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Program

DECEMBER 8, 2022 | *Chicago Cultural Center*

Thomas R. Leavens Awards STACY BAYGOOD STREUR
ROSE ANN VARGAS
MARCI ROLNIK WALKER

*Distinguished Service
to the Arts Awards* ERIN HARKEY
CONGO SQUARE THEATRE
FULL SPECTRUM FEATURES
CHICAGO MULTI-CULTURAL DANCE CENTER
CHICAGO WEST COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER

From Our BOARD PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It is an incredible thrill, and also an immense privilege, to welcome you to this celebration of the first fifty years of Lawyers for the Creative Arts. A milestone like this demands that we take a longer perspective back to the beginning and forward to plans for the future. So, let's embark on a little time travel.

LCA at its founding in 1972. The early 70s were a turbulent period for legal service agencies. And yet in the midst of those struggles a group of young Chicago Bar Association lawyers had the vision to recognize that there would always be a demand for legal services dedicated exclusively to those working in the arts—such an important part of the city's life and reputation. Fifty years have proven that vision to be incredibly prescient.

Some amazing stats. LCA has truly been blessed with the support of so many lawyers whose passion for the arts has led them to devote their time and financial support to LCA's mission. LCA is a small organization; yet at any one time our governing Board alone numbers more than 35 members. Over the 50 years, the numbers are staggering: more than 200 individuals have served on one or more of our three Boards.

Of course, the reason we're all here is *the clients*, and those stats are even more impressive: We conservatively estimate that LCA has referred more than 10,000 clients in 50 years. Add in-house services and that number easily doubles. Add another 10,000 attendees at our educational programs in the past 10 years alone, and you begin to see the immense impact this small organization of 3-4 staff members has had on our cherished arts community.

How do we do that? Only with help from you, and the many, many hundreds more lawyers in your law firms who have so generously volunteered their time and money all these years. For that we thank you, and we hope you take well deserved pride in the accomplishment.

What's next? Our role as lawyers is to respond to the needs of our clients. We accomplish that every day through our legal referral services and portfolio of educational programs. But, we never stop finding new ways to help. Our Video Law Library helps our volunteer lawyers to better serve our clients in many complex areas of Arts Law. Meanwhile, we're launching new educational programs and consulting services to assist

performing arts organizations to better navigate the unprecedented challenges they face in a post-pandemic environment.

During the early days of the pandemic, one of our long-time foundation supporters referred to LCA as "like the Red Cross for the Arts." Of course, everyone would prefer that the arts did not need crisis relief, let alone the kind that could be compared even hyperbolically with the Red Cross. But, the reality is this: the services that LCA has always offered, and the new services we're rolling out, are needed more now than at any time in the 50 years of our history.

Let's celebrate! So, with full recognition of the many challenges ahead, let's celebrate LCA's 50 years of service. And let's also recognize that LCA is a stronger organization today than at any time in its history. And let's express our deep gratitude to all the volunteers, financial supporters, Board members and staff whose continued support for our work is so essential to our ability to assist Chicago's arts community in surmounting the new challenges it faces.



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Thomas R. Leavens

AWARD

IN HONOR OF THOMAS R. LEAVENS, LCA'S FIRST FULL-TIME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THIS AWARD IS GIVEN FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO LCA.



Stacy Baygood Streur is a principal of Streur Law, LLC. She currently serves as outside counsel for an international technology services company with a unique specialization in negotiating contracts for the delivery of 911 calls to emergency service providers. Although this work is both interesting and groundbreaking, it is not the reason we are honoring Stacy today. Rather, it is her work in various important capacities for LCA, and especially as its Director of Legal Services until 2021.

Stacy holds J.D. and L.L.M. degrees in Intellectual Property from DePaul College of Law. Out of law school, she worked for seven years in the Chicago office of the U.S. Small Business Administration, where she acquired a critical knowledge of many of the challenges facing small companies.

Stacy has always harbored a passion for arts. She is a published fiction and nonfiction author, and she has written about technology and intellectual property law for *The Chicago Daily Law Bulletin*,

the *Northwestern Journal of Technology and Intellectual Property*, and *The Docket* (a publication of the Lake County Bar Association). Stacy is active in a broad range of professional activities. In 2019, she was appointed by Governor Pritzker to serve on the board of Illinois Humanities which

"Stacy's presence, and her persistence in seeing us through huge changes... helped LCA come through as a stronger and better organization."

provides free public programs, grants, and educational opportunities in the humanities to communities across Illinois, especially low-income and rural communities.

Stacy frequently presents on copyright law and technology for professional groups. Her unique specialty in legal issues surrounding 911 technology

has made her a go-to lecturer in this new area of federal legislation.

Over the years, Stacy's dual interests in law and arts led her to offer her services as a volunteer for LCA, and she became a frequent presence in the office, developing projects to make us better in all sorts of ways. As a small organization serving many hundreds of individual clients and other constituencies, LCA never seemed to have either the manpower or the "leisure" time to systematically measure and evaluate the efficacy of its services. Stacy thought we could do better and proposed a survey. She developed the questions, the method for distribution and collection of data, security and confidentiality, and quantification of results. (Those results showed, incidentally, an over 85% satisfaction level with LCA's services.)

When Jan Feldman became Executive Director, Stacy's involvement at LCA increased significantly, as she filled in during Marci Walker's maternity leave. Her facility with LCA's technology made her a logical choice for assisting the organization in upgrading its base CRM software, and she assisted in procuring a grant for the acquisition of Salesforce, and for its successful integration over a period of more than two years. With various other staffing and program changes, Stacy became LCA's Legal Services Director, handling intake and referral, as well as training for our law school interns on their roles in this important function.

Said Executive Director Jan Feldman, "Many transitions have taken place at LCA in the past few years—program, technology, office space, staffing—and some of these happened during the pandemic. Stacy's presence, and her persistence in seeing us through huge changes in the way we operate, all helped LCA come through as a stronger and better organization."

Thomas R. Leavens AWARD

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ROSE ANN VARGAS

Rose Ann Vargas was the Administrator of Lawyers for the Creative Arts from 1999 until her retirement in 2015. Bill Rattner used to say that the first thing he realized when he walked in the door at LCA in 2000 was that he absolutely needed to make sure Rose Ann stayed on.

Luckily for Rattner, and luckily for the future of LCA, Rose Ann did stay on. Because, as anyone with any contact with LCA between 1999 and 2015 will tell you, there was something about Rose Ann that made her an essential part of what made LCA work well in all those years. There was something intangible about the way she dealt with everyone.

Rose Ann always seemed to have just the right approach to whomever she was talking to—clients, volunteer lawyers, board members, law school interns, staff, service people. “She was always

“It’s impossible to overstate the impact Rose Ann had on this organization.”

cool under pressure,” said Executive Director Jan Feldman. “While she wasn’t one to suffer fools gladly, still she had a way to smooth things out so

you, and she, both got what was needed without ruffled feathers.”

Rose Ann holds a degree from Robert Morris College. Her first non-profit job was in the development and volunteer groups at Weiss Hospital. She developed a thorough knowledge of donor solicitation, and special events, as well as the record-keeping that goes along with those relationships. When her supervisor took a position at LCA, Rose Ann went with her, and when Rattner became Executive Director, she was convinced by his advocacy that staying the course would be a good idea. “He made a good lawyerly argument, and he seemed to be a good person, both of which turned out to be very true,” said Rose Ann recently.

The position of Administrator has always been much more than the name implies. LCA is very much an “all hands on deck” office, and the Administrator position is the best example of that approach. Rose Ann worked closely with Bill Rattner for every one of his fourteen years on the job, and she was especially instrumental in the smooth transition from Rattner to Feldman in 2014.

“In so many areas, Rose Ann’s knowledge, and savvy, were incredibly helpful in my initiation into the job. Can’t imagine those first two years without her help,” said Feldman. “It’s impossible to overstate the impact Rose Ann had on this

organization from the very difficult period we were in when Bill took over in 2000 to the stability it had achieved by the time he retired.”

Thomas R. Leavens

AWARD

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MARCI ROLNIK WALKER

Marci Rolnik Walker joined Lawyers for the Creative Arts in 2004. During her more than decade-long tenure as LCA's Legal Director, she advised hundreds of clients passing through LCA's doors each year. She also worked closely with an army of volunteer private lawyers to deliver high quality pro bono representation to LCA's creative individual clients, businesses and nonprofits from all disciplines of the arts. Working closely with Executive Director, Bill Rattner, and later, Jan Feldman, she helped cultivate and solidify LCA's reputation in the legal and foundation communities.

Marci expanded her role into education by developing intellectual property seminars and symposia, often in partnership with legal and academic institutions. She took on leadership positions in bar associations, leveraging them to LCA's benefit. She naturally gravitated to ethics panels, speaking about the value of pro bono service throughout the legal community.

According to Jan Feldman, "Marci was an especially creative and energetic force in expanding LCA's educational programs into new areas. She is very comfortable with a microphone in her hands.

"We are all grateful that lawyers banded together 50 years ago to form a lasting institution and a tradition of protecting the arts. I'm happy to have played a small part."

She never struggles for a name, and she has an amazing talent for bringing a discussion back to a practical level when the point may have gotten lost in something excessively theoretical," said Feldman. "She always keeps the needs of the artist foremost in mind—which of course is what LCA is all about."

As Legal Director, Marci took a personal interest in LCA's clients and in mentoring law students. In part this reflects her own appreciation for the mentorship she received from, as she put it, "the many LCA board members who took me under their wing," an experience which has the effect of "opening doors to new lawyers by partnering with more experienced counsel and expanding the legal community's expertise in arts and entertainment law."

Marci also advocates for educating artists early in their careers. She has taught entertainment and intellectual property law courses as an adjunct professor at several colleges and universities, explaining that it's a form of preventative lawyering. Marci easily engages with artists both in the office and the classroom while imparting a need to protect their interests. According to a former student, "Marci taught me the importance of transparency, the art of negotiation, and the significance that a single word in a contract can have on a project's overall outcome."

Marci holds a unique position with LCA. Her passion for the arts and commitment to public service have left an indelible imprint on LCA and the high esteem that the arts community regards our work. She brings this back into perspective explaining, "LCA afforded me the privilege of having a purpose in my work and observing first-hand how lawyers' amazing capacity for generosity can impact lives.

We are all grateful that lawyers banded together 50 years ago to form a lasting institution and a tradition of protecting the arts. I'm happy to have played a small part."

Distinguished Service TO THE ARTS HONOREE



ERIN HARKEY

Erin Harkey has devoted her entire career to helping individuals and communities flourish in the arts. In November 2021, she succeeded Mark Kelly to become Commissioner of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE). She previously worked under Kelly as Projects Administrator, Deputy Commissioner for Programming, First Deputy Commissioner, and Acting Commissioner. She also held the position of Senior Policy Advisor for Arts and Culture in the Mayor's Office, advising on cultural policy and arts strategy across all City departments and agencies. These positions followed a career in governmental arts positions in California where she managed public art programs for the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and the Arts Council of Long Beach.

As newly appointed Commissioner of DCASE, Harkey reflected on the previous "tumultuous nineteen months battling the pandemic and five years advocating for Chicago's cultural community." More recently in her remarks at the October

City Council Budget Hearing, the Commissioner discussed several key challenges facing DCASE, especially the widely circulating reports of 30-40% reductions in earned revenue from audience participation. On the positive side she referred to a "transformational influx of resources to help support Chicago's creative economy" resulting in

Erin Harkey's entire professional career has been devoted to helping individuals and communities to flourish in the arts.

restoration of 90% of the DCASE's pre-pandemic budget and increases of average CityArts grants to arts organizations by an average of 320+%. Grants to individual artists increased by 60%. Total grants increased by 25% in 2021.

The Commissioner stated, that "grantees are now, proudly, more reflective of the city of Chicago—60% of Individual Artist Program grantees are [BIPOC] as compared to 38% in 2016. Other statistics relating to investments in the arts in south and west side neighborhoods saw increases as well. The Commissioner stated, "This year, all DCASE festivals and events incorporated neighborhood components, which resulted in over 130 events and programs providing \$2 million in direct support to artists and organizations participating in cultural events in communities throughout the city."

She noted the return of beloved summer festivals such as Taste of Chicago, Gospel, Blues, Jazz, House and World Music Festivals. Commissioner Harkey is especially proud of advances in the City's film production, which hit a record High of \$630 million in 2021, "shattering pre-pandemic levels by \$70 million."

Commissioner Harkey has developed a six-point plan for the coming year which emphasizes investment in public art in neighborhoods, a commitment to convening to evaluate and better understand the needs of the cultural sector as it plans for an equitable future, and to distribute public funds to address the needs of the cultural and tourism sectors as they recover from the impacts of the pandemic.

Commissioner Harkey earned two master's degrees in Public Art Administration and Urban

Planning from the University of Southern California (USC) and a bachelor's degree in Marketing from Howard University.

Distinguished Service TO THE ARTS HONOREE

PHOTO: JOHN R. BOEHM PHOTOGRAPHY



CONGO SQUARE THEATRE

Congo Square Theatre was founded in 1999 and takes its name from historic New Orleans site where enslaved Africans would sing, drum, and dance, and display cultural expressions on Sundays. Over twenty years later, the ensemble has a national reputation as one of the premier African American theaters in the country. It is especially proud of its productions of the works of its mentor and theatrical father, August Wilson, which have garnered numerous awards. For example, its production of Wilson's *Seven Guitars* received the award for best ensemble, best direction, and best production at the 2005 Joseph Jefferson Awards. Congo Square was the first African American theater company to receive such an honor.

In 2005, Congo Square established The New Playwright Initiative, which was renamed The August Wilson New Play Initiative after his death. The program provides opportunities for emerging African American playwrights. It is presented through a multi-faceted process of commissioning new artists, producing staged readings, and developmental workshops adding powerful new voices to American theater.

Since its inception, The August Wilson New Play Initiative has produced new works like *Stick Fly* by Lydia Diamond, which went to Broadway and was developed for HBO; *Deep Azure* by Chadwick Boseman, and more recent entries: Ensemble

Member Kelvin Roston's *Twisted Melodies*, Lekethia Dalcoe's *A Small Oak Tree Runs Red*, as directed by Harry J. Lennix, and *Brothers of the Dust* by Darren Canady—which won The American Theatre Critics Association's Elizabeth Osborn New Play Award in 2012. By continuing this initiative, Congo Square has shown that it has a continuing commitment to nurture its legacy as innovators and leaders in the development of premier works by the next generation of great American playwrights.

Congo Square Theatre's most recent success is strong evidence that its efforts to weather the

called a "cathartic journey." Lookingglass Theatre hosted the production's residency for a second run in the fall. *The Chicago Reader* described the production as "part healing ritual, part sensitivity session, part exuberant dance theater freak-out, and part explosive agitprop political satire." *What to Send Up When It Goes Down* was nominated for 6 Black Theatre Alliance Awards, including Best Production and Best Ensemble, 4 Black Excellence Awards, and a Jeff Award.

In 2021, Congo Square named Ericka Ratcliff as its Artistic Director. Ratcliff is only the fourth person to hold the position. It was previously held by the late Samuel G. Roberson, who was a much-revered presence in Chicago theater circles and especially Congo Square. He succumbed to a childhood disease at the age of 34, leading the League of Chicago Theaters to create an honorarium in his name. In addition to having served as Associate Artistic Director under Roberson, Ratcliff brings to the job a wealth of acting and management experience at Congo Square and many other Chicago theaters.

She joins Executive Director Charlique C. Rolle in leading the company. Originally from the Bahamas, Rolle moved to Chicago in 2012 to find ways to support arts organizations, teach, and create performance-based work. She is nationally and internationally recognized for her work. Rolle is committed to ensuring that Black stories are heard, that Black artists create, and that Black

Congo Square has a legacy as innovators and leaders in the development of premier works by the next generation of great African American playwrights.

pandemic have born theatrical fruit. Its 2022 production, *What to Send Up When It Goes Down*, is a response "to the gratuitous loss of Black lives and interrupts discourses that enable the ubiquity of racialized violence in our society." The production this year took sold-out houses on what the *Sun Times*

communities find freedom through creative expression. As an arts administrator, performing artist, and choreographer, she has served in management positions with Inside Chicago Dance and was the performing arts director of Chicago Tabernacle and the Chicago School of Leadership.

Distinguished Service TO THE ARTS HONOREE



FULL SPECTRUM FEATURES

Transforming the independent film industry is Full Spectrum Features' (FSF) mission. FSF is a production company that produces, exhibits, and supports underrepresented filmmakers, a category that includes women, people of color, and LGBTQ+. This commitment to diversity is reflected not only in the filmmakers that FSF supports, but also in the company itself, which is an ALAANA (African, Latinx, Asian, Arab, Native American) organization founded by women, people of color, and LGBTQ filmmakers. FSF educates the public about important social and cultural issues and fosters understanding between communities through award-winning films.

Since 2005, the company has produced fourteen original films, including: *Signature Move*, an independent film about the romantic relationship between two women (an American-Pakistani lawyer and a Mexican-American bookshop owner), which won the Grand Jury Prize at Outfest; *The Year Between*, a film about a college drop-out who returns home to her family after being diagnosed with mental illness, which was nominated for the Tribeca US Narrative Competition; *The Orange Story*, a unique narrative film told through oral

history and archival documents and images that illuminates the experience of Japanese Americans during World War II, which received the Outstanding Public History Project from the National Council on Public History; and *the T*, a web series that follows the friendship and romance between a young trans woman and queer black man.

Full Spectrum educates the public about important social and cultural issues and fosters understanding between communities through award-winning films.

Full Spectrum Features partners with the Chicago Film Office to run an incubator program for young filmmakers, called the Chicago Independent Producer's Lab (CIPL). CIPL has been successful in broadening the professional networks and expertise of its participants through intensive workshops

with industry mentors. LCA participated in CIPL by presenting workshops to CIPL participants on film financing, rights acquisition, and film production and distribution in each of the years 2020 through 2022.

As the Executive Director of FSF, Eugene Sun Park believes film can change the way people observe and understand the world and each other. His goal is to promote new narratives in the film industry by sharing the stories and experiences of diverse individuals. Working in experimental and narrative forms, Eugene is a filmmaker and producer whose films have screened at over 400 festivals, micro-cinemas, museums, and alternative screening venues around the world, including Chicago International, Chicago Underground, Athens International Film and Video Festival, Outfest, and BAMcinemafest. *Michael's Story*, a feature-length, fictional drama he wrote that was inspired by the 1982 murder of Vincent Chin, won the screenplay competition at the 37th Asian American International Film Festival in New York. Eugene has also written about film for *MovieMaker*, *Film Inquiry*, and the *Huffington Post*.

Newcity recently inducted Eugene into the magazine's inaugural Film 50 Hall of Fame, describing him as "essential to the film world of Chicago." He was named a Community Impact Scholar by the Harvard Business School Alumni Club of Chicago in 2020, which gives nonprofit art and cultural leaders the opportunity to take classes

in the Management Certificate Program at the Harvard Extension School. Eugene also received the Jan and Frank Cicero Fellowship from the Newberry Library in 2019 to help him advance his work using Newberry's extensive collection.

Distinguished Service TO THE ARTS HONOREE



The Chicago Multi-Cultural Dance Center is a nonprofit organization which has served Chicago's communities for over 20 years under the leadership of founder and Artistic Director Homer Hans Bryant. CMDC integrates a diversity of dance styles and honors the richness of our varied multicultural heritage. In 2008 Bryant merged ballet and street dance styles to create Hiplet™, a new technique featuring Hip Hop dance in pointe shoes.

Students of CMDC can enroll in a variety of age groups and ballet styles at the school at 47 West Polk. There's a program for very young children, ages 3–9, covering creative movement, Tap, acrobatics, Hip Hop, and African Dance. For students aged 10 and up, Open Dance programs allow students the opportunity to dance at their own pace and schedule. They can take courses in Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Hip Hop, African, Latin, Contemporary and Lyrical dance styles. Another program teaches students to train at the pre-professional level and learn classical ballet, Tap, Jazz, African, and modern styles among others. For adults, the offerings become even more varied and customized.

At the heart of Bryant's school, as well as his professional dance company, called the "Hiplet Ballerinas" (previously, the "Rap Ballet") is his

deeply held view that classical ballet traditionally was not welcoming to dancers who were not tall, slender and white complexioned. He sought to develop a style of classical ballet that merged classical on pointe techniques with Hip Hop, neoclassical and diverse dance styles that incorporated multicultural heritages. Thus was borne Hiplet™. Among other innovations, Hiplet dancers wear tights that match the color of their own skin.

For 25 years, Bryant has used dance to change lives, providing a safe environment for students

from the Virgin Islands Council on the Arts to attend Jacob's Pillow, a professional dance school in Massachusetts, Bryant enrolled at the Dance Theatre of Harlem, a professional ballet company for Black dancers in New York. He later moved to Chicago and joined the Chicago City Ballet.

In Bryant's own words, "Hiplet is important. It is Afro-centric. So we are pulling from your urban communities, and we put in the jazz and the Latin, but we stick to the classical ballet discipline. We have been to Germany, Seoul, South Korea, France, Spain, and the Virgin Islands, New York and

"A lot of normal people have been deterred from dancing because they were a little too big, a little too busty. Hiplet ballerinas look like normal people."

of various skills and socioeconomic backgrounds. Raised in a close-knit village in the Virgin Islands, he discovered his love of movement by watching Gene Kelly, Fred Astaire, and Ginger Rogers on a black-and-white TV. After receiving a scholarship

California a dozen times. It's just amazing what has happened. A lot of normal people have been deterred from dancing because they were a little too big, a little too busty. Hiplet ballerinas look like normal people."

Distinguished Service TO THE ARTS HONOREE



In 1999, musician and educator Howard Sandifer and business professional Darlene Sandifer founded the Chicago West Community Music Center (CWCMC), with a commitment to bringing pride and humanity to the families and communities of Chicago's economically depressed West Side by offering a culturally rich environment infused with music.

With an initial enrollment of 15 students, it now reaches over 900 children, youth, and adults in programs including a model music school, intergenerational music activities, business in music classes, local and international music performances. CWCMC's musical education is grounded in a strong classical foundation with a unique focus on West Side born Black music.

The pandemic required CWCMC to respond creatively to maintain a program that is fundamentally in person. The staff turned to laptop computers to conduct virtual classes and performances. From that program resulted the West Side Laptop Orchestra, combining art, engineering, listening, and studio techniques, to create lessons and performances that merge technology with the artistic process.

CWCMC participates with other social service agencies, such as After School Matters. It partners with the Berklee College of Music through its

Berklee PLUS cutting-edge curriculum to prepare students for college scholarship opportunities; It works with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's African American Education Committee; and offers free concerts at the Garfield Park Conservatory.

CWCMC has provided live music performances in the form of recitals, concerts, and master classes since its inception in 1999. CWCMC has brought numerous local, national, and even international artists the West Side through CWCMC programming. In collaboration with the City of Chicago's Night Out in The Parks, CWCMC presented "The Legends Continues Concert Series" since 2014, bringing jazz, blues, and R&B artists to various park district

flutist, and an ensemble of musical participants presented at the Garfield Park Fieldhouse.

Howard and Darlene, through CWCMC, have brought several educational and performance programs to the West Side to honor Black American music. Howard has dedicated himself to chronicle Chicago's West Side's contribution to the history of Black music through both a forthcoming book and documentary. To instill pride and context to the importance of Black music, CWCMC hosts a weekly podcast, BLACK MUSE, in which Black artists are interviewed about their works. Howard will produce in early 2023, the premiere of his original composition, SWEET FREEDOM SUITE.

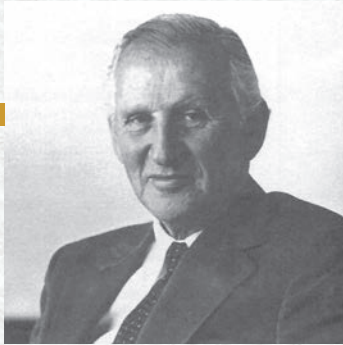
CWCMC is committed to bringing pride and humanity to the West Side by offering a culturally rich environment infused with music

locations throughout the city and on the West Side. Before COVID, CWCMC annually hosted visits from "The Bridge" a transatlantic Network for Jazz and Creative Music with performances at the Garfield Park Fieldhouse. In 2018, CWCMC was a partner in collaboration with Project& to produce "Pan," a participatory opera with live electronics, a virtuoso

Collaborating with renown choreographer Joel Hall, this community-based production commemorates the lives of great leaders in the struggle for racial equity, justice, and dignity, such as, Fannie Lou Hamer, Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, and Harriet Tubman. It involves four musical genres—jazz, blues, house, classical—and dance.

Historic
CLIENT, VOLUNTEER,
HONOREE HIGHLIGHTS

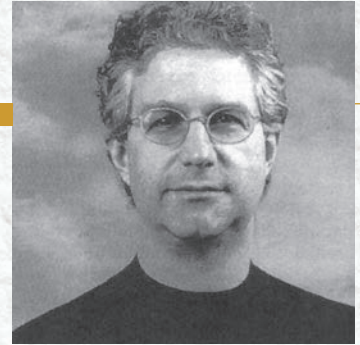
1997



SIDNEY R. YATES

Distinguished Service Honoree

1997



THOMAS R. LEAVENS

Thomas R. Leavens Award

2005



PATRICIA A. FELCH

In Memoriam

2007



CHICAGO GAY MEN'S CHORUS

Distinguished Service Honoree

2008



PETER J. STRAND
HOLLAND & KNIGHT, LLP

Thomas R. Leavens Award

2009



RICHARD H. DRIEHAUS

Distinguished Service Honoree

Historic
CLIENT, VOLUNTEER,
HONOREE HIGHLIGHTS

2003



JACKIE TAYLOR

Distinguished Service Honoree

2003



LINDA S. MENSCH

Thomas R. Leavens Award

2007



JULIEANNA L. RICHARDSON
THE HISTORYMAKERS

Thomas R. Leavens Award

2008



ELLA JENKINS

Distinguished Service Honoree

2009



JOFFREY BALLET

Distinguished Service Honoree

2013



JOE SEGAL
JAZZ SHOWCASE

Distinguished Service Honoree

HISTORIC CLIENT, VOLUNTEER, HONOREE HIGHLIGHTS

Historic
CLIENT, VOLUNTEER,
HONOREE HIGHLIGHTS

2014



ENRIQUE SUAREZ

Client Profile

2014



PETER MARS

Client Profile

2017



MICHAEL A. CLARK

Thomas R. Leavens Awardee

2017



RENEE FLEMING

Distinguished Service Honoree

2018



PROJECT ONWARD

Client Profile

2019



WILLIAM E. RATTNER

In Memoriam

Historic
CLIENT, VOLUNTEER,
HONOREE HIGHLIGHTS

2015



WILLIAM H. FRANKEL
Thomas R. Leavens Award

2015



LIZ CARROLL
Thomas R. Leavens Award

2018



JOAN & ROBERT A. CLIFFORD
Distinguished Service Honoree

2018



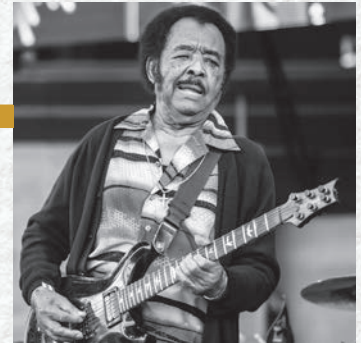
**FORWARD MOMENTUM CHICAGO
PIERRE LOCKETT**
Distinguished Service Honoree

2021



KEVIN J. CONWAY
Thomas R. Leavens Award

2021



JIMMY JOHNSON
Distinguished Service Honoree

HISTORIC CLIENT, VOLUNTEER, HONOREE HIGHLIGHTS

Previous HONOREES

2021 BENEFIT LUNCHEON

Jimmy Johnson—Chicago Blues Legend
Katie and Tim Tuten—The Hideout
Mary Lane—Chicago Blues Legend (2020)
James Ginsburg—Cedille Records (2020)
Perkins Coie LLP
THOMAS R. LEAVENS AWARD—**Kevin J. Conway**
THOMAS R. LEAVENS AWARD—**Ruth Kaufman** (2020)
Moderator: Paris Schutz, WTTW

2019 BENEFIT LUNCHEON

Madeleine Grynsztejn—The Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago
Allen Turner—Arts Leader, Philanthropist, Composer
THOMAS R. LEAVENS AWARD—**Robert L. Margolis**
Moderator: Chris Jones, The Chicago Tribune

2018 BENEFIT LUNCHEON

Josephine Lee—Chicago Children's Choir
Pierre Lockett—Forward Momentum
Joan & Robert A. Clifford
THOMAS R. LEAVENS AWARD—**Carol Anne Been**
Moderator: Alison Cuddy, Chicago Humanities Festival

2017 BENEFIT LUNCHEON

Renée Fleming—Internationally-renowned Opera Singer
Anthony Freud—The Lyric Opera of Chicago
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
THOMAS R. LEAVENS AWARD—**Michael A. Clark, Sidley Austin LLP**
Moderator: Phil Ponce, Chicago Tonight

2016 BENEFIT LUNCHEON

Tony Karman—EXPO CHICAGO
D'Arcy Stuart—The Second City
Leavens, Strand & Glover, LLC
THOMAS R. LEAVENS AWARD—**Barry Irwin, Irwin IP LLC**
Moderator: Aaron Freeman

2015 BENEFIT LUNCHEON

Liz Carroll—International Award-Winning Irish Fiddler and Composer
Mark Howard—Choreographer and Founder—Trinity Irish Dancers
Sidley Austin LLP
THOMAS R. LEAVENS AWARD—**William H. Frankel**
Introduction: Orla McBreen, Consul General of Ireland
Moderator: Rick Kogan, WGN

2014 BENEFIT LUNCHEON

Derrick Carter
American House Producer and DJ
Jim DeRogatis and Greg Kot
Co-Hosts of WBEZ's Sound Opinions
Holland & Knight LLP
THOMAS R. LEAVENS AWARD—**William E. Rattner**

2013 BENEFIT LUNCHEON

Michelle T. Boone—Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events
Henry Fogel—Roosevelt University
Joe Segal—Jazz Showcase
The John Marshall Law School
THOMAS R. LEAVENS AWARD—**Andrew L. Goldstein**

2012 BENEFIT LUNCHEON

Barbara Gaines and Criss Henderson—Chicago Shakespeare Theater
Bruce Iglauer—Alligator Records
Ann Murray—International Music Foundation
Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg LLP
THOMAS R. LEAVENS AWARD—**Ellen Sandoz**

2011 BENEFIT LUNCHEON

Scott Anderson—Law Bulletin Publishing Company
Tony Fitzpatrick—Artist, Playwright, Actor
David C. Hilliard—Pattishall McAuliffe Newbury Hilliard & Geraldson LLP
Marc Kelly Smith—Founder, International Poetry Slam
THOMAS R. LEAVENS AWARD—**John Iltis**

2010 BENEFIT LUNCHEON

Fred Anderson—Jazz great
Scott and Judy McCue—Philanthropists
Kit Woods—SAG/AFTRA
Kirkland & Ellis LLP
THOMAS R. LEAVENS AWARD—**Jerry W. Glover**

2009 BENEFIT LUNCHEON

Black Harvest International Festival of Film and Video
Richard H. Driehaus—Philanthropist
Joffrey Ballet
Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione
THOMAS R. LEAVENS AWARD—**Paul H. Singer**

2008 BENEFIT LUNCHEON

Ella Jenkins—Legendary Educator and Entertainer
Victory Gardens Theater
WFMT
McDermott Will & Emery LLP
THOMAS R. LEAVENS AWARD—**Peter J. Strand**

2007 BENEFIT LUNCHEON

Christopher G. Kennedy—Merchandise Mart Properties, Inc.
Chicago Gay Men's Chorus
Old Town School of Folk Music
Foley & Lardner LLP
THOMAS R. LEAVENS AWARD—**Julieanna L. Richardson**

2006 BENEFIT LUNCHEON

The People's Music School
Roche Edward Schuller, Executive Director and **Robert Falls**, Artistic Director
—Goodman Theatre
Alene Valkanas—Executive Director, Illinois Arts Alliance
Bell, Boyd & Lloyd LLP
THOMAS R. LEAVENS AWARD—**Scott Hodes**

2005 BENEFIT LUNCHEON

Jerry Butler — Chicago Music Legend
Brenda Sexton — Managing Director, Illinois Film Office
Writers' Theatre and **Michael Halberstam**, Artistic Director
Melvin L. Katten and **Allan B. Muchin** — Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP
THOMAS R. LEAVENS AWARD — **Konstantinos Armiros**

2004 BENEFIT LUNCHEON

Mary Dempsey — Commissioner, Chicago Public Library
John Mahoney — Actor, Stage, Film and Television
Ed Paschke — Artist, Educator
Winston & Strawn LLP
THOMAS R. LEAVENS AWARD — **Mary Hutchings Reed**

2003 BENEFIT LUNCHEON

Tony Jones — President, School of the Art Institute of Chicago,
 Co-CEO of the Art Institute
Jeff McClusky — Independent Radio Music Promoter
Jackie Taylor and **The Black Ensemble Theater**
Marc R. Kadish — Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw LLP
THOMAS R. LEAVENS AWARD — **Linda S. Mensch**

2002 THIRTY YEARS OF SERVICE

Roger Ebert — Film Critic, Journalist, Chicago Sun-Times
Ramsey Lewis — Jazz Musician
Steven P. Berkowitz and **Marwen Foundation**
Joyce Sloane — Founder, Second City
THOMAS R. LEAVENS AWARD — **R. Thomas Howell, Jr.**

2001 ARTLAW@LUNCH

Lerone Bennett, Jr. — Editor, Ebony Magazine
New Art Examiner
Radio Arte WRTE 90.5 FM
Joe Shanahan — Owner, Cabaret Metro
THOMAS R. LEAVENS AWARD — **Patricia A. Felch**

2000 ARTLAW@LUNCH

Margaret Taylor Burroughs — Founder, DuSable Museum of African American
 History
Henry Godinez — Artistic Director, Goodman Theatre
Richard Gray — President, Art Dealers Association of America
Arlene Rakoncay — Executive Director, Chicago Artists' Coalition
THOMAS R. LEAVENS AWARD — **William C. Weinsheimer**

1999 ART+SOUL

Abena Joan P. Brown — Co-Founder, President & Producer, eta Creative Arts
 Foundation
John Callaway — Former Senior Correspondent and Host, 'Chicago Tonight'
Joan Harris — President, Harris Foundation
Pepe Vargas — Executive Director, International Latino Cultural Center of
 Chicago
THOMAS R. LEAVENS AWARD — **James N. Alexander**
MC—**Robin Robinson**, Anchor, Fox News Chicago

1998 OUR KIND OF CREATIVE TOWN

Bruce DuMont — Founder and President of the Museum of Broadcast
 Communications
Ronne Hartfield — Executive Director of Museum Education, The Art Institute
 of Chicago
Ruth Ratny — Founder, Screen Magazine
Organizations: Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum and
Sara Lee Corporation
THOMAS R. LEAVENS AWARD — **Raymond I. Geraldson, Jr.**
MC—**Bill Kurtis**, Veteran TV Journalist

1997 SILVER ANNIVERSARY GALA

Hope Abelson — Arts Patron and Philanthropist
Fred Fine — Director of Public Affairs for Columbia College
Scott Hodes — Senior Partner at Ross & Hardies and Co-Founder of LCA
Sidney R. Yates — Illinois Democrat Congressman, 9th District
THOMAS R. LEAVENS AWARD — **Thomas R. Leavens**
MC—**Joel Daley**, Anchor, WLS-TV

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Always Acoustic
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American Center for Theatrical Experimentation
American Composers Forum
American Dance Center Ballet Company
American Film & Video Association
American Guild of Organists
American International Conservatory of Music
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Another Chicago Press
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Ariston Production
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Art Encounter
Art in Print
Art Resources in Teaching
Artemesia Gallery
Artist Book Works
Artists of Rogers Park
The Arts Alliance
Arts and Business Council of Chicago
Arts America
Arts Ensemble of Chicago
Asbury Brass Quintet
Association for Jewish Theatre
Association for Women Journalists
Athenaeum Theatre Company
Atlatl-American Indian Center
Audience Architects
Audrey Mornson Productions
AurorARTS Alliance
Awaken Performance Theatre Co.
Bailliwick Repertory
Ballet Art Studio of Wilmette
Ballet Chicago
Ballet Folklorico Revolution
Ballet Theatre of Chicago
Basically Bach
Bauhaus Chicago Committee
Beach Street Educational Films Foundation
Beacon Street Theatre
Beta Educational Service
Beverly Theater Guild
Beyondmedia Education

Big Stick Inc.
Birth of a Story Museum
Black Granite Productions
Black Literary Umbrella
Black Sphota Cocoon
Black Theatre Alliance Awards
Blacklight Film Festival
Blair Thomas & Company
Blind Faith Theatre
Blue Star Performance Co.
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Bridge Magazine
Bright Arrow Theatre
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Cenacle Theatre Company
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The Chicago Actors Ensemble
Chicago Actors Project
Chicago Area Film and Video Network
Chicago Art Dealers Association
Chicago Art Deco Society
Chicago Arts Coalition
Chicago Arts Collaborative for Teachers
Chicago Artists Centre, Inc.
Chicago Artists' Coalition
Chicago Blues Hall of Fame
Chicago Brass Band Association
Chicago Brass Quintet
Chicago Choral Artists
Chicago Clarinet Ensemble
Chicago Compatriots of the Caribbean
Chicago Composers Consortium
Chicago Contemporary Circus Festival
Chicago Cultural Alliance
Chicago Dance Institute
Chicago Dance Medium
Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs
The Chicago Ensemble
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Chicago Filmmakers
Chicago Fine Arts Society
Chicago Flute Club
Chicago Fringe Festival
Chicago Human Rhythm Project
The Chicago High School of the Arts
Chicago Independent Radio Project
Chicago International Peace Movement
Chicago Irish Film Festival
Chicago Jazz Philharmonic
Chicago Klezmer Ensemble
Chicago Latino Cinema
Chicago Media Watch
Chicago Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra
Chicago Music Commission
Chicago Music Consortium
Chicago Music in Publishing

Chicago Photography Center
Chicago School of Violin Making
The Chicago Short Film Brigade
Chicago South Asian Film Festival
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Chopan Theatre Productions
CircEsteem, Inc.
City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs
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Civitas Ensemble
Class-X Band
Classical Performers International
The Classical Symphony Orchestra
Classical Theatrical Productions
Close Call Theatre
Columbia College Chicago
Committee for Labor Access
Commons Theatre
Community Performance Institute
Community Television Network
Congo Square Theatre
Contemporary Dance Theater
Council of Illinois Non Profit Organizations
Crime Fiction Pictures LLC
Cultural Arts Connection
Cultural Project International
Culture Shock Chicago
Custer Street Fair
DBA Studios
The Daily Bride LLC
Dance Chicago
Dance Detour
Dari Gallery
David Adler Cultural Center
Dean Berdusis Photography
Deerpath Gallery
Design Evanston
DesPlaines Art Guild
Die Hanswurste
DiW2 Design Lab
Doorika Theatre
DreamShop, Inc.
Ears & Eyes Records
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East West Music International
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 JJ's List
 Joel Hall Dancers
 Joyce's Fine Arts Academy
 Jump Rhythm Jazz Project
 Justus Arts Education Programs
 K.O. Improv LLC
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 Karitos Christian Arts Association
 Kellie's School of Ballet & Dance
 Kindling Group
 Koko Taylor's Celebrity Aid Foundation
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 Lake Villa Area Fine Arts
 Latin American Museum of Art
 Latino Chicago Theater Company
 Latino Cultural Medical Association

Latino Music Studio
 League of Chicago Theatres
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 Left Field Chicago, LLC
 The Library Project
 Life Force Arts Foundation
 Light-Hearted Productions
 Lillian Synder Icarian Living History Museum
 Lill Street Arts Center
 Lincoln Opera
 Links Hall, Inc.
 Linneage Gallery
 Liquid Stage Theatre Collective
 A Little Taste of Heaven
 Live Action Cartoonist
 Live Bait Theatrical Company
 Live Theatre
 LiveWire Chicago Theatre
 Local Infinites
 Logan Square Chamber of the Arts
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Poetic Productions
PopMatters Media Inc.
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Pleasant Home Foundation
Poetic Productions
The Poetry Center
Preston Bradley Community Centre
Pride Youth
Primal Connection
Pro Evanston Majority
Project&
Project Danztheatre Company
Prop Theatre
Pros Arts Studio
Quad Cities Arts Council
Quad Cities Juggling Club
Rambunctious Review
Rasaka Theatre
Ravenswood Media, Inc.

Redi Arts & Education Foundation
Redmoon Theater
Redtape Theater Company
Refuge Center for Artists in Recovery
Remains Theatre Company
Rebrandt Chamber Players
Repertory Opera of Highland Park
Retro Theatre
Reverie Theatre Company
Revolutionized Arts
Rhythm & Light
Riddlemark Theatre
The Right Brain Project
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RPM Productions
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Ten by Ten Magazine
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"Artists don't just need lawyers. Artists need to understand Arts Law."

Artists encounter Arts Law issues constantly. In fact, the more successful the artists, the more they rely on Arts Law principles to further their careers.

Launched in 2017, **LCA's LawSmarts** is an outreach program intended to bring Arts Law to the arts community. We create live seminars and workshops for all areas of the arts—and for all areas of the City.

LCA's LawSmarts programs cover a huge range of Arts Law topics, such as music performance rights, literary clearances, film and theater contracts, and much more. Our NFP Startup Workshops, offered five times a year, have helped to launch thousands of exciting, and successful, arts organizations over the years.

LCA's LawSmarts programs are often at the cutting edge of new developments affecting the arts community. For example, in the last three years, we've presented three programs on sexual harassment issues in the performing arts, focusing on those issues in theater, dance, and large-scale music performing organizations.

For more information go to law-arts.org/lawsmarts or call 312-649-4111.

VIDEO LAW LIBRARY



LCA's Video Law Library helps generalist lawyers to represent clients in the arts.

LCA launched its **Video Law Library** in 2019 as a free resource of video lectures that assist lawyers in representing LCA's arts clients. This pioneering, first-in-the-nation, project is already helping to educate general practice attorneys in the complexities of Arts Law.

LCA's **Video Law Library** is much more than a general survey of Arts Law concepts. Each video takes you "into the weeds," providing practical, paragraph-by-paragraph guidance to assist you in representing your arts clients in transactional and other matters. Each video is accompanied by model agreements and other materials relating directly to the video's subject.

Thanks to a partnership with the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education (IICLE), our videos offer Continuing Legal Education credit and are available *free of charge* to LCA volunteer attorneys when accessed through the LCA website.

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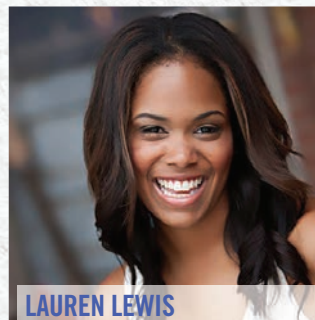


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A photograph of a ballerina in a red tutu, captured in a dynamic pose with one leg raised and arms extended. The image is dark, with the ballerina's red tutu and white leotard standing out. The text is overlaid on this image.

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Mayer Brown applauds LCA on its 50 years
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A close-up, low-angle shot of a woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark top, playing a violin. The violin is a light brown color with dark wood grain. The background is dark and out of focus.

Cooney & Conway is proud to support
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Congratulations as well to
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- Erin Harkey, Commissioner of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events for the City of Chicago
- Chicago Multi-Cultural Dance Center and its founder Homer Hans Bryant
- Chicago West Community Music Center and its founder Howard Sandifer
- Full Spectrum Features
- Congo Square Theatre

We thank LCA and each of the honorees for their contributions to the arts community.



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- **Erin Harkey (Commissioner)** Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events
- **The Chicago Multi-Cultural Dance Center & Hiplet, Homer Hans Bryant (Artistic Director & Founder)**
- **Full Spectrum Features, Eugene Sun Park (Executive Director & Founder)**
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- **Chicago West Community Music Center, Howard (Executive Director) & Darlene Sandifer (Managing Director)**

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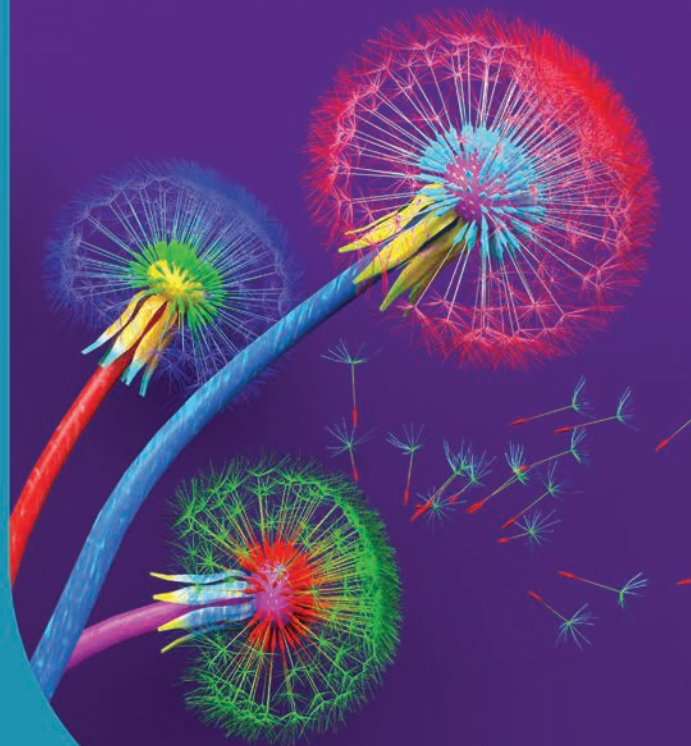


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We salute this year's honorees and applaud their work and impact on the arts.



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... kickstarted my legal career in 2002 when Bill Rattner agreed to let me be an intern. Twenty years later, I am thrilled to be celebrating LCA's 50th birthday with the countless other lawyers and creatives that have been positively impacted by this incredible organization.

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HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY!

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December 8, 2022

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the City of Chicago, I am honored to welcome all those gathered for the Lawyers for the Creative Arts 50th Anniversary Gala.

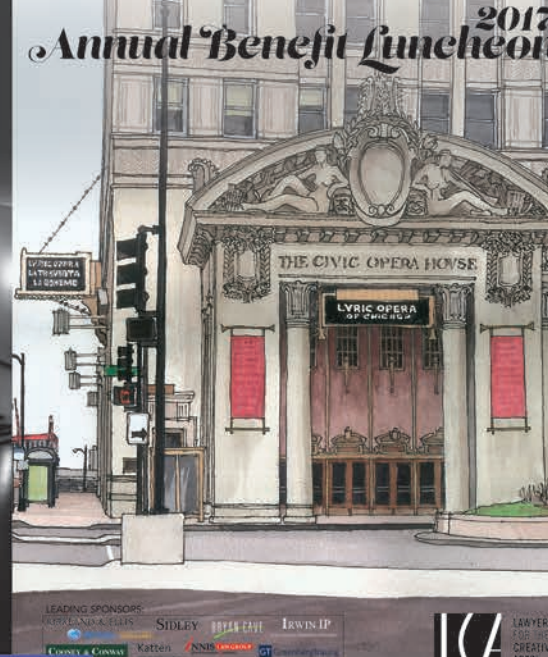
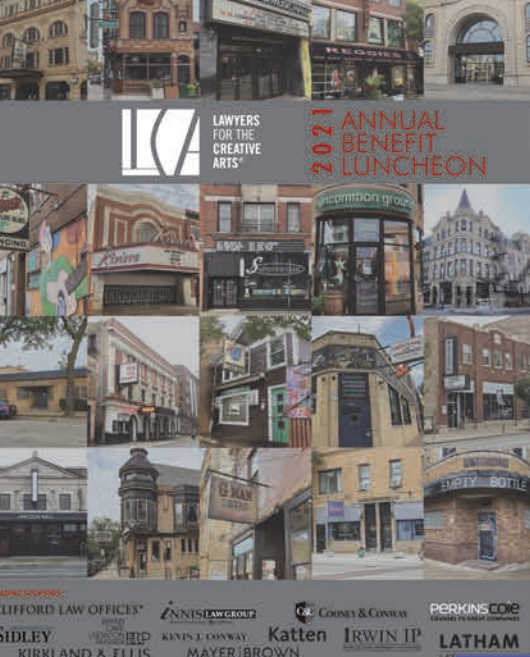
Founded in 1972 by a group of lawyers, the Lawyers for the Creative Arts (LCA) works to provide legal assistance to artists and arts organizations that are financially unable to retain legal counsel. Over the past 50 years LCA has enlisted more than 1,800 lawyers to provide pro bono assistance to clients, conducted workshops and seminars for artists, and provided mentorship and networking opportunities to young lawyers.

This year's gala presents the opportunity to come together to celebrate 50 years of service, recognize those that have made a difference, and look ahead to the future. I am proud to recognize all of this year's honorees and congratulate Lawyers for the Creative Arts on their milestone 50th anniversary. I commend all those involved for their ongoing dedication to uplifting, supporting, and advocating for the arts.

I hope your event is memorable and enjoyable. Best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

Mayor



A BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP

As these magnificent Program Books attest, the partnership between **Leading Lawyers** and **Lawyers for the Creative Arts** has been an enduring example of the commitment of the legal community to supporting artists and arts organizations across the state of Illinois.

To Leading Lawyers Founder/Publisher Scott Anderson, and Art Director Tamara Oliszewicz:

We thank you once again for your incredible generosity and creativity!

