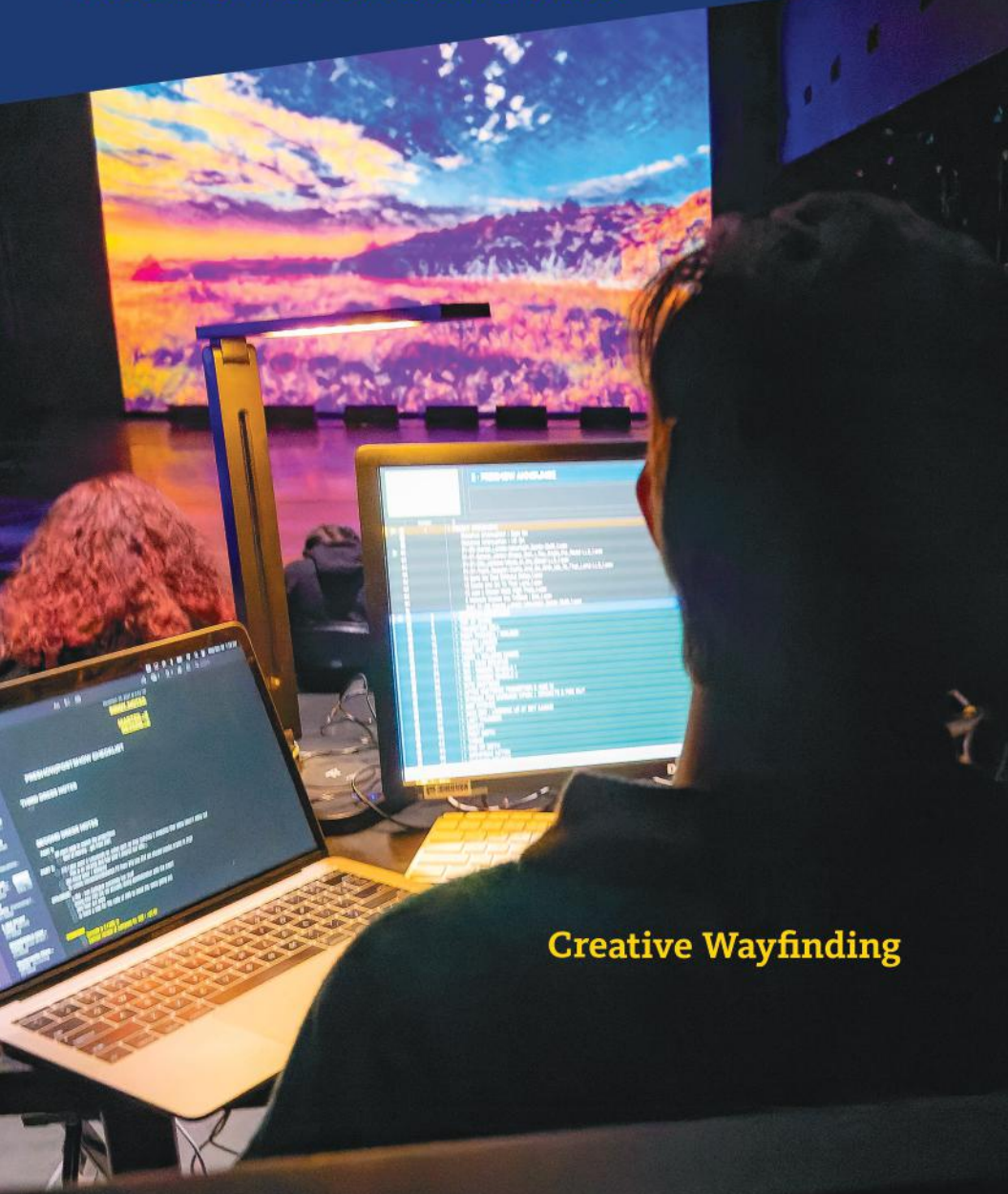


CONNECT

UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts



Creative Wayfinding

Fall 2023 Season



Photo: Will Tee Yang

Dean's Message



Dear CTSA community,

As we embark on another promising academic year, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to all of you through the pages of this issue of CONNECT. We delve into “Creative Wayfinding,” what it means to CTSA, and how it encapsulates our steadfast commitment to our students, the community and the future we are shaping together.

Creative wayfinding is not just a navigational tool; it embodies our deliberate dedication to empowering students. It presents an expansive atlas to help envision multiple potential paths for personal and artistic growth. It also includes a compass represented by our community of supporters. These tools affirm the quest for purpose and direction as a fundamental strength. Being self-reflective about where we have been, where we are, and want to go is the fuel for making powerful connections to self, work and community.

An important blueprint for creative wayfinding lies in the shared experiences of those who have walked similar paths before us. Witnessing fellow travelers in the full bloom of their journeys cultivates a sense of belonging and leads to recognizing how our individual talents provide a beacon that illuminates our trajectories and widens pathways. Ultimately, when we see other people like ourselves ahead on the road, in the fullness of their journey, it inspires us to feel in community and to realize that our gifts are opening doors even wider for the next generation.

In this issue, we meet many people who show the power of creative wayfinding in how they advocate for our students and communities. They are forging pathways, nurturing relationships and being change agents. You will meet several faculty who mentor and empower our students to find their path, whether well-defined or trailblazing. You will learn more about our new Arts Launch Program, made possible by our generous partner Steve Sorensen, which will produce professional pathways for both regional arts organizations and our students. You will read about many of our art students, including alumni who built the Phase Gallery and are creating space for other alums to exhibit and meet, and current M.F.A. candidate Alberto Lule, who will present a thought-provoking exhibition with Professor Liz Glynn in the fall.

In the spirit of Creative Wayfinding, let us stride forward together, embracing the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. I wish us all an inspiring and transformative year ahead.

Tiffany Ana López, Ph.D.
Dean



CONNECTIONS

Creative Wayfinding

Roadmaps in the Claire Trevor School of the Arts guide students to artistic success



ANTEATERS IN THE ARTS

More than Just a Phase

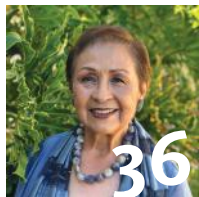
L.A. gallery helps UCI Art students and alumni, as well as other alumni stories



GIVING

Creating a Professional Pipeline

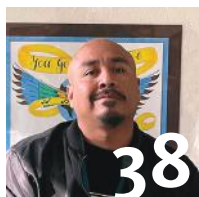
Long in the planning, generous support from donor is the catalyst behind the Arts Launch Internship Program



ARTS ADVOCATES

Empowering Youth

Meet Socorro Vasquez, a community leader who is passionate about bringing arts to young people across the OC



STUDENT RESEARCH

Change Agent: Leading the Way

Third-year M.F.A. artist teams up with professor for 'Affective Resistance' exhibition



2023 FALL SEASON

UCI's Community Connector

The beginning of the season is the perfect opportunity to connect with friends and family by attending a cultural offering

CONNECT

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Nat Houle, M.F.A. '23, tests new design software in the Experimental Media Performance Lab (xMPL). Photo by Paul R. Kennedy

Email questions or comments to artsmarketing@uci.edu.



A Night of Laughter at the New Swan

Members of the Claire Trevor Society and the New Swan Shakespeare Society gathered on August 1, 2023, at the New Swan Shakespeare Festival for "A Night with Claire Trevor School of the Arts." The evening was filled with laughter and celebration as guests enjoyed a captivating performance of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) (revised) (redone)* and a delightful pre-reception at the Irvine Barclay Theatre.

Photo: Jeanine Hill

Creative Wayfinding

*Roadmaps in the Claire Trevor School of the Arts
guide students to artistic success*

By Christine Byrd



When emerging artists come to the Claire Trevor School of the Arts, they encounter more than an art school. Students find themselves at a top-10 public research university nestled in Orange County's vibrant natural and cultural ecosystem.

"We want students who come here to understand that they have this extraordinary landscape, and we want to give them creative wayfinding so that they can be intentional about optimizing the opportunities — and understand how we're different than any other arts school," explains Tiffany Ana López, dean of CTSA.

The notion of creative wayfinding draws on a popular practice of helping people orient themselves in large and unfamiliar environments, like color-coded directions in an airport, or a digital app in an amusement park. Cultivating creative leaders requires creatively signaling the way.

"We're painting a roadmap of activities and touchpoints all across the Claire Trevor School of the Arts and in the community in a way that's both intentional and design-minded," López says. "Creative wayfinding makes legible the opportunities and pathways available to students."

López points to life-changing examples of wayfinding in her own career. First, a mentor encouraged her to become a professor when she was just an undergraduate. Then, when she was an assistant professor at the start of her career in academia, a UC leadership academy planted the seeds for her to become a future administrator. López now wants to facilitate these kinds of significant directional moments for arts students at UCI.

"Students come to us knowing that they are artists, so it's very important for us to shape them in their journey not only as artists but to help them become creative leaders — whether that's running a foundation, starting a podcast or joining professional projects," López says. "When our students can tap into creative wayfinding, it's like rocket fuel, taking them farther faster."

Image: Dean Tiffany López visits with a student at the 2023 Summer Academies in the Arts.

Photo: Will Tee Yang



Lonnie Alcaraz

Professor, Department of Drama

Since the 1990s, when Lonnie Alcaraz was an M.F.A. student in the Claire Trevor School of the Arts, he sought opportunities for artists of color to connect and share their stories on stage. His professional work as a lighting designer with South Coast Repertory's Hispanic Playwrights Project and the founders of the comedy troupe Culture Clash, furthered his connection to his own Mexican heritage — and fueled his desire to share that with drama students. So, after returning to UCI as a faculty member, Alcaraz founded Brown Bag Theatre in 2009, giving voice to Latinx students and providing ample opportunities to network with industry professionals.

Since its first production, *Loa to Divine Narcissus* in 2011, the troupe has grown

into a robust group of 20-30 students, mostly undergraduates, who choose shows to produce each year and create new works.

“Our students get exposed to a lot of plays and companies from the Latinx theater world, and they discover there’s a rich history there,” says Alcaraz, professor of lighting design. “We’re educating them on where they come from, and that helps them develop a focus, an identity.”

Despite her Mexican-American heritage, Heather Lee Echeverria, '20, M.F.A. '23, had never played a Latinx character on stage until she joined Brown Bag Theatre. Once she did, it transformed her notions of what she could do with her art.

Image: The cast and crew of Brown Bag Theatre's production of Mojada gather for a group photo, including Dean López, who mentored the show's student dramaturge.



“After shows, students would come up to us and say they’d never seen their stories told on stage before and how impactful it was for them,” Echeverria says. “As a theater artist, I realized I want to make sure those stories are told — and my career is shifting a little because I want to do that.”

Alcaraz, who still works professionally as a lighting designer, has the connections to bring some of the shining stars of the Latinx theater world to meet with UCI students. Recent Brown Bag guests include playwrights Luis Alfaro, José Cruz Gonzalez and Karen Zacarias as well as Culture Clash co-founders Herbert Siguenza and Ric Salinas. There is also a growing network of Brown Bag alumni who now work professionally in theater and maintain ties to the organization that helped shape them.

“It’s not just the family aspect of Brown Bag and having that connection, but also there’s this huge network of people

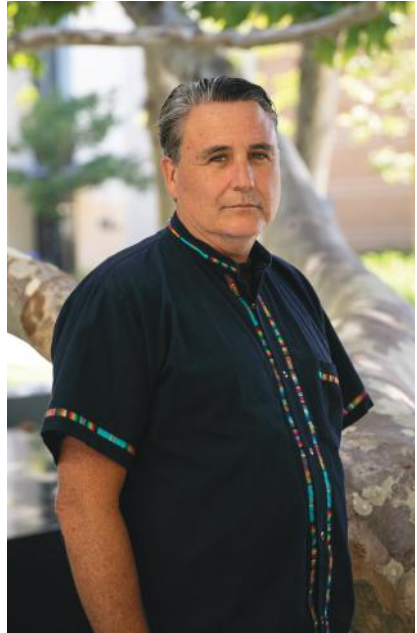


Image: Lonnie Alcaraz

Photo: Emily Zheng



outside of UCI who are either alumni of the program or who know about and support our work,” says Echeverria.

Students with Brown Bag Theatre experience under their belt graduate with the skills and knowledge to put together an entire theater production from start to finish. Alcaraz matches students with faculty or graduate student mentors in playwriting, dramaturgy, production, direction, costume design, or whatever they need to succeed in staging their entirely student-led productions.

“Many of our alums are actively involved in their current jobs because of things they did while in Brown Bag,” says Alcaraz. “It’s such an important part of what they did while at UCI.”

Brown Bag Theatre members also help create the next generation of Latinx theatermakers. Each year, the group visits high schools in Costa Mesa, Santa

Ana and Laguna Beach to talk about undergraduate life at UCI and share their experiences as drama students.

What Alcaraz is most proud of, though, is the leadership skills students like Echeverria develop through their involvement. After taking a backseat for her first two years in Brown Bag Theatre, Echeverria remembers Alcaraz approached her, “He said, ‘Heather, I want to see more leadership from you’ — and it catapulted me into all of this.”

“Many of our alums are actively involved in their current jobs because of things they did while in Brown Bag.”

“All of this” includes producing *Culture Clash in AmeriCCa* for Brown Bag in 2019, working with South Coast Repertory, and helping Alcaraz produce a community-engaged play for the Great River Shakespeare Festival in Minnesota over two summers. This summer, Echeverria was back at UCI performing in the New Swan Shakespeare Festival, before seeking her next professional theater job.

“Lonnie has set up Brown Bag as a place to really learn how the professional theater world works. If I ever needed to self-produce a show with other people, I could totally do that now,” Echeverria says. “Brown Bag has been so important to me throughout my entire journey.”

Image: Lonnie Alcaraz (right) mentors his lighting design students during a rehearsal for the spring 2023 musical, *RENT*.

Photo: Jaime DeJong





Amanda Ross-Ho

Professor, Department of Art

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As a sculptor preparing a gallery exhibition, a public art project, and a book — while simultaneously teaching in the Claire Trevor School of the Arts — professor Amanda Ross-Ho knows firsthand the delicate balancing act required of any working artist.

“One of the important aspects of being a research professor is that you’re not in theoretical space with your students; you’re holding the stakes as well,” Ross-Ho says. “I’m navigating many of the same things that they are, only at a slightly different phase of growth and development.”

Those who earn an M.F.A. from UCI may pursue any number of careers — professional artist, curator, faculty at an art school or even a scientist who leverages art. For many, building a successful life as an artist will require juggling multiple roles, just like Ross-Ho does as an artist and university professor.

For each student, success as an artist may look different, and a crucial step in their creative wayfinding process is clarifying what kind of artistic life they want and how best to leverage their own skills and preferences to achieve it.

“There’s not a cookie-cutter way to set the goalposts for each student, because each person’s definition of success in the field is very personalized, and the



“...it requires bravery
for a student to go
down a path that
has not already
been blazed.”

field itself is not monolithic,” Ross-Ho explains.

For Ross-Ho, there is a constant push and pull between her roles as a teacher and mentor and life as a creator and artist. But this tension helps connect her deeply to her students.



“Mentorship isn’t just top-down,” she says. “I can offer professional and artistic experience, but really it’s about achieving enough understanding of one another that I can help them with their best path. It’s hard because it requires bravery for a student to go down a path that has not already been blazed.”

A sense of community can help students and alumni navigate the inherent challenges of building an artistic life and blazing a new path. Ross-Ho notes that several recent graduates have established spaces in Southern California such as Phase Gallery and After Hours Gallery where they show each other’s work, hold intramural critiques, and continue dialogues that they began as students.

“A lot of friendships that start in grad school become very strong because these are the people who were witnesses to your own growth, and they become part of your artistic network in the future,” Ross-Ho says. “This is important because art production isn’t only making objects and placing them on display. There are the discursive, community and world-building aspects, too.”

To create an ideal artistic life, Ross-Ho urges students to think about their specific requirements for producing their best work as artists. Are you a morning person or a night owl? Do you thrive in social settings or solitude? Does the buzz of the city invigorate you, or do you prefer the solitude of nature?

“What, truly, are the conditions that help you make your best work?” she says. “It’s not just more space, more time, more money. Sometimes an

Image: Amanda Ross-Ho

Photo: Teddy Wolff

economy of means allows us to respond to limitations and makes us more productive.”

“With art, the name of the game is sustainability,” she adds. “Part of what you figure out is not just how you will make art but how you will sustain that socially, emotionally, as a person.”

Ultimately, guiding art students through the process of creating their own artistic practice helps ensure Ross-Ho follows her own advice in fostering an artistic life.

“It’s important to be an example to my students and to hold myself up against the same standards that I’m asking of them,” she says. “It raises my sense of urgency to keep generating and moving forward with my own work, knowing we’re in mutual commitment to one another.”

Sarah Koo Freeman

Lecturer, Department of Music



As a resident assistant at The Juilliard School on 9/11, Sarah Koo Freeman helped her classmates evacuate their dorms safely. Then, desperate to do something to help in the crisis and chaos, she led her fellow musicians with their instruments to play outside the armory where families were waiting for news of their loved ones.

“We tried to bring solace and comfort through music,” she says. “There really is outreach that can be done with music, and I want to impart that to every generation.”

Now, as a lecturer in the Department of Music, Koo Freeman brings that lesson to the Claire Trevor School of the Arts.

Image: Sarah Koo Freeman leads a class of 9th- to 12th-grade students in a two-week chamber music intensive at the 2023 Summer Academies in the Arts.

Photo: Will Tee Yang



During the Summer Academies in the Arts, 9-12 graders from around Southern California and even across the country come to UCI for a two-week chamber music intensive. Students experience playing music in the smaller grouping that distinguishes the genre from orchestra and gain new perspectives on the role of music in their lives.

Koo Freeman discusses career development, and students build a portfolio with their resume, bio and headshot to use on college applications. She also talks to them about the transferable skills they are gaining as musicians.

“Myself and my colleagues have always had to be multifaceted in our music careers, so it’s important for students to know that every minute they are pouring into their musical studies is not one-dimensional,” says Koo Freeman. “If they decide not to play cello the rest of their lives, they are still learning skills that they can use to be a doctor or lawyer or any other career.”

“We have this collaboration at all these different stages of a musician’s life – professional, college students and high school students.”

It’s not only the high school students who benefit from the summer program.

“What excites me most about our program here, and what’s really unique, is that we incorporate our current UCI students as faculty,” says Koo Freeman. “We have this collaboration at all these different stages of a musician’s life – professional, college students and high school students.”



Image: Sarah Koo Freeman

Photo: Will Tee Yang

“It’s amazing to see our UCI students step into their own as teachers but also to be observing me leading classes and learning from that,” she adds.

UCI chamber music students engage in K-12 outreach throughout the academic year as well. Each quarter, a local high school group tours the campus and visits her chamber music class, where UCI students give a presentation about the composer and the piece they are learning before performing.

“We’re teaching our college students to educate others from the stage and to share music with our community,” she says.

Koo Freeman intentionally chooses works from lesser known and underrepresented composers – women like Jessie Montgomery and Reena Esmail – to introduce to her students and for them to perform for the younger students.

“We’re trying to expose the next generation to these fantastic works by underrepresented composers that should be in the canon next to Beethoven and Brahms but just aren’t,” she says. “We can preserve the beauty of the old while also forging new paths to challenge ourselves and challenge the next generation.”

Music, Koo Freeman believes, is a universal language; one that can bring hope and comfort. She’s known to UCI students for helping them use music in the community, such as raising money to help a fire department during California wildfires, or traveling to Las Vegas to play outside the site of the Route 91 mass shooting.

“There are moments that I hope music can be healing,” she says. “I want to impart to every generation that comes through — whether that’s K-12 students or our college students — that they have the power to use music as a means of outreach and connection in the community.”

Charlotte Griffin

Assistant Professor,
Department of Dance

Charlotte Griffin, assistant professor of dance, poses a question to first-year students in the Modern 2 class each year: What are you doing over the summer? As they go around the circle, most of the students share their plans for summer jobs.

Then, Griffin tells them about UCI’s Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP), Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP), the Medici Scholarship funded by Claire Trevor School of the Arts donors, and opportunities through local arts councils or other scholarship programs that could advance their dance education through the summer.

A dance teacher is like a textbook, Griffin explains. Students need exposure to as many different ones as possible as they create their own life in dance.



Photo: Will Tee Yang

Image: Charlotte Griffin teaches a choreography class after classes resumed on campus in 2021.



“We talk about what intensive study means, and how with the embodied knowledge of dance, you’re studying in depth with one teacher, one text, and it behooves you to go to other texts or other teachers,” Griffin explains.

She also encourages students to consider opportunities such as working as a counselor for young dancers in a summer program and, in exchange, receiving reduced tuition for the pre-professional program. Or exploring work-study roles in productions.

The following year, in the Modern 3 class, Griffin again asks the question of her students.

Image: Charlotte Griffin

Photo: Skye Schmidt

“At that point, they always blow my mind because they’ve started their own wayfinding,” she says. “Many have UROP or SURP funding, they’re doing not just one but two or even three summer intensives. They’re creating new artistic networks, and they’re inspired.”

Frankie Peji, a third-year dance major, completed three intensives this

summer: Open Doors North America, LA Contemporary Dance Company and Authenticity Dance Company, all with scholarships or a discount.

"I enjoy soaking up lots of new information and dancing with lots of new people," says Peji. "The summer intensives helped me form new opinions on movement that are different than what I get from my training at UCI."

The dance curriculum at UCI, which requires students to take classes in

"They've started their own wayfinding. They're creating new artistic networks, and they're inspired."

modern, ballet, jazz and hip-hop, has also expanded Peji's horizons. Although she came to UCI focused on commercial dance, she says her modern dance classes and performing in a modern piece in *Dance Visions* last year have caused her to shift that focus slightly.

"The dance department does a great job of allowing dancers to explore different opportunities through courses, performance opportunities, and giving us time to explore classes in L.A. or O.C.," she adds. "I feel that I've grown so much from the experiences in the work I do outside of the Claire Trevor School of the Arts throughout the year."

The change in dancers upon their return from summer intensives is subtle but profound.

"Their focus is sharper, their motivations are more independent, their aesthetic horizons have expanded, they are more seasoned," Griffin says. "It's a beautiful growth and development process."

While many UCI dance majors choose professional careers in concert dance, musical theater or commercial dance, others earn certificates in pilates or yoga or pursue arts administration. Some double major in areas including psychology, education and sciences, preparing them for diverse careers across sectors.

"Our students are really smart and incredibly hardworking, and many activate a dual profile as dancers," Griffin says.

No matter the career path that students ultimately pursue, the skills honed as dancers will serve them well.

"Dancers develop persistence, resilience, creative problem solving, and capacity for collaboration and self-reflection that apply to many areas of life," Griffin says. "As dancers, we're sharing breath, we're sharing motion, we're sharing space, in a way that requires both individual responsibility and collective unity. That's really a foundation for all of life."

Learn more about the various department programs and faculty at www.arts.uci.edu.

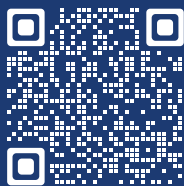
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UCI Claire Trevor
School of the Arts



Anteaters in the Arts

Chantrell M. Lewis to be Honored at Orange County Arts Awards

By Mia Hammett

At 26, Chantrell M. Lewis (M.F.A. '22, Drama) has built a strong arts career in service of other people. A creative polymath devoted to all things arts and education, Lewis is a multi-talented performer, author and teaching artist who treats the impact of her work with sincere optimism. Lewis is a firm believer in achieving wellness through the performing arts, literacy, and access to education across disciplines.

Lewis is the proud recipient of this year's Emerging Artist/Arts Leader award by Arts Orange County (ArtsOC). The award recognizes Lewis for her contributions to arts education and accessibility in Orange County. The gala event will take place on Oct. 17 in the Samueli Theater at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa.

Adding to her growing list of accolades, Lewis has also received this year's California Creative Arts Fellowship, the Individual Artist Fellowship from the California Arts Council, and was named a 2023 Community Engagement Grantee.

Lewis is the founder

and executive director of The Jar of Sunshine Inc. — a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to bolstering art, literacy and general wellness for women and children in traditionally underserved or low-funded communities. Collaborating with crisis centers, shelters, and community centers, the organization offers arts education programming year-round.

“I try to focus on bringing in people who have a demonstrated history of professionalism in those industries and people who can bring specific insight and are sensitive to working with different groups of people to make these programs accessible,” said Lewis.

Thinking about the future of her organization, Lewis considers the possibility of owning a location — a building where her arts and literacy programming can take root, grow, and offer extended resources.

When prompted to consider what motivates her, Lewis explained how inspiring it is to see the social transformations affected by her work.

“Something I always see, especially toward the last couple of weeks of me being in a certain place,



is everybody being more comfortable with each other and with themselves,” said Lewis. “I feel like that evolution sometimes has to happen in order for a community to actually function as a community. That structure really solidifies after a theater class or a dance class.”

Lewis believes that making the social and emotional benefits of arts education as public as possible would not only encourage funding and support for programming but raise needed attention to the fundamental significance creative and performing arts has on developing youth and communities alike.

As Lewis enters her third year as Teaching Artist in residency at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts, she will continue to work with Disney on Broadway’s “Disney Musicals in Schools” program. Lewis will train faculty on how to produce sustainable musical theater programs with little-to-no budget.

She’s excited to continue her working relationship with Segerstrom: “I can’t say enough how much I love working for them, how important they’ve been to me in getting my footing in Orange County, and how much they support me in everything I do.”

Looking forward, Lewis is excited to earn her teaching credential, continue building her nonprofit organization, and start work in the fall as a teacher for the Musical Theatre Conservatory at OCSA at the Orange County School of the Arts.

“Special thank you to my family and friends who continue to believe in me, CTSA, SCFTA, Dance Arts Academy and OCSA,” said Lewis. “I’m pushing on and continuing to blossom in my artistry and my professional career.”

Learn more about Chantrell Lewis on her website at www.chantrellewis.com. To learn more about Arts Orange County, visit artsoc.org.

Image: Chantrell Lewis working with students at a dance and music after school program.

Photo: Courtesy of Chantrell Lewis



More than Just a Phase
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More than Just a Phase

L.A. Gallery Helps UCI Art Students and Alumni

By Richard Chang



Just a Phase

According to the American Heritage Dictionary, a phase is a temporary manner, attitude or pattern of behavior.

But a temporary art space in Los Angeles founded by a UC Irvine M.F.A. graduate seems to have left a lasting impact.

Phase Gallery — located on Albion Street in the industrial Lincoln Heights neighborhood of L.A. — has been showcasing numerous UCI art students and alumni since its opening in March 2022. About 10 out of 14 shows the gallery has organized have featured UCI graduate students and alumni.

Ewa Słapa, M.F.A. '18, started Phase Gallery with a partner, renting an 1,800-square-foot space with high ceilings that used to be an office.

“That was the first idea — to make it a gallery space,” said the Polish-born sculptor and installation artist. “We knew it was going to be a temporary event space. This is just one iteration of the space. For us, it was the temporality of it, the impermanence of this endeavor — it’s a phase, just part of the time was devoted to this activity.”

Over the course of 19 months, Phase has presented intriguing, cutting-edge art shows, many exploring the experimental boundaries of contemporary art. Phase has been a beacon for original art, performances, crowded receptions, lively discussion

“I think part of it is the strength of the UCI program... they come more prepared and more ready and more integrated as artists.”

and intellectual engagement. It has served as a safe, exploratory space that’s not really designed — or adherent to — the whims of commercial art sales.

“In general, people who (we featured) are formed artists already,” Słapa said. “They are seeming to be ready for holding the space on their own. The quality of the work was there. I think part of it is the strength of the (UCI art) program. There’s a very good selection

Image: Installation shot of an exhibition at Phase Gallery.

Photo: Courtesy of Phase Gallery



ALUMNI





Image: The Quadruple gathering on June 5, 2022, brought together 33 M.F.A. students from UC Irvine, UC Riverside, UC San Diego and UCLA.

of people. They go through a lot in three years, and they come more prepared and more ready and more integrated as artists, clear, and with strong practices. It's a testament to the program itself."

Kim Garcia, M.F.A. '18, a classmate and friend of Słapa's, participated in a group show, *The Cold Read*, in May-June 2022, and had a solo exhibition called *Smoking in the Garden* in May-June 2023. The title was a play on her middle name, *Fumar*, which means "to smoke" in Spanish.

"It is a gorgeous space. I was so excited when Ewa invited me to have a solo exhibition because the space lends itself to sculpture," Garcia said. "I think organizing the 'Cold Read' group show a year before gave me ideas of how the space could host work, on top of the amazing roster of shows that were exhibited in the space. I was really excited to build a body of work specifically for that space."

Garcia, a second-generation Filipina American, grew up in San Diego, and graduated with a bachelor's in studio art from UCSD. At UCI, she obtained her M.F.A. in art, with an emphasis on sculpture, although she has done drawings, paintings on sculpture and videos as well.

"..we should use those connections to help our grad students to expand their network of emerging artists."

Garcia has had solo shows in San Diego and at UCI, but *Smoking in the Garden* at Phase Gallery was her first solo exhibition in Los Angeles.

"It was exhilarating to have not only a solo exhibition in L.A., but have a very generous exhibition space to



Photo: Courtesy of Phase Gallery

produce a substantial body of work for,” she said. “I’m really grateful for the experience and hope that it opens new opportunities in the near future.”

Other UCI graduates who have enjoyed solo shows at Phase Gallery include: Gosia Herc-Balaszek, Amy MacKay, Jackson Hunt and Chris Warr.

Faculty On Board

Phase Gallery has also caught the attention of current UCI arts faculty. Jennifer Pastor, a sculptor, visual art professor and associate chair of graduate studies, helped organize *Quadruple*, an intramural UC M.F.A. pop-up show and critique. The June 2022 event brought together 33 M.F.A. students from UCI, UC Riverside, UC San Diego and UCLA. Seven critique participants installed large or longer-term projects for the group critique, including current UCI

M.F.A. students Gintaute Skvernyte and Devin Wilson.

“Because I started teaching at UCSD, came from UCLA, and now teach at UC Irvine, that represents different UC campuses,” Pastor said. “It just seemed like we should use those connections to help our grad students to expand their network of emerging artists.”

Pastor said the focus and organizational force behind *Quadruple* stemmed from a past project that was developed around a critique class that she taught. “I wanted to extend the invitation among other graduate students and emerging artists, who are having similar conversations and emerging together. They should know each other.”

Other UC faculty who ran the critique and discussion included Amy Adler from UCSD and Yunhee Min from UC Riverside.



Image: Ewa Slapa

Photo: Courtesy of Phase Gallery

UC faculty participants included Amanda Ross-Ho, Anna Betbeze, Anna Sew Hoy, Anya Gallacio, Brandon Lattu and Lynne Marsh.

Śłapa said the *Quadruple* show and critique were “really great.” “A lot of people came. They were very eager, very positive, very engaged. It seemed like it was very helpful — people were friendly and collaborative. For me, it really showed how similar discussions can be, and how unifying too. It’s really just talking about art in the most engaged way you can.”

Pastor said she’s thankful for Śłapa’s countless volunteer hours as well as her energy and determination to create a space for young and emerging artists who are still in or not too far out of art school.

“Art is a very difficult field,” she said. “It’s competitive, like the music industry. Ewa opened her own gallery — she said screw it. She just did something, and she was able to do this. It’s going to be temporary, but they’re making their own context. They’re not waiting around for the commercial art world or other art worlds. For intellectual and creative reasons, they should be making new contexts for themselves. It’s something you do because you’re really driven by desire to create something that you think is important in a cultural conversation.”

After-Phase

Śłapa will close Phase Gallery at the end of September with a solo show of her own sculptural works. She and fiancé Brad Howe aim to reopen Phase in Malibu in September or October.

“There is a house that we are thinking of turning into this gallery,” she said. “There’s a lot of outdoor spaces, which are being covered with concrete for different types of events, like outdoor sculpture. You have to change a little



Image: Smoking in the Garden Installation by Kim Garcia at Phase Gallery, on view from May 13 - June 10, 2023.

Photo: Courtesy of Kim Garcia

bit, but we are trying to adapt it and continue.”

As she works toward the future, Śłapa looks back on her UCI art education with gratitude. Some of her most influential instructors included Pastor, Ross-Ho, Daniel J. Martinez, Monica Majoli, Kevin Appel and Simon Leung.

“All the people I worked with were very helpful, smart and sophisticated,” Śłapa said. “I’m so thankful there was space for thinking about art, as well as the time and attention toward discussing that art, with a lot of support and wonderful feedback. I really appreciated this time. It was a lot of growth for me.

“There was enough challenge and support — I think there was a really good balance of both.”

Learn more about Phase Gallery at its website, www.phasegallery.com.

May your passion for the arts live on

Everyone wants to leave a mark, to be remembered for having a positive impact on the world. We do it through our work, through how we treat other people, and through charitable actions and contributions. How will you be remembered? Making a gift to the Claire Trevor School of the Arts through your will captures your values and creates a lasting legacy for you and your family. Many passionate arts supporters, like you, have already committed a gift in their plans because they want to share the joy of the arts with future generations.

In addition to helping shape tomorrow's arts leaders, an estate gift to UCI can bring you tax benefits and lifetime income streams.

For more information about how you, too, can have your passion for the arts live on, please contact Sarah Strozza at (949) 824-0629.



UCI Claire Trevor
School of the Arts

Class Notes

UCI Professor and alum **Joel Veenstra (M.F.A. '11)** received the 2023 Oscar Brockett Outstanding Teacher Award from the Association for Theatre in Higher Education. Known for his expertise in theatrical management, collaborative production and improvisation, Veenstra serves as vice-chair of Drama and co-head of Stage Management in the Department of Drama at UCI. Veenstra teaches stage management, improv and foundational courses at UCI. Moreover, he actively participates on the boards of prestigious professional organizations such as the Stage Managers' Association and the Applied Improvisation Network. He co-founded the Global Improvisation Initiative and has collaborated with prominent organizations, including Cirque du Soleil and Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Veenstra uses



these networks to ensure his students access essential resources to achieve their professional goals.

(Read the full story at www.arts.uci.edu)

Alumna **Jimena Sarno (M.F.A. '14)** recently joined the faculty as an assistant professor of Art in the College of Arts and Humanities at Cal State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH). Sarno is an interdisciplinary artist and educator from Buenos Aires. She works across a range of media, including installation, sound, video, text and sculpture, focusing on spatial and sonic experience. Her work has been exhibited in solo and group exhibitions at MASS MoCA, 18th Street Arts Center, LACE, Vincent Price Art Museum, Visitor Welcome Center, The Museum of Latin American Art, The Mistake Room, and San Diego Art Institute, among others. Sarno is a recipient of the 2021 California Arts Council Individual Fellowship, the 2015 California Community Foundation Fellowship for Visual Artists, and a



2019-2023 Lucas Artist Fellow in Visual Arts at Montalvo Art Center.

Tuan Andrew Nguyen (B.F.A. '99) has been named the recipient of the prestigious 2023 Joan Miró Prize. The Fundació Joan Miró and the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, located in Barcelona, Spain, jointly awarded Nguyen for his outstanding achievements. The prize is awarded biannually to contemporary artists whose work embodies the same spirit of exploration, innovation, commitment and freedom that marked the Surrealist artist's life and work.

The Vietnamese American artist began his life as a refugee when his family arrived in the U.S. in 1979. He

graduated from the Department of Art with a B.F.A. and a digital arts minor. His experiences have profoundly shaped his artistic practice. Nguyen's creative oeuvre, spanning video, film and sculpture, engages with intricate themes such as collective memory, displacement and colonization.

The prize jury praised Nguyen for his unique artistic vision, allowing him to address complex chapters of modern history with a touch of playful and poetic clarity. In addition to a cash prize, Nguyen will also be granted a solo exhibition at the renowned Barcelona institution in 2024.

caryn desai (M.F.A. '90) served as the alumni marshal for the 2023 CTSA commencement. Desai is an artistic director and producer for International City Theatre. She is an award-winning director and Stage Directors and Choreographers Society member. She is a decorated scholar with degrees and certificates from prestigious institutions, including UCI, the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, London, and Stanford. She taught college for more than 25 years and received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Long Beach City College. She served as a Dramaturgical Responder for the graduate playwriting students at USC and served as vice chair for the LA Producers League for Large Theatres. In 2016 she was the keynote speaker at the Disneyland Hotel for INTIX. That same year she accepted the L.A. Drama Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Season and was recognized as a 2016 Community Hero by the African American History & Culture Foundation. In 2018 caryn was



named Distinguished Alumna from the College of the Arts at California State University, Long Beach. She recently returned to teaching Theater Management at California State University, Fullerton, and was named to the Long Beach City College Hall of Fame for 2020.

For UCI Alumni resources, visit engage.alumni.uci.edu

Are you an Arts Alum? Learn ways to stay connected at www.arts.uci.edu/alumni.
Questions or stories? Contact artsalumni@uci.edu.



Harmonizing Across the Emerald Isle

In June, Dr. Irene Messoloras, professor and director of choral activities in the Department of Music, orchestrated a remarkable trip for the UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts Chamber Singers. The premier ensemble spent a week in Ireland touring and performing as part of the American Songbook Choral Festival. The festival focused on the folk-inspired music of composer and songwriter Shawn Kirchner, set against the backdrop of Ireland, a land known for its traditional music. Throughout the trip, students explored numerous local and national attractions, including the Antrim Coast, Giants Causeway and Cliffs of Moher. The ensemble performed concerts and recitals at Kylemore Abbey, Dublin City University All Hallows campus, and completed a recording session at Maynooth University. They were also granted the privilege of performing in several historically significant locations across the country, including Derry, Dublin and Galway. The accompanying image captures the chamber singer's performance in the Chapel at Dublin City University in Dublin.



Photo: Courtesy of Dr. Irene Messoloras

Creating a Professional Pipeline for the Arts

Long in the planning, generous support from donor is the catalyst behind the Arts Launch Internship Program

By Greg Hardesty



Photo: Jaime DeJong

Steve Sorenson is an avid supporter of the arts, but ask him to sing, act, paint, or play the guitar, and, well...

“I have zero artistic talent,” he says with a chuckle, “but I know it when I see it.”

And seeing is believing — and, when possible, investing in.

Sorenson, a radiologist and Orange County transplant, has for the last decade-plus been donating his time and money to several arts organizations here and nearby.

“I think I’ve arrived at a place in life where I’m really looking to help the next generation and move the ball forward.”

He serves on the board of directors of the Segerstrom Center for the Arts, the Philharmonic Society of Orange County as well as the McCallum Theatre in Palm Desert.

Sorenson also is president of Laguna Beach-based the Ibex Foundation, which strives to elevate LGBTQ+ youth, and he’s supported the Irvine Barclay Theatre, San Francisco Opera, LA Opera and other organizations.

A longtime fan of UCI’s New Swan Shakespeare Festival, Sorenson also

is a member of both the Claire Trevor Society and the Medici Circle.

And now, he’s responsible for being the catalyst for a new internship program at the CTSA that will fund opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students to work in the community, while at the same time supporting institutions that may not have the money to pay for interns.

The Arts Launch Internship Program will ramp up this fall, with plans to bring on the first cohort of four paid interns in the 2024-25 academic year, says Megan Belmonte, director of Outreach Programs at the CTSA.

“This is something I’ve wanted to do since I started my job,” says Belmonte, who came from the L.A.-area arts scene to the CTSA in 2012.

Providing Unity

Los Angeles County long has enjoyed a publicly funded, robust internship program for arts students, says Belmonte, whose positions there have included cultural affairs intern for the City of West Hollywood and jobs with the Arts Council of Long Beach and the Pasadena Arts Council.

And although arts groups in Orange County offer internships, there’s no formal framework – until now, with the debut of the Arts Launch Internship Program, Belmonte says.

And that’s thanks to Sorenson, who donated a major gift to get the program off the ground.

“I think I’ve arrived at a place in life where I’m really looking to help the next generation and move the ball forward,” he says.

Discussions with the Dean

Sorenson met with CTSA Dean Tiffany Ana López soon after she started at UCI in summer 2022.

“Tiffany approached me,” he recalls. “She’s like this force of nature. My joke with her is I really need to bring a notepad whenever I meet with her because she’s full of ideas.”

One of the dean’s missions is creating opportunities for professional pathways for CTSA students — being intentional, as she explains, about how the school educates and prepares its students as creative leaders and how their education provides transferable skills in both arts and industry.

“One of the ways we
teach our students
their value is to
actually pay them.
That was a very
important tenant for
both Steve and us.”

“She just speaks so thoroughly and highly about her vision and arts education and getting the next generation involved and creating a pathway for arts leaders to engage in Orange County,” Sorenson says.

In his discussions with López, Sorenson stressed that his vision and goal was arts access and inclusivity.

“I mentioned to her that if we were going to do something,” he says, “there’s such a dynamic arts community in Orange County — let’s get people to stay here.”

And thus were the seeds that led to the formation this year of the Arts Launch Internship Program, which Sorenson has funded for five years.

Getting Paid

An intern will be hired this academic year to build out the program to make way for the first cohort of interns next year, Belmonte says.

Students and arts organization will go through a formal application process with the goal of having one intern the initial year, four interns for years two through four, and five interns funded for the 2027-28 academic year.

The hope, says Belmonte, is that the program then could expand with additional donor support in much the same way that CTSA’s Medici Scholarship Program invites donors to sponsor student projects. Additional funding could come through other gifts and grants.

Key to the Arts Launch Internship Program was making sure student interns got paid, Belmonte says.

“One of the ways we teach our students their value is to actually pay them,” she says. “That was a very important tenant for both Steve and us.”

Career Opportunities

One of the main goals of the internship program is expanding how CTSA students think about success in the creative sector, says Belmonte.

“Many come to a university to study their artistic practice, and that’s important and wonderful, and they may all end up as working artists, but if they don’t, there are infinite ways to work and thrive in the creative sector.

“We really want them to have an expansive understanding of what their pathway really is and not just their perception of what it is or what their



Photo: Paul R. Kennedy

parents want them to do. We are not envisioning these as acting internships or dance internships but creative sector internships.

“What if students’ priorities change? They could go into marketing or fundraising or program development or audience engagement or finance — it could be in anything in the arts.”

Creating Pathways

Another exciting aspect of the internship program, Belmonte adds, is supporting arts organizations in Orange County.

“This program will allow us to better serve small to midsize organizations that maybe can’t afford to pay for interns,” she says.

“We also would want these arts groups to be inclusive — to be doing work to expand the artistic canon or represent

voices that haven’t been central to the arts.”

Sorenson couldn’t agree more.

“It’s such a vibrant arts scene here,” he says. “Now, I want to get the next generation involved and make sure they have the best possible pathway to success.”

To learn more about the Arts Launch Internship Program, visit www.arts.uci.edu. To learn more about ways to support CTSA, contact Sarah Strozza, Senior Director of Development, at 949-824-0629 or [sstrozza@uci.edu](mailto:ssrozza@uci.edu).



EMPOWERING YOUTH

Q&A with Socorro Vasquez

Socorro Vasquez is a community leader who is passionate about bringing arts to young people across Orange County and has been involved with the Claire Trevor School of the Arts for more than 15 years. She is a board member emeritus of The Wooden Floor, which inspires young people through dance and access to college scholarships; a trustee emeritus of the South Coast Repertory; and a past board member of the Smithsonian Latino Center. She and her husband, Ernesto, were founding members of the Orange County Hispanic Education Endowment Fund.

Q. Why are the arts important to you?

SV: I grew up in a very difficult household, and the only time I knew everything was OK was when I heard my dad playing operettas on the old record player. Art helps people emotionally and it helps them along their difficult journeys. When I come across a painting or a song that's meaningful to me, I feel it inside, this wave of joyfulness. Now, music is used as a therapy for patients with Alzheimer's, and kids do better in school when they are involved in the arts. There's more that the arts do for people than we have even discovered yet.

Q. Why is it important to you to help young people to find their voice through the arts?

SV: I always believe you should put your efforts into children at the beginning of their education, when you have more influence. Art helps them in school by getting their brains working in a different way where it expands and it becomes more creative. Graduates from Wooden Floor who have gone to college and developed careers come back to mentor the current students, and they always acknowledge that the Wooden Floor was instrumental in their success.

Q. How have you seen the local arts community evolve over the years?

SV: We've had some visionaries in the community, like the Segerstroms, who put us on the map with the Segerstrom Center for the Arts, and then elevated the whole community because they helped involve and expose children to the arts. Also smaller community theaters are reaching into places where people haven't been as engaged in the arts. I see a lot more arts programs in the community, many more summer and school arts education opportunities than in the past. I hardly hear artists from LA refer to us as being on the other side of the "Orange Curtain" anymore, and I think that's because we have wonderful venues and programs now.

Q. You serve on the UCI-OC Alliance, which supports UCI as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). How do you see CTSA and the arts playing a role in this initiative?

SV: We need more arts classes and workshops in the community that reach students at vulnerable ages. The UCI-OC Alliance can connect the dots with the school districts and funders to give students access to the arts as a growing experience. It's a universal language for people to experience and grow from, and the brain starts expanding when you engage with arts.

Q. You and your husband, Ernesto, were honored with the Visionary Arts Patrons Award by Arts Orange County in 2019. What is your vision for the future of the arts in Orange County?

SV: We need to get more people to understand and support the arts and artists; make them understand that art is just as important as any subject in school. We need to teach the families why the arts are important for them and their children. Arts can be a bridge to taking care of the community through creative expression.

To learn more about ways to support CTSA, contact Sarah Strozza, Senior Director of Development, at (949) 824-0629 or ssrozza@uci.edu.



Change Agent: Leading the Way

*Third-year M.F.A. artist teams up with professor for
'Affective Resistance' exhibition*

By Greg Hardesty



Image: Nyugen E. Smith and Dominique Duroseau; "Performing the Flag (A New Flag for the Caribbean/A Flag for the New Caribbean)," 2017. Photo courtesy of Nyugen E. Smith and Pascal Bernier.

Alberto “Berto” Lule stripped down to his boxer shorts and lay on his back on a sheet of clear plexiglass.

He slowly moved into different positions in which he’d been arrested or detained by police: arms up and fingers clasped behind his head, hands shackled behind his back.

He then got up and applied forensic fingerprint powder to the areas on the plexiglass dampened by his skin secretions.

“It’s a portrait — it’s me,” he says of the charcoal-like smudges that form an eerily distorted image of his body on a large piece of plexiglass displayed in his studio at the Art, Culture and Technology building at the Claire Trevor School of the Arts.

Lule’s work, one in a numbered series called “Investigation,” is a commentary on authority and evidence, says the third-year M.F.A. student who served a nearly 14-year prison sentence for drug- and gang-related felonies.

Released in 2016, Lule, who grew up near Santa Barbara, went on to complete his undergraduate studies in art at UCLA before he was accepted into the CTSA graduate program in 2021.

Now, this fall, he’s organizing a nine-week exhibition with his mentor, artist and professor Liz Glynn.

The themes of the exhibition, *Affective Resistance* (University Art Galleries, Oct. 7-Dec. 16), echo some that are favorites of Lule, who employs prefabricated, often mass-produced objects (“readymades,” in art parlance), mixed-media installations, and tools used by agencies of authority to examine and critique mass incarceration and the prison industrial complex, particularly the California penal system.

“Art spaces could and should be places where activism can occur,” says Lule, who teaches art to detainees at the Orange County Juvenile Hall and is vice president of the UCI chapter of the Underground Scholars Initiative, which helps the formerly incarcerated and their families and those affected by the criminal justice system.

Showcase of Black and Latinx Artists

Affective Resistance brings together works by eight Black and Latinx artists — renowned international artists who have rarely exhibited in the U.S. alongside both established and emerging voices from Southern California — who use strategies of performance and abstraction as modes of resistance to systemic racism and state power, according to exhibit literature.

“Art spaces could
and should be
places where
activism can occur.”

“In the wake of George Floyd’s murder, there have been a lot of public conversations about the nature of system racism which have centered on the American history of slavery and systemic racism,” says Glynn. What the show seeks to do is broaden this conversation to look at the longer arc of oppression and Colonialism globally.”

Several works in *Affective Resistance* draw out the conflict between the democratic ideal of liberty and the subjugation of the body under the penal system.

The exhibition includes *The Missing Link: The Decolonization Education of Ms. Smiling Stone* (2017) by Pelagie Gbaguidi, a Dakar-born artist of Benin descent currently based in Brussels. Gbaguidi's video will be projected in an alternating loop alongside Los Angeles-based artist rafa esparza's *bust: a meditation on freedom* (2015), which documents the artist chiseling himself out of a concrete tube outside of the Twin Towers Correctional Facility to protest the mass incarceration of black and brown people.

The University Art Gallery will showcase video works alongside mixed media wall work and sculptural installations, including a video by donna kukama that features a performance shot during a protest staged by Kenyan veterans seeking recognition from their government for their role in liberating the country from colonization.

Nyugen Smith's video *Like Dead Weight* depicts the artist activating a former plantation site with his recumbent body. Smith's work will be juxtaposed with his *Flag for a New Caribbean*, a decolonizing proposal speculating on a liberated future for the Caribbean islands.

Chanell Stone will present photographs exploring erased histories and the black body's relationship to the American landscape.

Other featured artists in *Affective Resistance* include Rodney McMillian, a professor in the Department of Art at UCLA, whose work has been exhibited internationally and is featured in the permanent collection of MoMA; emerging artist Alicia Piller, a recent CalArts M.F.A. graduate whose work is

included in the recent Orange County Biennial; and Tarik Garrett (UCI M.F.A. '22), whose abstracted "tapestry" is made from deconstructed red, white and blue beer cans etched with a partially destroyed image of a burning police car.

Multidisciplinary Initiative

Affective Resistance ties into themes of an interdisciplinary program at UCI called "Poetic Justice: Advancing Arts and Culture in Higher Education to Support Black Community Thriving."

"He's not just thinking about prison or incarceration as a subject but the ways these systems of oppression kind of connect to the broader economy."

Co-led by Glynn and Sora Han, professor of criminology, law and society and department chair of African American Studies, the team includes representatives from the CTSA, the Paul Merage School of Business, the School of Humanities, the Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art, and the School of Social Ecology.

As part of the Poetic Justice initiative, Glynn and Lule were involved in an exhibition last year that the CTSA hosted, *Locked Down and Locked Up: A Prison Pandemic Exhibit*, which showcased stories from people

Image: Alberto Lule sits in front of an art display inside the Orange County Juvenile Hall as part of his work with The Underground Scholars Initiative.



Photo: Courtesy of Alberto Lule

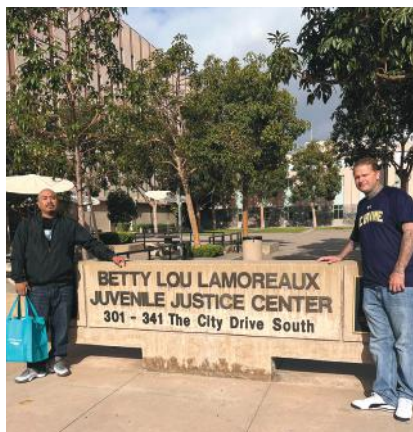


Image: Lule stands in front of the Betty Lou Lamoreaux Juvenile Justice Center with Ryan Rising, a UCI Ph.D. candidate in Criminology.

Photo: Courtesy of Alberto Lule

incarcerated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Exhibition visitors would pick up wall-mounted phones that look like those in jails and prisons to hear interview recordings by actual inmates.

The Bigger Picture

Glynn, who works in sculptures, large-scale installations and participatory performances, met Lule when he was applying to graduate school at the CTSA.

“I’m interested in large questions about cultural value,” says Glynn, “and was really excited about Berto’s work and some of the questions he was raising through performance and sculpture as it relates to the prison industrial complex.

“He’s not just thinking about prison or incarceration as a subject but the ways these systems of oppression kind of connect to the broader economy.”

Adds Glynn: “He’s dealing with a number of concerns that not just artists are dealing with but that society at large is really engaged with, such as questions of gentrification, systemic

racism, and the perverse logic of certain institutions.”

Seeing the Unseen

One of Lule’s ongoing works involved posting official prison documents in public places at UCI, such as bulletin boards near elevators.

“Sometimes we don’t notice these postings,” he says. “They’re part of the landscape, and sometimes you don’t notice them unless you’re looking for them.

“But if people see these documents,” he adds, “they’re going to be rewarded. They’re not going to expect it. They are photocopies from a plain printer, and we kind of tend to dismiss these types of notices because we think of them as not being our business.”

One of Lule’s performances during his M.F.A. second-year exhibition was about the experience of prisoner transport on buses, specifically a 36-hour transport between facilities over state lines.

The incarcerated are given five minutes to consume an entire fast-food meal. Lule reenacted this by consuming a hamburger, fries and a drink from Jack In The Box while wearing a jail jumpsuit and shackled to a bus seat.

“I hope to make an impact in the arts as a scholar involved with activism and solidarity,” Lule says. “Black Lives Matter didn’t just pop out of nowhere. It’s been building for generations. And that’s one of the things we hope this exhibition does: broaden conversations about governmental control, systemic racism and other issues.”

Affective Resistance opens Saturday, Oct. 7, with a public reception at 2 p.m. in the University Art Gallery and Room Gallery and is on view through Saturday, Dec. 16. For more information and hours, visit uag.arts.uci.edu.

FALL 2023



Image: New Slate 2022

Photo: Sam Zauscher

SEASON EVENTS

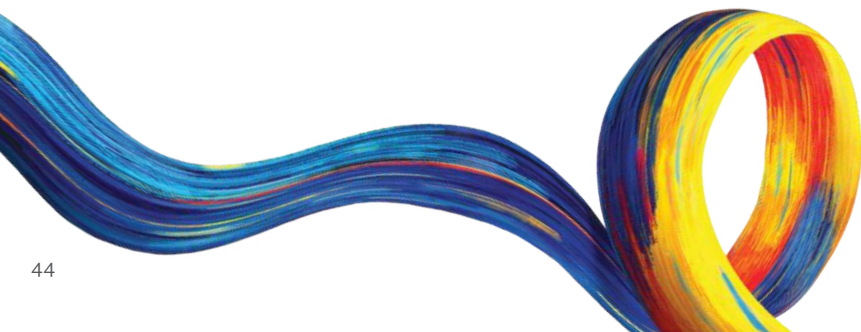
2023-24 Season-At-A-Glance

Fall 2023

Sept. 30-Jan. 13*	<i>E.A.A.T. Experiments in Art, Access and Technology</i>	BEALL
Oct. 7-Dec. 16*	<i>Affective Resistance</i>	UAG, R
Oct. 7-Dec. 16*	<i>Think of it as Money!: A Solo Project by Adrià Julià</i>	CAC
Oct. 25*	Vocal Arts Concert: Melissa McCann	WSH
Nov. 11-18	Drama: <i>Cabaret</i>	CTT ●
Nov. 15*	Small Jazz Groups	WSH
Nov. 21	UCI Symphony Orchestra	IBT
Nov. 29*	UCI Jazz Orchestra	WSH
Dec. 4*	Wind Ensemble	WSH
Dec. 6*	Guitar Ensemble	WSH
Dec. 7*	Tenth Thursday Undergraduate Student Exhibition	AC
Dec. 7-9	Dance: New Slate 2023	CTT ●
Dec. 8*	UCI Choral Concert	TBD
Dec. 11*	Chamber Music Concert	WSH

Winter 2024

Through Jan. 13*	<i>E.A.A.T. Experiments in Art, Access and Technology</i>	BEALL
Jan. 20-April 7*	<i>On the Passage of a Few People Through a Rather Brief Period of Time</i>	CAC
Jan. 27-April 20*	Katherine Behar: <i>Ack! Knowledge! Work!</i>	BEALL
Jan. 27	Music Faculty Artist Series: Hossein Omoumi	WSH ●
Feb. 2	Music Faculty Artist Series: Yuliya Minina, piano: <i>Music She Composed</i>	WSH ●
Feb. 3-10	Drama: <i>King Lear</i>	CTT ●
Feb. 9	Music Faculty Artist Series: Mari Kimura, violin	WSH ●
Feb. 10-March 2*	M.F.A. 2nd Year Exhibition	UAG, R
Feb. 16*	Music: Zulal	WSH
Feb. 21*	Small Jazz Groups	WSH
Feb. 22-24	Dance Visions 2024	IBT
Feb. 28*	UCI Jazz Orchestra	WSH
March 2	Music Faculty Artist Series: Lorna Griffitt, piano	WSH ●
March 7	UCI Symphony Orchestra	IBT
March 9-16	Drama: <i>The Bald Soprano</i>	RCT
March 11*	Wind Ensemble	WSH
March 13*	Guitar Ensemble	WSH



March 13	UCI Chamber Singers and Concert Choir: Faure & Gjeilo accompanied by the UCI Symphony Orchestra	IBT
March 14*	Tenth Thursday Undergraduate Student Exhibition	AC
March 14-23*	19th Annual Guest Juried Undergraduate Exhibition	UAG
March 18*	Chamber Music Concert	WSH

Spring 2024

Through Apr. 20*	Katherine Behar: <i>Ack! Knowledge! Work!</i>	BEALL
April 5	Music Faculty Artist Series: Matt Hare, double bass	WSH ●
April 12*	Vocal Arts Concert: Nordic and Slavic Repertoire	WSH
April 18-20	Dance Escape 2024	CTT ●
April 20-May 4*	M.F.A. Thesis Exhibition, part 1	CAC, R, UAG
April 22-23*	Music: Galan Trio	WSH
April 27-May 4	Drama: <i>The Brothers Paranormal</i>	xMPL
May 2-4	Dance: Physical Graffiti 2024	CTT ●
May 11-12	UCI Opera and UCI Symphony: <i>The Turn of the Screw</i>	IBT
May 11-25*	M.F.A. Thesis Exhibition, part 2	CAC, R, UAG
May 15*	Small Jazz Groups	WSH
May 18-19*	Coup de Comedy Festival	AC
May 19	Music Faculty Artist Series: Dennis Kim, violin	WSH ●
May 22*	UCI Jazz Orchestra	WSH
May 24*	Music: ICIT Showcase Concert	WSH
May 31*	UCI Choral Concert	WSH
June 1-8	Drama: <i>The Prom</i>	CTT ●
June 3*	Wind Ensemble	WSH
June 5*	Guitar Ensemble	WSH
June 6*	Tenth Thursday Undergraduate Student Exhibition	AC
June 6-15*	Undergraduate Honors Thesis Exhibition	CAC, R, UAG
June 7	UCI Symphony Orchestra	IBT
June 10*	Chamber Music Concert	WSH

Venues

AMP	Arts Plaza Amphitheatre	RCT	Robert Cohen Theatre
AC	Arts Campus	R	Room Gallery
BC	Beall Center for Art + Technology	ONLINE	Live or recorded event presented online
CAC	Contemporary Arts Center	UAG	University Art Gallery
CTT	Claire Trevor Theatre	WSH	Winifred Smith Hall
IBTΔ	Irvine Barclay Theatre	xMPL	Experimental Media Performance Lab
NS	New Swan Theater		Check website for specifics.

Δ Venue not on CTSA campus. Consult CTSA website maps: www.arts.uci.edu/directions

Dates, venues, titles are subject to change.

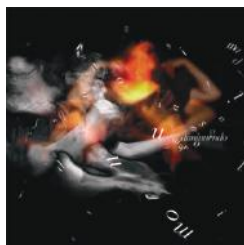
Please check our online events calendar (www.arts.uci.edu/calendar) for the most current information.

* indicates free event / ● indicates tentative shuttle availability.

Fall Quarter 2023 Events

UCI's Community Connector! The beginning of the season is the perfect opportunity to connect with friends and family by attending one of our several cultural offerings that showcase the talents and research happening by faculty and students in the School. Read more on the following pages to plan your fall calendar.

BEALL CENTER FOR ART + TECHNOLOGY



Sept. 30, 2023-Jan. 13, 2024

Opening Reception: Saturday, Sept. 30, 2-5 p.m.

E.A.A.T. Experiments in Art, Access and Technology

Organized by Leonardo/ISAST

Curated by Vanessa Chang and Lindsey D. Felt

Program curated by Claudia Alick

Experiments in Art, Access and Technology, or E.A.A.T. chronicles the emergence of access as an animating principle of art, science and technology. Meesh Fradkin, Carmen Papalia, Josephine Sales, Andy Slater, and Olivia Ting premiere new work developed in Leonardo CripTech Incubator, an art and technology fellowship for disability innovation.

Beall Center for Art + Technology

Gallery Hours | Tuesday-Saturday | Noon-6 p.m.

Free admission

Image: Olivia Ting, "Song Without Words," 2023. Image courtesy of the artist.

ART



Oct. 7-Dec. 9, 2023

Opening Reception: Saturday, Oct. 7, 2 p.m.

Affective Resistance

Curated by Liz Glynn and Alberto Lule (M.F.A. '24)

Affective Resistance brings together works by eight artists using performance art and materialist abstraction as modes of resistance to systemic racism and state power. Works explore the conflict between democratic liberty and carceral system subjugation. Site-specific interventions confront government-controlled locations, juxtaposed with experimental abstract political gestures. Featured artists include rafa esparza, Tarik Garrett, Pelagie Gbaguidi, donna kukama, Rodney McMillian, Alicia Piller, Nyugen Smith and Chanell Stone.

University Art Gallery

Room Gallery

Free admission

For more information, visit uag.arts.uci.edu

Image: Nyugen E. Smith and Dominique Duroseau, "Performing the Flag (A New Flag for the Caribbean/A Flag for the New Caribbean)," 2017. Photo courtesy of Nyugen E. Smith and Pascal Bernier.

ART



Oct. 7-Dec. 16, 2023

Opening Reception: Saturday, Oct. 7, 2 p.m.

Think of it as Money!

A Solo Project by Adrià Julià

Curated by Juli Carson

Making Money, Adrià Julià's mixed-media project, is a series of works that weave a dreamscape centered on the legacy of Hercule Florence, a 19th-century pioneer of photography who attempted to invent the Brazilian banknote. In Julià's hands, the banknote is a focal point for the problematic shift towards digital wallets and the marginalization of cash.

Contemporary Arts Center Gallery

Free admission

For more information, visit uag.arts.uci.edu

Image: Adrià Julià, "Little Bird that Eats Stone Knows its Ass (4306)," 2019. Mix media. 16.54x23.39 in. Copyright © Adrià Julià.

MUSIC



Wednesday, Oct. 25, 2023, 8 p.m.

Vocal Arts Concert: Melissa McCann

Accompanied by Junko Nojima, piano

Organized by Darryl Taylor

Professional soprano and educator, Dr. Melissa McCann, UCI M.F.A. '14, is returning to her alma mater to deliver a soul-stirring recital. McCann has been hailed for her "great sense of line and legato" and is recognized as a rising young talent in opera. She has graced the stages of institutions such as the Highlands Opera Studio, Pittsburgh Festival Opera, Pacific Opera Theatre, and Opera San José, among others. Accompanied by Junko Nojima on the piano, McCann will also conduct a public masterclass before her performance.

Winifred Smith Hall

Free admission

*Generous support is provided by the
Marjorie Q Rawlins Endowed Fund.*

\$ / \$ / \$ / \$

General / Seniors, UCI Faculty & Staff / Groups 10+ / Arts Packages /
UCI Students & Children under 17

Please note: Tickets purchased at the Barclay Box Office will incur a \$3-\$5 fee per ticket.

Tickets

DRAMA



Nov. 11-18, 2023

Cabaret

*Music by John Kander
Lyrics by Fred Ebb
Book by Joe Masteroff*

*Directed by Angela Cruz
Choreography by Cyrian Reed
Conducted by Sain Leyva*

Set in a tumultuous post-World War I Berlin, during the rise of the Nazi Party, *Cabaret* tells the story of American writer Clifford "Cliff" Bradshaw who becomes romantically involved with cabaret performer Sally Bowles, whom he meets at the Kit Kat Club. As Nazi occupation in Germany mounts, Cliff's and Sally's relationship is similarly brought to bear in a series of increasingly dire and violent events.

Claire Trevor Theatre

Nov. 11, 16, 17, 18

8 p.m.

Nov. 12, 18

2 p.m.

Nov. 15

7:30 p.m.

**Join us for a TalkBack with cast/crew after the show on Sunday, Nov. 12
\$25 / \$22 / \$20 / \$21 / \$10*

*Generous support for this production is provided by the
Robert and Lorna Cohen Endowment for Excellence in Drama,
Theatre Guild, and Claire Trevor Society.*



MUSIC



Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023, 8 p.m.

UCI Small Jazz Groups

Organized by Michael Dessen

Please join us for an evening of exciting music and improvisation as the UCI Undergraduate Jazz Program quarterly concert showcases the Small Group student ensembles. There will be three groups performing under the direction of the jazz faculty.

Winifred Smith Hall

Free admission

Generous support is provided by the Marjorie Q Rawlins Endowed Fund.

UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts' new e-shop!

Embrace your passion for the arts and proudly showcase your affiliation the Claire Trevor School of the Arts Anteaters — or, as we fondly call ourselves, ARTeaters! Our new e-shop offers diverse products that seamlessly blend artistry and fashion.

Learn more and shop the site at www.arts.uci.edu/gear



MUSIC



Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023, 8 p.m.

UCI Symphony Orchestra

Dr. Geoffrey Pope, conductor

Join the UCI Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of conductor Dr. Geoffrey Pope, for the first concert of the season! Celebrating the kick-off to the holiday season, join the maestro and students for an evening of orchestral music by renowned composers. The UCI Symphony Orchestra is one of the premier large performance ensembles in Orange County, representing the Department of Music. The orchestra has existed since 1966 and offers music majors, non-majors, faculty and other community members the opportunity to study and perform symphonic music of the ages.

Join Maestro Geoffrey Pope for a Pre-Concert Conversation before the performance at 7 p.m.

Irvine Barclay Theatre

\$21 / \$18 / \$18 / \$16 / \$8

Generous support is provided by Charlie and Ling Zhang, UCI Friends of the Symphony, and the Marjorie Q Rawlins Endowed Fund.

MUSIC



Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023, 8 p.m.

UCI Jazz Orchestra

Michael Dessen, director

Join the UCI Jazz Orchestra for an evening of warm and exciting large-ensemble jazz music, from big band era classics to diverse modern sounds.

Winifred Smith Hall

Free admission

Generous support is provided by the Marjorie Q Rawlins Endowed Fund.

MUSIC



Monday, Dec. 4, 2023, 8 p.m.

UCI Wind Ensemble

Kevin McKeown, conductor

The UCI Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Kevin McKeown, performs traditional and contemporary works written specifically for the wind band genre.

Winifred Smith Hall

Free admission

Generous support is provided by the Marjorie Q Rawlins Endowed Fund.

MUSIC



Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023, noon

UCI Guitar Ensemble

Organized by Alexander Dunn

Discover the enchanting melodies of UCI guitar students as they harmonize the world's timeless compositions. From solo to quartet, witness six centuries of global repertoire, blending guitars and instruments in a mesmerizing performance.

Winifred Smith Hall

Free admission

Generous support is provided by the Marjorie Q Rawlins Endowed Fund.

ART



Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday Undergraduate Student Exhibition Thursday

Organized by Liz Glynn and Deborah Oliver

Join us for Tenth Thursday, an evening of art exhibitions and projects by the Department of Art talented and creative undergraduates. Experience diverse works in painting, drawing, ceramics, photography, video, sculpture, performance and installations. Interact with the artists and celebrate the culmination of their end-of-the-quarter class projects. Don't miss this inspiring cultural event!

Arts Campus

Free admission

DANCE



Dec. 7-9, 2023

New Slate 2023

Lisa Naugle and Vitor Luiz, artistic directors

Experience an exciting showcase featuring original choreography by the talented M.F.A. candidates in the Department of Dance. Join us on an unforgettable journey through the captivating world of dance as we present a collection of unique and inspiring dances that reflect the immense talent of our choreographers and dancers at UCI.

Claire Trevor Theatre

Evenings: Dec. 7, 8, 9

Matinee: Dec. 9

8 p.m.

2 p.m.

\$25 / \$22 / \$20 / \$21 / \$10

**Streaming Dec. 9 at 2 p.m. | Access Code \$15*



MUSIC



Friday, Dec. 8, 2023, 8 p.m.

Sounds of the Season with the UC Irvine Chamber Singers, Concert Choir and Voces Chamber Ensemble

Dr. Irene Messoloras, conductor

Dr. Irene Messoloras, ensembles conductor and director of choral activities, conducts the choirs in a broad holiday repertoire featuring traditional classics and modern holiday themed music and carol arrangements. A great holiday concert for the whole family.

For location and updates, visit music.arts.uci.edu.

Free admission

Generous support is provided by friends of Choral Activities, the Marjorie Q Rawlins Endowed Fund and Professor Emeritus Joseph Huszti.

MUSIC



Monday, Dec. 11, 2023, 8 p.m.

UCI Chamber Music Concert

Organized by Sarah Koo Freeman

A program featuring talented students from UCI's Department of Music performing chamber music masterworks.

Winifred Smith Hall

Free admission

Generous support is provided by the Marjorie Q Rawlins Endowed Fund.

\$/ \$ / \$ / \$

General / Seniors, UCI Faculty & Staff / Groups 10+ / Arts Packages / UCI Students & Children under 17

Please note: Tickets purchased at the Barclay Box Office will incur a \$3-\$5 fee per ticket.

Service is available for guests with disabilities or those with mobility issues, from the Mesa Parking Structure to select shows throughout the season. Shuttle service will begin one hour before showtime and will meet patrons on level two near the elevator. Advance notice is appreciated, but not required. For additional information, please call the Arts Box Office at (949) 824-2787, email artstix@uci.edu, or visit www.arts.uci.edu/shuttle. Schedule is subject to change.

Tickets

**Complimentary
Shuttle Service**



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We are grateful for the trust and foresight of those who have ensured the Claire Trevor School of the Arts' brilliant future by establishing an endowed fund or have included us in their estate plans.

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2023-24 Box Office Information

Hours

Wednesday & Thursday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

1 hour before performances at venue box office

with seasonal/intermittent closures; check www.arts.uci.edu/boxoffice

Contact

(949) 824-2787 | artstix@uci.edu

UAG University Art Gallery

(949) 824-9854 | gallery@uci.edu

Tickets

www.arts.uci.edu/tickets (24/7) | Phone | CTSA Box Office Window

Ways to Save

Ticket Packages

www.arts.uci.edu/package

FASter Arts Pass for UCI Faculty, Alumni, Staff, Emeriti & Retirees

www.arts.uci.edu/faster

Group Sales

Discounts for 10+ tickets are available for most of our shows, including online.

Contact the box office for more specific info.

Directions and More Information

Maps

www.arts.uci.edu/directions

Please use the pedestrian bridge to get to CTSA galleries and theatres. Take elevator or stairs to Level 3 of Mesa Parking Structure (MPS) to access bridge, which is to your left as you exit elevator or stairs.

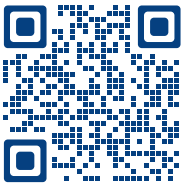
UCI Parking

\$13+ | www.parking.uci.edu

Check for parking discounts at www.arts.uci.edu/parking

Learn more about ADA access, complimentary shuttle service, general and disabled parking on our website through the following links:

www.arts.uci.edu/ada | www.arts.uci.edu/shuttle | www.arts.uci.edu/directions



Scan the QR code to visit the box office website with maps and more information about your visit to CTSA.



National Dance Incubator

Professor of Dance Molly Lynch presented the annual National Choreographers Initiative (NCI), a research incubator she conceived and has been fostering since 2004. NCI provides a haven for ballet choreographers to develop their work without the pressure of immediate premieres. This year, the program featured new works by four choreographers and 16 dancers, including Kristopher Estes-Brown's "The Order Of Time" (pictured here), Ye Li's "untitled," Ian Schwaner's "Solitude In Variance" and Carrie Ruth Trumbo's "Nuit Blanche." The three-week program continually nurtures experimental creations, offering a platform for innovation. Lynch's legacy now encompasses 69 choreographers and 72 works, with several pieces premiering globally. Choreographers Trumbo and Li praised NCI's role in fostering creativity, pushing boundaries and experimenting with novel collaborations. The research culminated in a public performance on July 29 at the Irvine Barclay Theatre, showcasing these evolving choreographic ventures.

Photo: Dave Friedman

UCI Claire Trevor

School of the Arts

University of California, Irvine
Claire Trevor School of the Arts
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Irvine, CA 92697-2775
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