent his life as a mainstay for the medical and theatre/arts communities of Los Angeles. Throughout his life and career as a pediatrician and teacher, Kerry worked with and supported diverse and disadvantaged communities. He was medical director of the MLK Outpatient Center Foster Care HUB Clinic in Watts, director of the Child Development Division of the Pediatric Department of Drew University of Medicine and Science, and the Pediatric Department of the King/Drew Medical Center, where he worked for over 40 years.

He taught at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, as well as his medical alma mater UCLA. He did fellowships at Yale Child Study Center and King's College London. His undergraduate studies were at Washington University in St. Louis. Kerry served on the board and as chair of Drew Child Development Corporation, an organization dedicated to the education and wellbeing of at-risk children; and on the boards of El Nido Family Centers, an agency that provides support services to disadvantaged communities; and SHIELDS for Families, serving high-risk families in South Los Angeles.

**About Heidi Duckler Dance:**

Founded in 1985, Heidi Duckler Dance (HDD) continues to redefine the relationship between audience and art. HDD has developed a participatory and transparent practice in which each project is generated in collaboration with the community it serves.

Over the past 35 years, HDD has produced over 400 original works locally, nationally and internationally, creating interdisciplinary performances in many iconic locations, including: the Ambassador Hotel, LA City Hall, Van Nuys Flyaway Bus Terminal, Dunbar Hotel and on the Tall Ships at the Port of LA and in many diverse LA neighborhoods, including: Downtown LA (the Historic Core, Arts District, Produce District and Fashion District), Boyle Heights, Koreatown, Studio City, Van Nuys, Hollywood, Venice, San Pedro and South LA – as well as cities across the Greater LA Area, including: the Antelope Valley, West Hollywood, Culver City, Santa Monica, Agoura Hills, Ventura, Rancho Palos Verdes, San Bernardino and San Gabriel. Duckler also frequently creates work in Portland, Oregon with HDD's sister company, Heidi Duckler Dance/Northwest.

HDD's programs reach more than 7,500 individuals each year. Its youth arts education programs, established in 2013, have served over 10,000 youth and families at over 25 schools and community centers throughout the City, with an emphasis on low-income communities. HDD is a company of 12 resident artists and 5 staff committed to upholding inclusiveness, consciousness, vulnerability, and connectivity through their craft.

This year HDD was awarded grants for upcoming performances and arts education initiatives including; LA County Arts Commission, California Arts Council, LA Dept of Cultural Affairs, The Ralph Parsons Foundation, National Trust for Historic Preservation, DEW Foundation, California Community Foundation, Annenberg Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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