



# SPOTLIGHT

## *Creating Community Through the Arts*

### **A Message From TACFA's President Tony Wong**

When we had to cancel Broadway in the Park this year for the second year in a row, our hearts dropped. The thought of all the hard work by so many people going to waste; of all the enthusiasm among the community being squashed like a cold dunk in the winter pool; and of how our sponsors will be let down.

What I witnessed over the following week brought my heart back up to new heights. The amount of support from everyone was overwhelming. Many of our sponsors and ticket holders donated their funds. Yes! Wow! Thank YOU! We will definitely work harder in our mission to promote and educate the community, especially the kids about the arts. On that note, let me spend the remainder of this letter address the question, "Why the arts?" It's a fair question as well as these follow-on questions: Why spend money on the arts? What do people donate to the arts? Why teach kids about the arts? Where does all of it lead to? And perhaps the most poignant question from all this: "Why spend all the resources to teach kids to be a starving artist?" You may have heard this joke: "What is the difference between an artist and a bench? A bench can support a family of four.



Humor aside, TACFA's mission is not solely to create artists as a profession. Our mission is to promote the arts because the arts develop several important areas that contribute and enhance a person's career and life success. Those areas include:

Creativity, Problem Solving, Risk-taking, Abstraction, Critical Thinking. In other words, the arts is the pixie dust, when sprinkled on people helps enhance and reveal whatever they are doing resulting in better design, more innovation, and better solutions.

A wonderful demonstration of what I'm talking about is in the documentary series called "Abstract: the Art of Design" on Netflix. The documentary follows and interviews some of the top leaders in various industries and professions. These leaders are the product of how arts influenced and contributed to their success. I encourage you to watch the series; better yet, watch it with a high schooler or college student.

Respectfully and proudly,  
Tony Wong

## **TACFA LOSES A DEAR FRIEND AND LOYAL SUPPORTER**



On October 19, 2021, TACFA lost a dear friend and loyal supporter, Elizabeth Pankey. Libby passed away peacefully at home of natural causes at the age of 104. Her passion for life, the arts, and learning was unparalleled and her contribution to Broadway in the Park over the past twenty-one years was immeasurable. She lived an amazing life and the impact she had on the community of Tustin will never be duplicated. Libby moved through life with immense grace and dignity as a mentor, friend, and loved one. She traveled the world but always returned to the community she loved and help build. As we say good-bye, we will always think of you with respect and profound gratitude knowing this world was a better place because of you.

## TUSTIN, YOU ARE SO WONDERFUL TO US!



We felt several emotions when we had to announce, just three days before opening night, that Broadway in the Park would be canceled. Crushing disappointment was felt by everyone in TACFA. The actors and production team who worked so hard to create a show no one would see were heartbroken. We also felt extremely fearful that TACFA would never recover from the financial loss and worried how to instantly create a process to refund everyone's money and unravel things that has taken months to put into place. The last emotion we thought we would ever feel was gratitude. Yet, when all was said and done, the overriding feeling we had was one of immense gratitude. In our darkest moment, the Tustin community came together and lifted us up. Without being asked, people showed up to help us dismantled the

equipment in the park. One after another, sponsors and donors told us to keep their money, because TACFA and the arts were important to them. Ticket and table buyers donated back the price of their purchases and sent us notes of encouragement that bolstered our spirits, and vendors did not hesitate to waive their cancellation fees. Although the cancellation of Broadway in the Park was devastating, it also gave us an overwhelming feeling of appreciation to the people, businesses and the City of Tustin. We never would have made it through without you. We truly cherish all of you!

## ESTEEMED BOARD MEMBERS MAKE THEIR CURTAIN CALL



Just this past week, we received the sad news of Diane Aust's passing. TACFA directors had the privilege and joy of working with Diane as an outstanding board member for many years. She served as President, Chair of the Barbara Benson Scholarship Committee, the BITP Opportunity Drawings, and member of the Board Development Committee. As an experienced teacher and administrator in the Tustin USD, her superb management and organizational skills strengthened the board. Like many others, we will never forget Diane and her husband, Gerry, for their years of devotion and love for Tustin.



Wendy Greene's deep commitment to TACFA and its mission has been unrelenting. Every summer her winning smile could be seen at Concerts in the Park selling tickets for BITP. As a community member and advocate, she was instrumental in having TACFA adopt the Voices of Tustin program which has performed and delighted audiences for years. Her dedication and passionate spirit for the arts has enriched TACFA in countless ways. We love and appreciate her for supporting our community in special ways throughout these many years.



As past Parliamentarian and Secretary, Libby Buckley has left a positive impact and legacy within the TACFA organization. Since 2011 her desire was to do more, be more and serve more. She has been active in almost every aspect of TACFA's community events and programs. Libby's invaluable assistance, spirit, practice, perspective and philanthropy helped TACFA continue to succeed.

Libby's background as military officer and nurse served her well as she was always composed, direct and in charge. As a facilitator between TACFA and the City of Tustin's Concerts in the Park, her disciplined, rational and persuasive voice made her a valuable contributor and supporter of TACFA's Broadway in the Park productions. Although she is stepping down from her regular duties as a Board Director, we are happy to report that she will be staying on as a member of Encore- TACFA's volunteer group. Libby, it is not goodbye, just see you later.

## 2021 TACFA Donors!

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***\*Donations made from Jan 1 through October 2021***

**With heartfelt thanks and blessings to all our donors for making it possible to continue our mission,**

#### ***Creating Community Through the Arts!***

To learn more about TACFA and how you can support the arts, please scan here.





## CALLING ALL SCHOLARS!



TACFA will award scholarships in 2022 to graduating seniors who reside in the Tustin Unified School District. Six (6) TACFA Barbara Benson Memorial Scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors who will major or minor in a Visual or Performing Arts at a college, university, or other professional training institute beginning in the Fall 2022. \$500 Scholarships are available for qualifying seniors planning to attend a community or junior college and enroll in fine art courses.

Students must submit an application, a letter of recommendation, and an online art portfolio or performance video highlighting the candidate's expertise in their chosen field.

Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA to qualify. Selected candidates will be interviewed by the TACFA Scholarship Committee in April.

A copy of the application and detailed instructions will be available on the TACFA website beginning in mid-January 2022. Applications will also be available through the counseling offices at the TUSD high schools.

## CREATIVE SIGNAL PROJECT

In cooperation with the City of Tustin Parks and Recreation Department, TACFA has been approved to install graphic art on two traffic signal boxes—one at B Street and First Street; the other at El Camino Real and Sixth Street. The City made a public call for designs for its "Creative Signals Project." TACFA's committee solicited TUSD high school students for their ideas with an award of \$500 for the best representation of TACFA's Broadway in the Park theme. Two TUSD seniors, Charles Manuel Chua of Tustin High School and Ivanna Tjitra of Beckman High School were selected for their graphic arts submissions. The project was approved by the City's Public Art Commission as well as the Tustin City Council. Keep your eyes out for the "new" traffic signal boxes in early 2022.



## ART WALK A FUN DAY!

After a quiet 2020 City of Tustin Virtual Art Walk, the 2021 in-person ART Walk opened with a Bang! TACFA was proud to be a co-sponsor of the Plein Air contest and as such, we are pleased to announce this year's winner, Dan Jacobson. You can view all of the Plein Air and Snap Tustin winners on our website TACFA.org. An addition to the event this year was the opportunity to share the artwork of our 2021 Student Art Showcase winners. We salute all of the students who participated in this event displayed their incredible artwork. We hope if you attended the event that you had an opportunity to visit our Snap Tustin booth and stop by our Beer Garden as well! All in all 2021 was a huge success!

Snap Tustin!  
Fan Favorite Winner  
Gregory Hayes  
"Hanger"



Snap Tustin!  
1st Place Winner  
Cristian Cusac  
"Outdoor Movies @ The  
Promenade"



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