

Community Leaders Become Ambassadors for Youth

Now in our 26th year, Ryman Arts welcomes new leaders to keep us vibrant. Ryman Arts recently elected three new Board members, Scott Ault, Garner Holt, and Seth Stuhl – leaders in the art and entertainment industries.



The Ryman Arts Leadership Council at Chip Foose Designs. For full list of members, please visit page 3. We are also excited to announce the newly formed Ryman Arts Leadership Council (RALC), chaired by Marty Sklar, former president of the Board of Directors. Twenty-five influential community leaders in business, education, the arts, and philanthropy responded to Marty's call to serve as ambassadors sharing the mission and story of Ryman Arts. After a launch session at Chip

Foose Design in March, new relationships have already been sparked, including a recent session at the California Courageous Creativity conference (headed by RALC member Kris Alexander) discussing Ryman Arts' approach to art education. With the involvement of these community change makers, Ryman Arts looks toward a bright future for our organization and the young artists that we serve!

Newly elected Board member, Seth Stuhl reflects that, "Ryman Arts' mission couldn't be more vital in this age of all-too-common under-funding of the arts in schools. Beyond the art education that Ryman Arts provides, what is so meaningful to me is the impact that the program has on these young people. Giving these teens professional training in studio art does more than give them the tools to draw and paint – it also tells them that wherever they are from, they are special and have unlimited futures. I am so happy to be part of the Ryman Arts family."

Power Up 2016

On March 20, Ryman Arts presented *Power Up* at the Edison Downtown LA.

It was one of our most successful nights, raising essential funds to support our fine arts programming for young artists. The night was filled with live music, aerialists, stilt walkers, and live drawing by Ryman Arts alumni artists. Event Co-chairs Barbara Jacobs and Jeff Ganter welcomed the crowd with Board President Wayne Hunt and Executive Director Diane Brigham. Guests heard the inspiring stories of three Ryman Arts alumni, Board Alumni Representative Christina Saucedo ('05), Adrianna Arambula ('04), and Arotin Hartounian ('08).

Special thanks to our presenting sponsor, The Edison and to our event sponsors: Michelle Lund, Shirley & Albert Schmidt, Disney, Garner Holt Productions, The Hettema Group, Partners Federal Credit Union, Acomb Ostendorf & Associates (AO&A), AECOM, Caruso Affiliated, Artem Golestian (Ryman '00), Kathy Mangum, Tania Norris, Rethink Leisure & Entertainment, Shirley & Walter Wang, and Thinkwell.

See photos of *Power Up* at the Ryman Arts Flickr Page: www.flickr.com/rymanarts



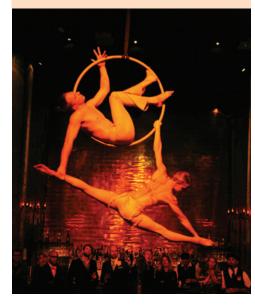
Gloria & Bob Wilson, Eric Gowey, David & Alicia Price



Ryman Arts Alumnus Francisco Palomares ('07) paints on the Edison stage

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Alumni Story - Evangelique Zhao '99



Evangelique with her daughter, Remy

Evangelique Zhao was a quiet 8th grader when her middle school art teacher encouraged her to apply to Ryman Arts. She entered the program as a freshman in high school. In addition to being younger than the other students, English was not her first language. "I wasn't too wordy!" she says. Being in a program that placed a lot of focus on verbal critique and talking about art was a challenge.

"Before, I was just putting things on paper. Having to talk about my work engaged me in a different way. Meeting people my age who were dedicated to their creativity made me realize that I had to go into art."

Evangelique eventually made her way to SCI-Arc and graduated in 2006 with a degree in architecture. She was an architect at Gensler for nine years, and in 2015, began her current post at TELACU Construction Management where she designs better schools for LAUSD.

"The program opened up another dimension to me"

"Nowadays, it seems like everyone is focused on STEM education. I know this is important, but arts education is equally crucial to building a better world. We need the abstract thinking of the arts combined with the concrete thinking of the sciences."

Recently, Evangelique reconnected with Ryman Arts friends by volunteering at the fundraiser, *Power Up*. Thinking back on her Ryman Arts experience, she says, "I was so young, I don't think I totally found my voice in the program. But, the seeds were planted. The program opened up another dimension to me; it truly allowed me to become the person I am today."

Letter from Diane

Invest in Artistic Youth



Effective business leaders know a good investment when they see one. It delights me to see so many creative leaders choosing to invest in artistic youth by supporting Ryman Arts, knowing that these young talents are their future employees and fellow citizens who will shape our shared future. As the cover story elaborates, we are so fortunate to have added an amazing slate of new directors to our Board. We also welcomed the members of our inaugural Ryman Arts Leadership Council this Spring. Thanks go to each of you for investing your "time, talent and treasure" in Ryman Arts.

As I shook hands with each of the 177 Ryman Arts graduates on May 26, there was no doubt this is a worthwhile investment. Almost all are headed off to college in the Fall. Although many expect to major in art, others will pursue engineering, journalism, and science. All are poised to succeed. Our team of educators and artists guided them along a path that honed their drawing and painting skills, alongside invaluable life skills like speaking up for themselves, working through obstacles, and developing friendships with peers from across the region.

I send a special thank you to Leah Sklar, who has been an inspiration to me since I began at Ryman Arts and who recently retired from the Board of Directors. Leah is one of our co-founders along with husband Marty and four other visionaries. She is always optimistic, with a "can-do" attitude, especially when planning one of the legendary An Affair of the Art extravaganzas at their home. What I most appreciate is Leah's laser-sharp focus on our service to youth. In every discussion, she would bring it back to, "How can we best serve the needs of all our students?"

Even as we cultivate new leaders, I cherish the wisdom of Leah, Marty, and our other founding board members who created this strong foundation upon which we continue to nurture the next generation.



Diane Brigham, Executive Director



Co-Founder Leah Sklar



Garner Holt. Founder and CEO, Garner Holt Productions, Inc



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Seth Stuhl, Vice President, **Business Affairs** & Legal Counsel, Disney Theatrical Productions

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To learn more about Ryman Arts.

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Advanced students on their last day of class with teaching assistant, Francisco Palomares (left) and faculty member Ronald Llanos (center)



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to capture movement in their drawings





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