



Arts Orange County is the leader in building appreciation of, participation in, and support for the arts and arts education in Orange County, California.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Richard Stein, 714.556.5160 x17, rstein@artsoc.org

Arts Orange County Announces 22nd OC Arts Awards Honorees

June 16, 2022 – IRVINE, CALIFORNIA – **The Orange County arts community will gather on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, in the Samueli Theater at Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, to honor its stars at the 22nd Orange County Arts Awards, hosted by the county’s non-profit arts council, Arts Orange County.**

This year’s ***Helena Modjeska Cultural Legacy Award for lifetime contributions*** to the Orange County arts community will recognize: **Robert Garfias**, an internationally-renowned musicologist, educator and arts advocate; **Orange County Museum of Art**, founded 60 years ago and now fulfilling its long-held dream of opening a world-class museum on the Segerstrom Center for the Arts campus; **Sophie & Larry Cripe**, passionate theatre-lovers, leaders and supporters of South Coast Repertory, Chance Theater, and other Orange County theatres.

The following Achievement Awards will be bestowed: ***Emerging Artist/Arts Leader Awards*** to **Marytza Rubio**, a fiction writer and literary arts advocate, and to **William Camargo**, a celebrated visual artist and community builder. An award for ***Emerging Arts Organization*** will be given to **Lyric Opera of Orange County**, a five-year old company championing opera experiences for all ages countywide.

2022 marks the 22nd edition of the Orange County Arts Awards (held annually except for 2020) and the thirteenth time that the Orange County Arts Awards will take place at Segerstrom Center for the Arts. Preceding the ceremonies, honorees and sponsors will enjoy a pre-event reception and elegant dinner in the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall Rotunda before joining all ceremony guests for the evening’s program in the Samueli Theater.

Emcees for this year’s event are **Thúy Võ Đặng**, Curator for the Southeast Asian Archive at University of California, Irvine, a Board member of Arts Orange County, and a past Board member of Vietnamese American Arts & Letters Association. She is also co-author of the recently published *A People’s Guide to Orange County* (with Gustavo Arellano and Elaine Lewinnek), and **Richard Stein**, President & CEO of Arts Orange County.

“Arts Orange County proudly honors the people and organizations that have profoundly impacted the creative life of our community,” commented Stein. “Each year, we look forward to recognizing those in the arts who have contributed to Orange County over the course of a lifetime and those who have made a more recent impact. This is an evening that celebrates

our diverse artistic community, where we honor and thank those whose dedication to the arts enriches and benefits so many throughout Orange County.”

More information may be found at <https://artsoc.org/events-and-programs/orange-county-arts-awards/>

* * *



22nd Orange County Arts Awards Honorees – October 18, 2022



Robert Garfias

Helena Modjeska Cultural Legacy Award – Artistic Visionary

Robert Garfias was born in San Francisco in 1932 to Mexican-American parents. As a child, he studied classical guitar and jazz saxophone. During high school, he studied Western classical music composition and formed a jazz combo that played gigs for beatniks in the North Beach area of San Francisco. During his academic career he founded the ethnomusicology program at the University of Washington, served as Dean of the School of Fine Arts at the University of California, Irvine and conducted significant periods of fieldwork and language study around the world, including in Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Mexico, Zimbabwe, Central America, and Spain. In 1987, he was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to serve on the National Council of the Arts, which is the governing body for the National Endowment for the Arts. He also has served on the Smithsonian Council.



Orange County Museum of Art

Helena Modjeska Cultural Legacy Award – Arts Organization

Since its founding, OCMA has been a leader in Southern California in presenting and preserving the art of our time. With a renowned collection of 4,500 objects, an ambitious exhibition program, and impactful educational offerings, OCMA is recognized as one of the finest mid-sized museums in the United States. When 13 visionary women came together in 1962 to open the museum—then called the Balboa Pavilion Gallery—they shared a powerful conviction that Orange County needed a venue where important art could be enjoyed. From the seed of this idea, a small art gallery became the Newport Harbor Art Museum in 1968 and the Orange County Museum of Art in 1997. As OCMA’s collections, exhibitions, and programs have grown, so has its reputation of investing in promising artists and helping shape art history. In May 2018, OCMA unveiled the design for the museum’s new building at Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, CA, by Morphosis, under the direction of Pritzker Prize-winning architect Thom Mayne and Partner-in-Charge Brandon Welling. The museum broke ground in September 2019 and will open the new building on October 8, 2022. The move from Newport Beach to Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa will provide the museum with a central location, expanded gallery space, and inviting public areas, further enabling the museum to engage the public through art.



Sophie and Larry Cripe

Helena Modjeska Cultural Legacy Award – Visionary Arts Patrons

Sophie and Larry Cripe are passionate theatre-lovers who travel everywhere to see the latest productions and who are devoted longtime supporters of Orange County's theatre scene.

Sophie serves on the Board of Directors of South Coast Repertory, where she is a Past President and member of the Presidents Circle, and Larry serves on the Board of Chance Theater, where he is a past President. Sophie is also a past President of The Laguna Playhouse Board of Directors, and previously served on the Board of Stop-Gap, a former organization that used theatre therapeutically and educationally to inspire positive change. In addition to their many hours of volunteer service and leadership, they have been exceptionally generous donors to these organizations.



Lyric Opera of Orange County

Emerging Arts Organization

Lyric Opera of Orange County is a 5 year old organization that champions opera for all ages through intimate and professional concerts and productions, employing outstanding regional singers and musicians. It was founded by Diana Farrell, its President and Artistic Director, a soprano who has sung with orchestras and music festivals around the U.S.



William Camargo

Emerging Artist/Arts Leader

William Camargo is an artist, educator, and leader who connects and energizes people, creating community through his art. Born in Santa Ana and currently residing in Anaheim,

William Camargo's work is rooted in challenging the social depiction and erasure of Chicanx/Latinx people in historical documents, photographs, and news archives. He is currently serving as Chair of the City of Anaheim's Heritage and Culture Commission. He is the founder/curator of Latinx Diaspora Archives, a social media page that elevates communities of color through family photos. He holds a Masters in Fine Arts from Claremont Graduate University and a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Creative Photography from California State University, Fullerton.



Marytza Rubio
Emerging Artist/Arts Leader

Marytza Rubio is a fiction writer in Santa Ana whose debut collection of short stories, *Maria, Maria & Other Stories* was published this year by Liveright/W.W. Norton. In January 2016, she established Makara Center for the Arts, a volunteer-run nonprofit library & art center. Through May 2020, Makara offered free specialized library services and arts & culture programs to local communities through its brick & mortar location in Santa Ana, and then transitioned to a mail order library service in late 2020 as a more sustainable response to the ongoing pandemic. She also serves as Senior Director, Community & Culture at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts.

Photo: Julie Leopo