



HARTNELL COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

GALA



FOR
THE

ARTS

August 17, 2024
Willard Lewallen STEM Center





HARTNELL COLLEGE



**HARTNELL COLLEGE
FOUNDATION**

Welcome

Message from **Paulette Lynch**

Chair of Hartnell College Foundation's Council for the Arts



Dear Friends,

Your wonderful support helps the arts at Hartnell College thrive—for the benefit of our hard-working students and our supportive community. Your donation makes it possible for college staff to stretch their public dollars to ensure the best possible experiences for students and community members.

The Council for the Arts is a group of donors and leaders who volunteer our time to foster and encourage greater and greater support of the arts at Hartnell College because we admire, value and enjoy the full range of exciting programs here and those we are yet to develop.

From The Western Stage to the visual arts and music department, our artists and educators empower our students and community members to refine critical skills, sharpen creative inquiry, and explore artistic expression. At the same time, they develop strong bonds of friendship and deepen empathy toward themselves and others.

The arts have the power to transform lives in critical ways—from student development to more creative and resilient artists and communities.

Thank you for joining with us to enrich the lives of everyone who benefits from the great art programs at Hartnell College.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paulette Lynch".

Chair, Hartnell College Foundation's Council for the Arts



PROGRAM

EMCEE:

Marianne Fontes, Ed.D., Dean Arts & Languages, Learning Support & Resources

4:30 PM

Live Painting by Hartnell Students
Hors d'oeuvres, Cocktails, & Wine
Silent Auction

5:45 PM

Welcome by President Michael Gutierrez & Vice President Jacqueline Cruz
"Je Te Laisserai Des Mots" sung by Alumna Tatiana Magdaleno
Student Story by Alumna Deztenee Sanchez
Gala for the Arts Awards

6:45 PM

Silent Auction Closes
Raffle Drawing

7:30 PM

The Hunchback of Notre Dame
performance by The Western Stage (optional)

Held in conjunction with



Thank You



The Arts at Hartnell College

Hartnell College offers a diverse range of programs in the visual and performing arts, allowing students to explore both traditional and emerging techniques. These programs include drawing, painting, design, choral and instrumental performance, acting, directing, and production.

Through these courses, students develop critical skills, enhance their creative inquiry, and deepen their empathy for themselves and others. The arts programs at Hartnell maintain a crucial balance between local culture and global applications, evolving with contemporary developments while staying rooted in traditional practices.

If you are interested in supporting the arts at Hartnell College, please contact Celeste DeWald at the Hartnell College Foundation at cdewald@hartnellcollegefoundation.org or (831) 755-6810 to discuss your goals.



Thank You

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ARTS LEGACY AWARD

Burrell Leonard*

Burrell Leonard, who died in 2000 at 89, descended from a pioneering farming family in Santa Clara County. A fruit grower, his orchard became Cupertino's Vallco Park development. He played a key role in Cupertino's incorporation and growth beyond agriculture. Leonard, deeply interested in agriculture, frequently visited Salinas and Hartnell College, according to his friend Bill Hyland.

A lifelong bachelor and significant landowner in Santa Clara County, Leonard's favorite property was on Llagas Road in San Martin, where he stored farm machinery, tools, photographs, and memorabilia from the region's agricultural past. Born in San Jose, Leonard grew up on his family's 200-acre farm. His father, John Leonard, was a pioneer in diversified irrigation farming and packed fruit under the John Leonard label.

At his death, Leonard was president of the Leonard Company, a property development and management firm at Vallco Financial Center. Leonard's estate contributed to 24 charitable organizations reflecting his interests in California history, land conservation, agriculture, and the arts. At Hartnell College, Leonard established an endowed fund to support the Art Gallery in his estate.

*in memoriam



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS IN THE ARTS

José G. Ortiz

Born to a Tepehuane woman in Durango, Mexico, José G. Ortiz was brought to Salinas at the young age of nine and continued his love of art with encouragement from his elementary school teacher. After high school, José attended Hartnell College in the early 1990s, began painting sets, and was hired as the resident sculptor for The Western Stage. It was at Hartnell College that José began to realize that he could make a living as a visual art creator, and his experiences with the college community gave him a new perspective on the world. In his own words, Hartnell College was a “window to new opportunities.” He transferred to UC Santa Cruz and then started his journey as a teacher. “I found that I wanted to teach what I knew, what I love, and what I understand,” José said.

For 25 years, José has been mentoring students of all ages by offering an art studio for those living in East Salinas. He founded the nonprofit organization Hijos del Sol and, with local students, has painted more than 70 murals across Monterey County and beyond.



COMMUNITY ARTS HERO

Gail Higginbotham

For 40 years, Gail Higginbotham has used the dramatic arts to positively direct the lives of young people throughout Monterey County. In founding ARIEL Theatrical she created a safe and supportive environment for children from all walks of life where “Our finest productions are not our plays, but the responsible young people who, through our programs, learn how to conduct their lives with honor, integrity and discipline.”

After a decade of rehearsing in barns, warehouses, and driveways it was clear that ARIEL needed a permanent location to serve its growing number of participants, and Gail spearheaded a fundraising drive that resulted in the purchase and renovation of the old Ford’s Department Store, now known as the Karen Wilson Children’s Theatre in Oldtown Salinas. This venue allows ARIEL to be a stable and enduring force in the lives of Monterey County families, offering year-round programming enrolling 500 young people annually, as well as Youth Leader Training, and Community Outreach.

In 2009 Gail was honored by the Arts Council for Monterey County as the Luminary Champion of the Arts, and received the “Above and Beyond” commendation from the Salinas City Council.



THE WESTERN STAGE DISTINGUISHED HONOREES

Jeanne and Rollie Dick*

Jeanne Dick is a retired middle school English teacher, having lived in Salinas for 20 years with her husband, Rollie, an elementary school principal. Their children, Jodi and Joshua, both attended Salinas High and UC Santa Cruz before seeking masters degrees on the East Coast.

All four family members performed in numerous plays at The Western Stage and hosted many gatherings for the theater community at their home on 318 Riker Street. Over the years, they rented rooms to actors and directors, providing a supportive environment for young, aspiring artists. Every Sunday morning for many years, actors, directors, and techies would make their way to the Dick's home to take a dip in a spa room, play croquet in the backyard, mingle and drink coffee, and wait in the always long line for one of Rollie's famous waffles. Joshua christened the morning event "Spaffles," an homage to the spa and the waffles that made these events so memorable.

Jeanne and her late husband, Rollie, have been patrons, performers, and lovers of the arts, reflecting their deep commitment to fostering a vibrant theatrical community.

**in memoriam*



THE WESTERN STAGE DISTINGUISHED HONOREES

Mimi and George Niesen

Mimi and George Niesen both grew up in artistic families. Mimi's parents were professional musicians, sparking her love for singing, but she found her true passion in visual arts from an early age. She has worked extensively in fabric arts, creating stitched landscapes, and is skilled in knitting, crocheting, quilting, free-motion machine embroidery, and creative writing. George's mother was an artist and writer who studied with Chiura Obata at UC Berkeley. His great-grandfather worked on the Eiffel Tower, and his father was an aeronautical engineer, instilling a blend of practicality and artistry in the family. George majored in English and became a writer. After college and a stint in the Army, he met Mimi through his sister.

Mimi and George, married for nearly 59 years, adopted two children, Joseph and Michelle. Joseph is now a professional director and choreographer, while Michelle runs a large day care center and has a talent for interior design. In retirement, Mimi and George remain deeply involved in the arts, supporting The Western Stage and other artistic endeavors, hosting parties, housing actors, attending plays, and making lifelong friends.



THE WESTERN STAGE DISTINGUISHED HONOREES

Shirley and Tom Kiatta

The Kiatta family was introduced to The Western Stage at Hartnell College in 1983, a connection that profoundly influenced their lives. Tom, Heather (12), and Heidi (11) auditioned and were cast in *Annie* that year. Although Jenny (6) was too young to audition, she attended every rehearsal and performance in her Annie outfit. Shirley supported the theater by hosting frequent after-performance parties and housing numerous actors for the next 25 years. Tom, a seasoned folk guitarist and singer, found a new stage at The Western Stage. Heather, Heidi, and Jenny, who were active in choirs, ballet, and school plays, thrived in this environment. They continued performing there every summer throughout their school years, with Jenny returning after college. Found memories include Renaissance Feasts at Toro Park and gatherings at the homes of the Dicks, Kiattas, Niesens, and, of course, Jaime's.

The Western Stage influenced the children's educational paths, leading them to pursue theater and music. Heather earned a BA in Theater Arts from UCLA, Heidi (Hydeus) obtained a BA in Vocal Music and International Relations from SF State and pursued a master's in Vocal Jazz and Composition at USC, and Jenny received a BA in Theater Arts from UC Santa Cruz. Tom remains active in productions, while Shirley continues to be a dedicated supporter. Lifelong friendships and cherished memories were born from their involvement with The Western Stage.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE ARTS

Linda Gin



Born and raised in Salinas, Linda Gin graduated from Hartnell College and became an accountant. She soon went into banking and became a Trust Officer for Bank of America and Wells Fargo for 43 years. She retired as the Vice President-Trust Officer for Wells Fargo in December 2011.

Linda has served the public in many ways, including on the boards of the Salinas Chapter of the League of Women Voters and Hartnell College Foundation. She has served on the Hartnell College Foundation's Council for the Arts for nearly 21 years. She has also been involved with the Women's Leadership Council at CSUMB for 20 years and raises funds for re-entry students and emergency funds. She served on California's mandated Ombudsman Board, under the Alliance on Aging, and helped raise funds for volunteers' expenses in visiting long-term care facilities in Monterey County. She also was the Principal of the Chinese Mandarin School, which was under the umbrella of the Chinese Association of Salinas, where she continues to serve as Financial Secretary.

Linda married Allen Gin in 1962 and they have two sons and four grandchildren. In retirement, the Gins are traveling as much as possible.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE ARTS

Pat Horsley

Pat Horsley, born in Iowa and raised in San Francisco, pursued her passion for opera at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music while attending Capuchino High School and San Francisco State University. She has taught music and theater arts in various institutions, including the Evergreen and Salinas City School Districts, the Salinas Conservatory, and even in Shanghai, China. Currently, she manages a family business.



A performer at The Western Stage since its first season, Pat played Dulcinea in *Man of La Mancha* (1974-75) and continues to perform throughout the Monterey area. Her lifelong goals include achieving excellence in theater arts, becoming bilingual in Spanish, and traveling the world. She is also committed to helping students pursue their dreams through the arts at Hartnell College.

Pat is a dedicated volunteer, contributing her time to organizations such as The Western Stage and the Hartnell College Foundation's Council for the Arts. She has also served as a board member for the Salinas Performing Arts and the S.T.A.R. Foundation.

In her personal life, Pat married Gary and they have three daughters, Trish, Kris, and Beth, who have given her six grandchildren - and one great grandson, Hudson.



Past Honorees



2023

Lester Boronda*

Arts Legacy Award

Dr. Jeffrey Parola

Distinguished Alumnus in the Arts

David Ligare

Distinguished Community Arts Hero

Harvey Landa

The Western Stage Distinguished Honoree

Alex Garcia

Distinguished Service to the Arts

2022

Jack Killian*

Arts Legacy Award

Robert Brill

Distinguished Alumnus in the Arts

Trish Triumpho Sullivan

Distinguished Community Arts Hero

Stanley Crane

The Western Stage Distinguished Honoree

Ron Danko

The Western Stage Distinguished Honoree

*in memoriam



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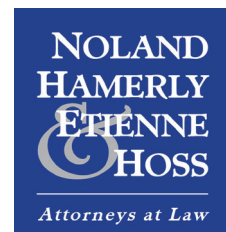
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Weston Gallery

*as of August 1, 2024





Your Legacy in the Arts

Leaving a gift through your estate to the Hartnell College Foundation is a powerful way to create a lasting legacy that ensures the college's arts programs continue to thrive. It also fosters the growth and sustainability of the vibrant arts community at Hartnell College. Gifts from your estate may be allocated to scholarships, program support, or other areas of interest. By making this commitment, you leave a profound impact on future generations of artists, helping to nurture talent and creativity for years to come.

For more information about the benefits of joining the Legacy Society, contact Kris Edmunds, Director of Philanthropy, at kedmunds@hartnellcollegefoundation.org or **use the QR code** to visit the foundation's planned giving webpage.



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