



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 23rd OC Arts Awards Honorees

May 9, 2022 – IRVINE, CALIFORNIA – **The Orange County arts community will gather on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, in the Samueli Theater at Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, to honor its stars at the 23rd 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: **Jane Fujishige Yada**, a passionate, devoted and generous arts philanthropist for over 25 years who currently serves as Chair of the Board of Directors at Segerstrom Center for the Arts; **Claudia de la Cruz**, a renowned flamenco dancer, choreographer and educator; **Richard Bryant**, an arts leader who helped open important performing arts venues, most recently the Musco Center for the Arts at Chapman University where he is Executive Director; and **Orange County Musicians Union**, celebrating its 100th anniversary as the representative for professional musicians in our community.

Two **Achievement Awards** will be bestowed: An award for ***Outstanding Arts Organization*** will be given to **Child Creativity Lab**, a leader in championing STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education programs for young people through a variety of programs. ***Emerging Artist/Arts Leader Award*** to **Chantrell M. Lewis**, a theatre artist who is Founder and Executive Director of The Jar of Sunshine, offering programs that promote wellness through the arts.

2023 marks the 23rd edition of the Orange County Arts Awards (held annually except for 2020) and the fourteenth 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 **Diana Farrell**, Founder and Artistic Director of Lyric Opera of Orange County, which received the 2022 Emerging Arts Organization Award, 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/>
Tickets can be ordered online at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/23rd-orange-county-arts-awards-tickets-632907472287>

* * *

Helena Modjeska Cultural Legacy Awards



Jane Fujishige Yada

Visionary Arts Patron

Chair of the Board, Segerstrom Center for the Arts, the first Asian American woman and only the second woman to ever hold the position, Jane Fujishige Yada has served on the Board for 22 years. In 2023, she Co-Chaired the Philharmonic Society of Orange County Gala and the Pacific Symphony Gala. Born in Orange County, Jane grew up in a farming family that proudly tended to a 56-acre strawberry farm in Anaheim. Her father was a decorated World War II veteran, serving his county honorably while many relatives were incarcerated in internment camps back home.

Nominated by Philharmonic Society of Orange County, Segerstrom Center for the Arts, and Pacific Symphony.



Claudia de la Cruz

Helena Modjeska Cultural Legacy Award – Visionary Artist

Flamenco dancer and choreographer, born in Monterrey, Mexico with Andalusian blood originating from Jerez, Spain, Claudia de la Cruz studied flamenco in Mexico, Madrid and Seville, Spain, and around the globe. In 1999, she founded her flamenco school in Santa Ana and in 2003 formed “Tierra Flamenca,” her professional dance company.



Richard T. Bryant

Helena Modjeska Cultural Legacy Award – Visionary Arts Leader

Richard T. Bryant has had a long and distinguished career around the nation as a leader in the performing arts, particularly with start-ups, transitions, and arts-driven economic development. His impact upon Orange County was keenly felt when he served for ten years (1987-1996) as director of communications and marketing for Segerstrom Center for the Arts (then known as Orange County Performing Arts Center). But the icing on the cake was when Chapman University brought him in to complete the planning process for and to open its extraordinary Musco Center for the Arts in 2016--and then persuaded him to remain as its Executive Director, his current role.



Orange County Musicians Union

Local 7, American Federation of Musicians

Helena Modjeska Cultural Legacy Award – Visionary Arts Organization

The Orange County Musicians Union, a non-profit organization, has been representing professional musicians in the area since 1923. From the Disneyland Band to the Pacific Symphony, its membership of approximately 1,000 consists of instrumentalists and vocalists who perform live and in recording studios locally and internationally.

Annual Achievement Awards



Child Creativity Lab

Achievement Award for Outstanding Arts Organization

Since 2012, Child Creativity Lab has worked tirelessly to foster the next generation of critical thinkers, problem solvers, innovators and leaders through hands-on creativity-enhancing exploration in the form of STEAM programs such as its Makerspace-on-Wheels and Professional Development that teach teachers how to bring new ways of thinking to the classroom.



Chantrell M. Lewis

Emerging Artist/Arts Leader

Executive Director and Founder, The Jar of Sunshine, a nonprofit organization that creates accessible programs in the arts, wellness and literacy. Chantrell is a Teaching Artist with Segerstrom Center for the Arts, and holds a MFA from University of California, Irvine – Claire Trevor School of the Arts.