PHILANTHROPY
By Kim Haman

Art for Everyone

Segerstrom Center for the Arts opened its new Julianne and George Argyros Plaza and Center for Dance and Innovation on Oct. 28 with music, dancing, performances, family activities and live bands. More than 10,000 people, including families from around the neighborhood and throughout Orange County, explored the 56,100-square-foot plaza designed by Michael Maltzan, with its fountain entry; grand spiral staircase that wraps around a new Center 360 outdoor café leading from the Segerstrom Hall terrace to the plaza; shaded seating and dining areas; tree-flanked picnicking corners; and permanent stages for year-round entertainment. The plaza is named for Julianne and George Argyros, who provided funding for the transformation of the center’s campus.

Julianne Argyros said, “George and I believe so deeply in the plaza’s ability to bring people together, to be a place where families feel welcome, where people can socialize, make new friends, and enjoy free performances ... one where all of us can enjoy our community at its very best.”

Building a Foundation

The 2017 KidWorks’ Foundation for Success Luncheon, held on Nov. 2 at the Doubletree Hotel Santa Ana, again set a record by raising more than $768,000 to help fund after-school education and leadership development programs conducted by the nonprofit headquartered in central Santa Ana.

It’s the largest sum raised since the 2007 inception of the luncheon and represents the majority of the after-school program budget funding academic enrichment, tutoring, leadership development, and college readiness programs at the expanded KidWorks Dan Donahue Center.

The 2017 Dan Donahue Leadership Award was presented to David A. Pyle, philanthropist, founder and chief executive of American Career College and shareholder of West Coast University.

“I have been a supporter of KidWorks because these young men and women are being developed as our future leaders and will be making a difference in our communities,” Pyle said.

Event sponsors included American Career College, West Coast University, Toyota Financial Services, Bank of America and Donahue Schriber Realty Group.

All-Time-High Giving

Dan Bolar, founder, CEO, Bolar Hirsch & Jennings LLP, foundation finance chairman; Shelley Hoos, foundation president

Nearly 700 philanthropists and business and community leaders came together at the Orange County Community Fund.

Bits & Pieces

In a Nov. 9 ceremony, Visit Anaheim and American Heart Association launched a Heart-to-Heart campaign, a community give-back program to equip Anaheim high schools with CPR kits and training over the next three years. In June, PIMCO, in partnership with Anaheim-based nonprofit Access California Services, launched an employee-driven Refugee Housing Campaign to raise money to cover a year’s worth of rent for five refugee families living in Westminster and Anaheim, successfully attaining its $83,000 goal this month. Hands Together-A Center for Children received a $20,000 grant from the Hoag Community Benefit Program to benefit healthy-living education for low-income families with preschool-age children in downtown Santa Ana.

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