



SPOTLIGHT

Creating Community Through the Arts

A Message From TACFA's President Tony Wong

TACFA has been busy executing its programs and getting involved in the community wherever possible. I won't steal the thunder from my fellow board members as to their updates on several of the recent programs. Needless to say, my fellow board members were very successful in their execution and delivery of the programs. I couldn't be prouder to be associated with them and their results.

Around the community, TACFA was well represented at:

- The recent North Tustin National Charity League (NCL) Meeting's Philanthropic Fair. NCL is a group of mothers and daughters who have come together in a commitment to community service, leadership development and cultural experiences.
- Dollars for Scholars' Kentucky Derby event where yours truly was a jockey. I "showed" in the second race.
- Nelson Elementary School's Philanthropic Fair to promote volunteerism to students and parents and, of course, to also promote Wizard of Oz. We had joint TACFA and Man/Woman of the Year people working the table — Bob & Pat Machado.
- Team TACFA participated in the 5th Annual Paper Football Event in February. While they didn't score a lot of touchdowns, they still won \$800 for Team Costumes, Song and Sportsmanship.



- Rotary's 100 years Anniversary Dinner promoting Wizard of Oz and provided entertainment by TACFA's Voices of Tustin group.

Finally, I'm very pleased to introduce a project TACFA is the inaugural partner of along with the City of Tustin and its Public Arts Committee — Tustin Sculpture Walk. The project will be a trail starting at the corner of the Legacy near Redhill & Barranca that will run up towards the Metrolink Station. There will be replaceable sculptures along the trail. This concept is very much like the sculpture park near the Newport Beach Library. Why is this so exciting...because there's finally sculptures coming to Tustin! This project concept opens the possibility for sculptures in other parts of Tustin because of their affordability, speed, and flexibility. I'm personally excited because I'll likely see this in my lifetime given how long this has been discussed and desired for so many decades. Stay tuned for progress reports.

Respectfully and proudly,

Tony Wong
TACFA Board President

WOMAN of the YEAR - KIM DEBENEDETTO



TACFA nominated Kim for the Tustin Area Woman of the Year for 2021 and Kim was awarded the title amongst a field of 10 women nominees! She is so deserving given all the volunteerism she's performed in Tustin the last 8 years. Kim has been very active with TACFA, serving as President for two years and currently the role of Co-VP Fund Development. She has served as President of

the Tustin Preservation Conservancy and volunteered at the Tustin Street Fair & Chili Cook Off, and the Tustin Area Historical Society. She is an all around, flexible volunteer who can lead or participate as a team member. Kim adds to the stable of other active Tustin Area Man & Woman of the Years within TACFA which currently includes Pat Machado, Bob Machado, Tony Wong, Eligia Nicolai.

TACFA SUPERHERO - LUCY BURCH

Congratulations to Lucy Burch who has been chosen as our 2022 Superhero! A long-time resident of Tustin, Lucy has been a TACFA Encore member for 14 years. Lucy joined the auxiliary volunteer group, Encore, because she loves working with all of the TACFA members at our sponsored art programs throughout the year, and wants to support the Arts in our Tustin Community.

You will find Lucy volunteering her time and talent at many of our programs including Broadway in the Park, Student Art Invitational, Kids Concerts, and the Tustin Art Walk. Her smiling face and cheerfulness bring joy to all who meet her!



WE'RE OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD



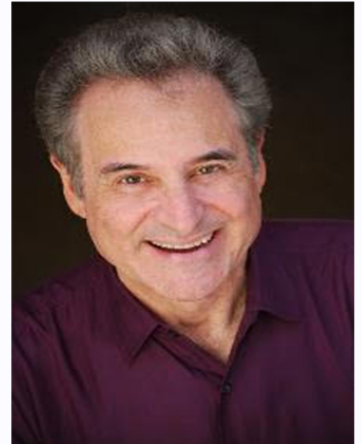
What do the famous musical theater genius Andrew Lloyd Webber and TACFA have in common? They both wanted Lauren Samuels in their production of "The Wizard of Oz".

Lauren Samuels first came to Andrew Lloyd Webber's attention when she was one of 9,000 contestants to enter the British Broadcasting Company's show, "Over The Rainbow". During the series, in which Webber searched for a leading lady to star in his production of "The Wizard of Oz", Lauren consistently wowed the judges and Webber with her stunning performances week after week. Watched by over 6.4 million viewers, she beat out thousands of 'Dorothy' hopefuls to become one of the three final contestants. Although Lauren ultimately did not win the contest, she was immediately cast as Sandy in the musical "Grease" at the Piccadilly Theatre in the West End, London's version of Broadway.

When Webber said she was "A producer's dream", little did he know he was referring to TACFA. Having a star of her caliber performing at Broadway in the Park was not just a dream, it was a million-to-one shot. Thankfully Kris Lythgoe, one of the co-producers of Broadway in the Park, who is also from England, found out she was moving to the United States. She was scheduled to arrive just as casting was to begin. She had barely unpacked when Kris called and convinced her to join the cast. Now all of Tustin can see what Webber could only dream of.

Having a star like Lauren in the cast was a dream come true. Having another actor who has performed on Broadway multiple times join the cast was too much to dream for. But, as the song goes, "the dreams that you dare to dream really do come true".

In addition to Lauren starring as Glinda the Good Witch, TACFA is thrilled to announce that Barry Pearl has agreed to join the cast as the Wizard. Barry is best known for his movie and television work, including co-starring as Doody in the hit movie "Grease". However, Broadway has been his home for many years. Barry was only 11 years old when he made his Broadway debut in the original production of "Bye-Bye Birdie". His other Broadway credits include: "Oliver!", "A Teaspoon Every Four Hours", "The Producers", "Lenny's Back", and most recently "Baby It's You!" Barry was also in the national tour of "Grease", in which he played Sonny and John Travolta played Doody, "Guys and Dolls", "Fiddler on the Roof" and many others. Barry should feel right at home performing in Peppertree Park as this will be the second time he has performed this show in an outdoor setting.



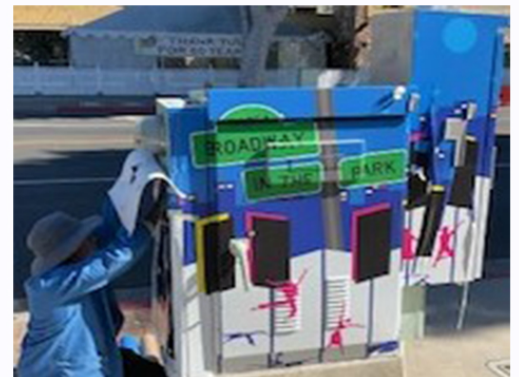
Broadway in the Park has been a staple in Tustin for over 20 years, and this year's production looks to be the best ever! Don't miss these great actors in the classic, "The Wizard of Oz"!

SIGNAL BOXES BRIGHTEN THE STREETS



In cooperation with the City of Tustin and the Tustin Public Art Committee, approval was given to re-decorate two traffic signal boxes with artwork provided by TACFA. Designs were solicited by Adele Heuer from the TUSD High School graphic art students. Two students' artwork was chosen from the entries, Charles Manuel Chua of Tustin High School and Ivanna Tjitra of Beckman High School. Each was awarded \$500 from TACFA. Their designs now adorn two traffic signal boxes; one at the corner of Sixth Street and El Camino Real; the other in front of Peppertree Park on the corner of B Street and First Street. A ceremony was held in late February to "unwrap" these

signal boxes. Present were members of TACFA's Traffic Signal Box Committee, Mayor Austin Lumbard, Director of Parks and Recreation, Chad Clanton, and members of the Tustin Public Art Committee, Meg Gullo, Erin Bruner, and Janet Lomax.



BARBARA BENSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

On April 29, 2022, TACFA honored the six 2022 TACFA **Barbara Benson Memorial Scholarship** recipients with individualized yard signs, a certificate, and treats to celebrate their accomplishments.

The Barbara Benson Memorial Scholarship supports graduating seniors who will major or minor in the arts and seek a career in the arts. This year's judges were: **Karen Akashi**, retired art teacher; **Kim DeBenedetto**, TACFA Board Member; **Kira Heuer**, designer and art curator; and **Lori Spiak**, retired art teacher.

Alisa Friday, a visual artist from Foothill High School, will attend Cal State University Fullerton in the fall, majoring in entertainment art/animation. Her goal is to work in animation to show her work to the world and do what she loves.



Camden Ho is a graphic designer from Beckman High School and will enroll at San Diego State University in the fall to earn a BA with an emphasis in Graphic Design. After graduation she will enter the design industry as either a UI or UX designer to utilize her design skills and programming knowledge. Camden is a finalist in the OC Artist of the Year program.

Cathy Jiang from Beckman High School is a visual artist and will attend School of Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) next fall, majoring in illustration. After graduation, she says that "Engaging my artistic practice in local communities is something I will continue as an artist and to fulfill my role as a creative contributor."

Nicholas Kim, a vocal and instrumental musician from Beckman High School, will attend Biola University next year as a music composition major with a concentration in news media production, and a minor in Christian theology. Nick's ultimate goal is to attend Thornton's Screen Scoring program at USC and become a composer in the video game or film industry.

Yuriko Mikasa is a musician from Beckman High School. Yuri will enroll at the University of California, Irvine next fall to major in piano performance. After earning a graduate degree at a music conservatory, her goal is to teach music and conduct orchestras at the high school level like her mentor, Jim Kollias.

Kyra Wani, a visual artist from Beckman High School, will enroll at Ringling College of Art and Science in Sarasota, Florida, majoring in illustration. After graduation, her goal is to work for an animation or game studio and use her creativity to work with and inspire others.

KIDS KONCERTS

TACFA's 2022 Kids Konzerts were held on Friday, April 29th at Beckman High School's Performing Arts Center. Over 1,050 Tustin Unified School District 4th graders and teachers from 11 different schools attended high-energy, professional-quality concerts. The dynamic and talented high school performers seemed to have just as much fun as the elementary students as they worked through a wide-ranging set of numbers.

Featured first in each concert, the Beckman Orchestra, under the direction of Beckman Music Director Jim Kollias performed a variety of numbers, including "America", "Prologue" and "Mambo" from West Side Story as well as a variety of music from Star Wars. Mr. Kollias handled the event with his usual enthusiasm and mastery, bringing several 4th grade students up on the stage to try their hand at playing an instrument and engaging the audience with questions, clapping and strategic finger snapping. Then, the Beckman Drum Line performed a rousing number followed by the Beckman band under the great leadership of Beckman Band Director, Matt Bausman. The band played "The Patriot" as well as several classical and western/cowboy pieces. Each concert ended with the band students lining the exit to mingle with, pass out music stickers to and high five the departing students.



Program Co-Chairs Mark and Debbie Ewing would like to thank the Beckman High School Instrumental Music Department and the 20 amazing adult volunteers (TACFA board members and Encore members & North Tustin NCL Sustainers) who helped to shepherd the students from the many buses into the auditorium and back to the school buses. The event wouldn't have been possible without them!

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- ²⁰In honor of Wendy Greene
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Creating Community through the Arts!

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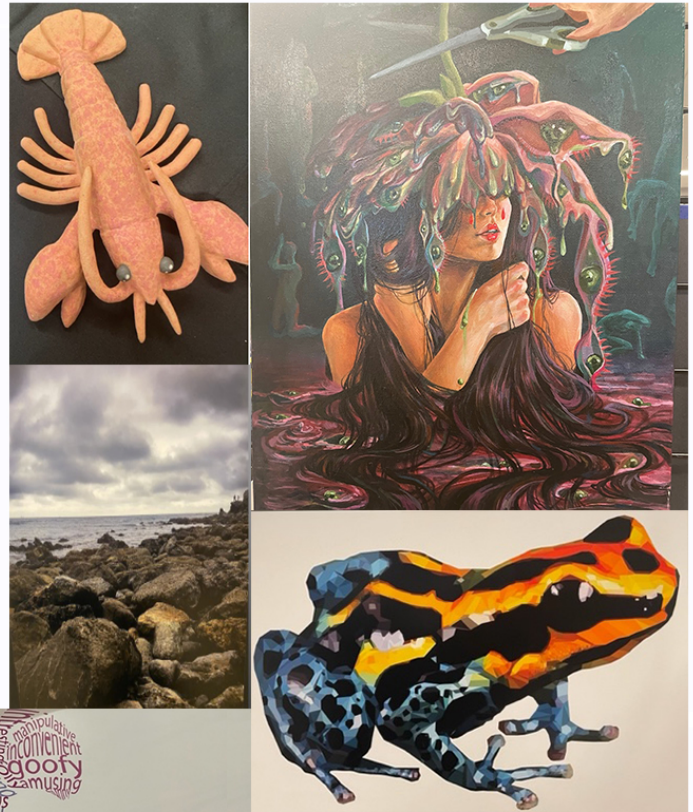


STUDENT ART INVITATIONAL

TACFA held its annual Student Art Invitational at Tustin's Clifton Miller Community Center, after a hiatus of two years due to the pandemic. One hundred and fifty middle and high school students from all public and private schools within the Tustin Unified School District submitted art for the judged event. It was open to the public for two afternoons. The categories of art were:

- Oils, acrylics, water colors, pastels and graphite
- Graphic arts
- Photography
- Ceramics

On the evening of April 14th, a reception was held to award the students who were winners in the invitational. Teachers, administrators, students, their family members attended the standing room only reception. At the reception, over \$3,000 cash prizes were awarded to the students and small stipends were provided to the art teachers involved. The 1st place winning art pieces were displayed to the public at the Arvida bookstore in downtown Tustin the following weekend.



Broadway in the Park is Back!

The Wizard of Oz

August 2-6
Peppertree Park



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