



SPOTLIGHT

Creating Community Through the Arts

A Message From TACFA's President Tony Wong

Hello Art Patrons, Sponsors, and TACFA fans and supporters,

As we wind down 2022 and head into 2023, I want to continue my efforts to articulate why the arts are important, especially for young people.

I became active in TACFA eight years ago because I experienced and witnessed how the arts are the pixie dust in our society that develops, enhances, and accelerates important tangible qualities such as creativity, problem-solving, and abstract thinking.

These qualities attribute to better products and services, more competitive businesses, continuously vibrant culture, greater thought-diversity among citizens, offer a world-class desirable country, and arguably one of the best ways of life in the world.

So how does the arts fit in among reading, writing, and math?

Betye Saar, a famous African American artist, offered this quote which I think nails it so simply and elegantly -- "The arts... (it) feeds the spirit... feeds the soul... (and) educates in areas that books don't."



Education is perhaps THE MOST important factor in the success of every child. Suspending disbelief and debates for a moment about how much better education could be in America, education in this country is still pretty good; just the fact that America offers free K-12 education is important. Therefore the basic ingredients are in place — reading, writing, and math. Lots of kids worldwide become proficient at these skills too. Outside of formal education and available to just about everyone, there are tremendous amounts of information on the internet and in books.

Those basic skills and all the raw knowledge acquired are great, BUT it's useless if they are not applied towards anything. How is all that knowledge synthesized into application, into products, into something useful, into a solutions to problems, into progress for the human race? Somehow, kids in America excel beyond kids in other countries despite lower test scores.

Hummm, perhaps it's the arts. Betye Saar did not specifically state how it works; actually nobody has. It's sort of like Dark Energy; you can see evidence that it's there, binding the universe together, but nobody has tangible proof of exactly how it works. The arts' is at least one if not THE factor that stirs and "glues" reading, math, and writing skills into something amazingly powerful.

Respectfully and proudly,

Tony Wong
TACFA Board President

JOIN TACFA TODAY!

The Tustin Area Council for Fine Arts (TACFA) is always looking for new board members who are interested in supporting the arts in our community through participation in TACFA programs and events. Board members meet monthly to facilitate TACFA's diverse school and community art programs.

Another hard-working arm of TACFA is our auxiliary volunteer group, ENCORE. ENCORE members receive special invitations to member-only events, the opportunity to purchase Broadway in the Park tickets at the group discount rate and receive the biannual TACFA Spotlight. ENCORE members also volunteer at Broadway in the Park and get a behind-the-scenes look at this five-night event. There are endless opportunities for you to support both TACFA and the arts throughout the year.

If you're interested in joining either the board or Encore, please email us at Info@TACFA.org. Get involved in creating community through the arts in Tustin! Please visit our website for more information at <https://www.tacfa.org/volunteer/>.

TACFA WELCOMES SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PHILHARMONIC TO TUSTIN

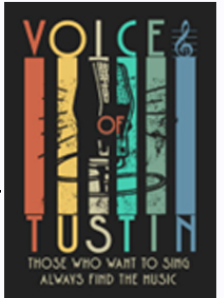
Celebrating 20 years as an ensemble this season, Southern California Philharmonic, or SCP, is a non-profit community orchestra, performing four to six concerts each season, featuring the classics in an engaging, educational, and fun manner. SCP is a diverse group of musicians whose members vary in age and profession. While a few of the musicians are professional musicians (i.e., teachers, performers), most are amateurs who consider music an integral part of their lives. SCP's goal is to bring these individuals together to create the magic that is classical music and make it available to inspire and enrich our community. Their new concert home is St. Paul's Episcopal Church right here in Tustin.

A unique feature of the SCP season is the focus on Young Artists. Each year, SCP auditions students from 3 to 23 years of age, selecting up to 10 Young Artists to perform solo pieces with SCP in spring. The competition is open to instrumentalists, pianists, and vocalists. These are students who are very talented and many go on to pursue musical careers. In addition to performing with SCP, the winners of the Young Artists Competition receive a modest scholarship to help with their musical studies. The scholarships and the Young Artist concert series are generously supported by a variety of donors. TACFA is a proud Sponsor of this annual, Scholarship Competition. For more information and upcoming events visit their website-www.socalphil.org.

VOICES OF TUSTIN

Voices of Tustin, our community choir, has been having a fantastic year. They have been performing at many Tustin venues: Memorial Day Observance at Tustin Veteran's Sports Park, Tustin Rotary Club, The Art Walk & Craft Crawl, Tiller Days, and the highlight - Broadway in the Park. They finished the year at the Mayor's Breakfast on November 17th and the Tustin Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 9th. They will begin the 2023 season in January.

Voices of Tustin is a community-based organization, comprised of volunteer singers who desire to spread the joy of music through performance. If you are interested in joining the group, they meet on Tuesdays at 7pm at Grace Harbor Church 12881 Newport Ave, Tustin CA. No experience is necessary, just a love for singing. Questions? Please contact Carol Merritt at cnovym@gmail.com or Lisa Tally at thetallys@cox.net.



ART WALK FOR FUN

TACFA was thrilled to be one of the major sponsors of the 2022 City of Tustin's Art Walk, as well as the Plein Air and "Snap Tustin!" contests. The Plein Air contest is open to professional and amateur painters, with a first prize award of \$750 and second prize of \$250 provided by TACFA. Entries must depict scenes or subjects from within Historic Old Town Tustin or Tustin Public Parks in a specified amount of time. To view this year's awarded artists, please visit the City of Tustin website.

TACFA also sponsored "Snap Tustin!" which is a photography contest that is open to both professional and amateur photographers. The contestants were invited to take pictures in a specified amount of time, anywhere in Tustin or North Tustin that capture something meaningful to them. The photos were then judged and awarded cash prizes. This year awards were given to:

**1st Place - Tustin Ant's
View by Matthew Barry**



**2nd Place - Plane in the
sunglasses Lens by
Carmela Sison**



**3rd Place - Peering trough Old Town's
Peaceful Spot by Carmela Sison**



THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE BROADWAY IN THE PARK

Once again, the stars on the stage at Broadway in the Park (BITP) outshined the stars over the rainbow. This year's 20th production, "The Wizard of Oz," was a huge, family-pleasing adventure down the yellow brick road with Dorothy, the Tin Man, the Lion and the Scarecrow. After a two-year COVID hiatus, we were proud to bring BITP back to Peppertree Park.

The Production team of Kristopher Lythgoe and Ted Leib ventured to bring the show alive by using an electronic LED screen (a BITP first) to transport the audience from Kansas to the magical Land of Oz. In a production that has tornados, flying witches, houses and monkeys, poppy fields, forbidden forests and an Emerald City, the screen immersed the audience at every turn down the Yellow Brick Road. In addition, the Director-Choreographer, Spencer Lift, blended numerous, ensemble dance numbers to the classic, musical score resulting in an enhanced visual and artistic show. Let's also give a shout out to the extraordinarily, talented cast who thrilled the audience every performance. If you were not able to catch the show this year, you can get an idea of this truly, amazing production on our website: www.tacfa.org/BITP/photos.

The two hours between the gates opening and the show starting were almost as much fun as the show itself. Kids were treated to an expanded fun zone that included face painting, a balloon artist, free games with prizes, and free craft tables. For the budding artists, you could take a painting class or dabble in spinning pottery.

The TACFA Board would like to thank the sponsors, businesses, and many individuals for their generous, financial support making this 20th BITP a wonderful success. We must also thank the BITP volunteers for their time and help. We could not accomplish this annual, signature program of TACFA without these two groups.

And so, the beginnings of next year's show is already in progress. We look forward to bringing our community another exciting, musical production, August 2023. Stay tuned for the show title's Reveal!



TUSTIN ART LEAGUE



The Tustin Art League (TAL) has come back post-covid with gusto! We are enjoying monthly demo artists via zoom and have taken advantage of the platform to network with truly wonderful demo artists from across the country. Our September pastel artist zoomed all the way from Cornwall, England. We currently have 45 members, 17 brand new this year.

November 1 is the start of our 2022 TAL Member Show which will run through the end of the month in the Tustin Area Senior Center Gallery. Thank you TACFA for designating funds for Member Show Awards and Tustin Awards for graciously donating ribbons for the winners. Gallery hours, weekdays 8am-5pm and Saturdays 9am-2pm. For more info about the Tustin Art League visit our blog at: <http://tustinart.blogspot.com>.

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With heartfelt thanks to our donors
 for making it possible to continue our
 mission.

Creating Community through the Arts!

Please join our list of Donors, click this
 link to donate today



***Donations made from October 2021
 through October 2022**

As we reflect upon the last year, 2022 gave TACFA much to be thankful for, namely the return of our art and music programs such as the Student Art Invitational, Kids Konzerts, The HeArt of OC, the Art Walk, and the celebration of our 20th Broadway in the Park with The Wizard of Oz this past summer. We are so very thankful for those who make it possible for us to enrich our community with our fine art programs: our wonderful DONORS and Broadway in the Park SPONSORS! We value every one of YOU and take this time to thank you for your gifts. We are so honored that you choose to foster our mission to develop, showcase, and promote the fine arts in our community.

For the past twenty years, our loyal Broadway in the Park Sponsors have played a pivotal part in underwriting the ever-growing production costs of our annual summer show. As a result, we have been able to maintain affordable ticket prices so that many can experience a professionally produced Broadway show! It is no easy feat to transform an outdoor setting into a working theater, and with our 20th show, TACFA was able to showcase an eye-popping, fully digital LED screen to illustrate the magical world of Oz! Each personal, business, corporate, nonprofit, and foundation contribution played a vital role in the success of this production! We are so grateful!

From all of us at TACFA: Jonathan, Elise, Bonny, Betty, Kim, Debbie, Mark, Nettie, Adele, Erin, Bob, Pat, Jeff, Kelly, Eligia, and Tony...we take this time to wish all of you and your families and joyful and healthy Holiday Season! We look forward to continued partnership in the New Year!

ART INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS

TACFA provided funding to our Title I elementary schools throughout Tustin, nearly 4,000 TUSD students, to be used exclusively for hands-on art instruction. Through the Art Masters Program, students are introduced to classic artists' work, art masterpieces, art style, and various art media. Then, they produced their individual art pieces based upon these classic artists' styles.

We are excited to support these wonderful art programs for TUSD students. By reaching these nearly 4,000 students, TACFA meets its goal to "Bring Art to the HeART of Tustin."



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS!



Creating Community Through the Arts!

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