

Claremont High School Theatre Legacy Fund

Now more than ever, extraordinary public school programs like the Claremont High School Theatre need meaningful private investments to operate at optimum levels beyond support provided by student fundraisers and parent booster groups.

The program started by Don F. Fruechte and followed by his student and professional educator, Krista Carson Elhai, has been fortunate to have two dynamic leaders who have grown the scope of offerings over five decades. The program found a home in the newly renovated Don F. Fruechte Theatre for the Performing Arts, which was named in 2013 thanks to the generosity of alumni, parents, friends, and community members in partnership with the Claremont Unified School District. The program also operates in larger professional venues such as Bridges Auditorium and Candlelight Pavilion, offering a more challenging and diverse experience to participants and audiences alike.



Student participants routinely receive awards at the California State Thespian Festival, California Educational Theatre Association (CETA) High School Theatre Festival, and the International Thespian Festival, as well as gold, silver, and bronze medals at the annual London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) exams.

It is well known that high school theatre education fosters self-confidence, imagination, teamwork, and discipline at a critical stage in a student's development.

These skills have proven useful to hundreds of students in their personal and professional lives following graduation. CHS has also been fortunate to provide exceptional pre-professional vocational training to its students in a region of the country that readily employs creative professional artists, technicians, and craftspeople. The success of CHS alumni in the entertainment industry and related fields clearly demonstrates the impact of this program. Similarly, alumni parents remain steadfast supporters, a clear indication of their satisfaction with the influence of a CHS theatre education in the lives of their children.

Since its inception, the theatre program has grown in size and reputation, now representing more than 25% of 2,400 CHS students.



USE OF FUNDS The time has come in the program's development to secure opportunities for future students by dedicating a reliable revenue stream for operations. Presently, the program is required to raise its own revenue. Fluctuations in event fundraising, booster group contributions, and ticket sales can cause unwanted cuts and disruptions to the robust program. In order for the program to thrive, a new model is needed.

By creating an endowment in the form of a donor advised fund through the California Community Foundation, the program will be guaranteed revenue based on a fixed percentage of the fund's growth. This creates stability through transitions in staffing, annual funding cycles, and season selection.

Examples of annual expenditures include theatre rental, equipment rental and purchase, size and scope of productions (i.e. scenery, costumes, makeup, etc.), professional guest artists and designer fees, mentorships, and more.



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The California Community Foundation (CCF) strengthens Los Angeles County communities

through effective philanthropy and civic engagement. Through initiatives and opportunity funding, CCF responds to community needs and ensures long-term impact. Partnering with diverse stakeholders, CCF inspires and empowers charitable giving by and for Los Angeles.

CCF is the largest charitable fund manager based in Los Angeles County, with approximately 1,600 funds and more than \$1.4 billion in assets. To date, CCF has received more than \$2 billion in philanthropic contributions and made nearly 70,000 grants totaling almost \$1.8 billion.

ADMINISTRATION & GOVERNANCE

A donor advised fund is a cost-effective, efficient, and flexible solution that allows donors to make a tax deductible contribution to a cause they care deeply about. It is a perpetual investment that creates a legacy of giving now and in future years. The donor gives assets to CCF. CCF accepts the gift on behalf of CHS, issues a gift acknowledgement letter, manages the fund's investments, and makes grants back to the CHS theatre program. Investment management and gift administration are performed for a nominal fee allowing the majority of assets to serve the intended purpose stated above.

CHS theatre alumna, Carol Bradford, is senior counsel on charitable gifting and grant-making at CCF and will be representing our interests. Following CHS, she earned her B.A. from California State University, Fullerton and her J.D. from Loyola Law School.

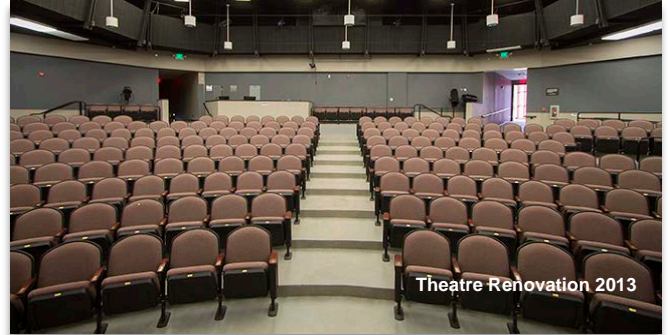
A volunteer committee of five people will represent the fund through fundraising, investment performance, evaluation of program needs, and will make grant recommendations. The committee will be comprised of community leaders and a representative of the Claremont Unified School District.

HOW TO GIVE

One of the advantages of using CCF is the broad range of assets that can be used for charitable giving.

1. Cash
2. Securities or Stock
3. Personal Property
4. Life Insurance
5. Bequests

To give online, please visit: www.calfund.org/chstheatre

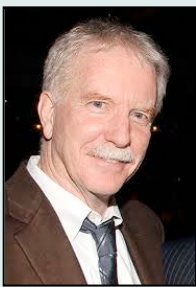


FUNDING GOALS & SPENDING POLICY

A donor advised fund was established with CCF in 2016 to receive and manage the fund's assets and make distributions back to the CHS theatre program as recommended by the advisory committee. There are no annual minimum requirements, unlike private foundations. The initial recommendation will be to reinvest any revenue in excess of 5% of the fund's three-year rolling average to insure fund growth. Distributions for special projects or capital purchases may be considered on a case by case basis.

DONOR RECOGNITION

Donors with lifetime giving of \$100.00 or more will be recognized by name on a perpetual sign (updated twice annually) to be displayed in the lobby of the CHS Theatre. CCF will provide to CHS the appropriate recognition language unless the donor requests anonymity.



John Lee Beatty

Recipient of multiple Tony, Obie, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Awards, as well as a member of the American Theater Hall of Fame.

CHS Drama propelled me forward in my interest in theater, which I then pursued at Brown and the Yale School of Drama, leading to a long professional life as a scenic designer for more than 110 Broadway productions. It is my mission to be able to share the joy of that passionate involvement with future generations of CHS students.

long after my daughter performed, assistant directed and served as Thespian Troupe 2129 president. The continually outstanding program propels young people into adulthood with life skills that both enhance their incredible CHS education and prepare them for life's ups and downs. My appreciation of CHS Theatre is beyond words.



Robert Elhai

Composer and arranger for many Oscar, Tony, Grammy and Emmy Award-winning musicals, operas, concerts, albums and more.

There is no doubt that the opportunities afforded me by the CHS Theatre and Music Programs gave me the confidence in my ability to have an exciting career arranging and composing music for shows such as The Lion King, as well as the life-long skills needed to make a real contribution to the world. There are many talented kids who will surely shine once they have those same opportunities.



Bridget Healy

Active community member serving on boards and committees of multiple organizations, as well as 31 years of service to local government.

I have had the extreme pleasure of attending CHS Theatre shows for almost 30 years, long before and