

CALIFORNIA STATE SUMMER SCHOOL ARTS FOUNDATION

**Annual Report FY 2017–2018**

July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018



## THANK YOU TO OUR FOUNDERS & EARLY LEADERS FOR CREATING A ONE-OF-A-KIND LEGACY IN ARTS EDUCATION

Governor Jerry Brown  
Donna Miller Casey  
Susan Dolgen  
Hon. John Garamendi  
Wendy Howard Goldberg  
Stanley Grinstein  
Rob Jaffe

Joan Newberg  
Janice Pober  
Alan Sieroty  
Mel Swope  
Roselyne Swig  
Gayle Surabian

### CSSSA FOUNDATION STAFF

Heidi Kershaw, *Executive Director*  
Heidi@csssaf.org

Emily Nye, *Deputy Director*  
Emily@csssaf.org

Juliana Zovak, *Grants Manager*  
Julie@csssaf.org

Savannah Benton, *Alumnx Relations Manager*  
Savannah@csssaf.org

“I love CSSSA because I see the difference it makes in so many lives, and how it changes lives, enriches lives, and gives people hope.”

— WENDY HOWARD GOLDBERG

### Note from Executive Director Heidi Kershaw



What a year! In the following pages, you'll find the results of the CSSSA Foundation's Fiscal Year 2018—from outreach and scholarships to fundraising and events. I am thrilled to report that we raised 117% of our FY 2018 goal and grew our support for CSSSA in almost every area. Most importantly, we remain committed to ensuring that no student is denied access to CSSSA due to financial need.

With so many exciting developments in FY18, I'd like to draw your attention to a few that stand out to me.

On pages 12–15 you'll see photos from a November 2017 benefit event hosted by Pixar and facilitated by CSSSA alum, Adrian Molina. Adrian is the writer and co-director of Disney-Pixar's Oscar-winning hit, *Coco*. Coming from a small town in Northern California, Adrian found his first creative community at CSSSA as well as the confidence to pursue his craft professionally. The *Coco* benefit screening raised over \$140,000 and introduced CSSSA Foundation to many new and prospective donors.

In addition to Adrian, there are now over 15,000 CSSSA graduates. The CSSSA community is now so large that it needs increased management to keep alums connected and engaged with its future. We are working hard to build the CSSSA Alumni Network as a robust program in which we engage with graduates, provide connection to CSSSA, and support their successes (see pages 26–27).

California's creative economy generated \$407.1 billion and 1.6 million in jobs in 2016.\* We cannot afford to let the CSSSA family lose touch with the spirit of CSSSA.

To that end, we have created a new position: Alumnx Relations Manager. As the Foundation increases its outreach to graduates and brings some of its college scholarship management in-house, this position is vital to the success of the Alumni Network. You may notice the use of the word "alumnx." Increasingly, this gender-neutral title is being used amongst institutions of higher education and is in keeping with the trends among our own graduates to be conscious in their speech and actions.

Every CSSSA story brings renewed inspiration on the power of CSSSA to transform young artists from diverse backgrounds and experiences and encourage them to become leaders. I am so very grateful for all of our generous supporters, including Board members, funders, community partners, and CSSSA families and friends.

The CSSSA Foundation is especially grateful for the generosity of the Herb Alpert Foundation, which provides over \$300,000 of college scholarships to CSSSA alums each year (pages 22–23).

I hope you enjoy reading more about our 2017–2018 successes. And as they say—it's full STEAM ahead as we look toward CSSSA 2019!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heidi Kershaw".

\*From the 2018 Otis Report on the Creative Economy

FY 2017–2018 SUPPORTERS  
THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

**CSSSA SUPERHEROES — \$50,000+**



**CSSSA HEROES — \$25,000 TO \$49,999**



**NEXTGEN ARTS PATRONS — \$10,000 TO \$24,999**



**CREATIVE CHANGEMAKERS — \$5,000 TO \$9,999**

Blackappl	John and Beverly Stauffer Foundation
CRC	KRZZ La Raza
Donna Miller Casey	The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
SoCal Edison	

**GENEROUS HEARTS CIRCLE — \$2,500 TO \$4,999**

Chris Shahnazarian Foundation	Little Dancer
Empire & Great Jones Creative Arts Foundation*	Westmount Asset Management

**ARTS INNOVATORS CIRCLE — \$1,000 TO \$2,499**

Oakland Athletics	Margaret Graff	Susan Steinhauser
Jacqueline Avant	Alex Hirsch*	Karen Tseng*
CBS	Miriam Muscarolas and Grant Abramson	Hope Warschaw
Carole and Frank Felsenstein	Pasadena Showcase House	Weingart Foundation
Carolyn Folks	Alan Sieroty	
Edward Goodstein and Fran Eastman		

**FRIENDS OF CSSSA CIRCLE — \$500 TO \$999**

Adams Cowan Foundation	Evamarii Johnson	Mel Swope
Erica Fishman*	Shirley and Bernard Kinsey	Erin Talbot
Laurie Harbert	Eve Kurtin	Marlene Wynne
David Harrington	Adrian Molina*	

**PURPLE BLURRRB CIRCLE — \$100 TO \$499**

Gary and Laura Aden	Nancy Jacoby	Lisa Riley
David Boren	Eileen Jaffe	Kennedy Slocum*
Jack Chen	John Kelly Chocolates	Sheila Sonenshine
Marc Chester	Clyde and Brenda Kidd*	Gayle Tauber
The Farrell Family	Ya-wen Li*	Lissa Treiman*
The Gaw Family*	Listen for Life	Judith Wallner
Amy Grigsby*	Mona and James Litrownik*	Wendy Wang*
Jennifer Gold	Sharman Luk*	Beth and Mike Ward
Susan Goldstein*	Gary Mairs*	Dawn Wells
Sandy Grossman	Craig McCracken*	Marci Werlinich
Kassandra Gough*	NBC Universal	Lauren Wu*
Lisa Horst*	Mary Odson*	Margaret York

\*Denotes CSSSA alumni and families

**A special thank you to our Board of Directors and contributing members of the CSSSA Board of Trustees:**

Phoebe Beasley	Adrienne Go	Steve Nissen
Leslie Birnbaum	Wendy Howard Goldberg	Janice Pober
Mike Cannone	Chris Heijnen	Vicki Reynolds
Lilia Chavez	Christette Hudlin	Martha Ryan
Bernadette Cheyne	Brad Krevoy	Niki Sandoval
Susan Dolgen	Josh Love	Teri Schwartz
Maggie Drake	AJ Major	Wendy Wolstoncroft
Melissa Draper	Jamie McGurk	

## ABOUT US

### THE CALIFORNIA STATE SUMMER SCHOOL FOR THE

**ARTS (CSSSA)** is a cutting-edge and immersive four-week program for talented and motivated high school students in the arts, held on the California Institute of the Arts campus each summer. CSSSA provides advanced education in seven artistic disciplines: Animation, Creative Writing, Dance, Film, Music, Theater, and Visual Arts. CSSSA is an agency of the State of California, authorized by the California Legislature in 1986.

### CSSSA's objectives are threefold:

To enable artistically gifted students, broadly reflective of the state's diversity, to receive intensive pre-college multidisciplinary arts training

To strengthen California's creative economy by training the next generation of artists and arts professionals

To foster long-term organizational stability through a model public/private partnership

### THE CSSSA FOUNDATION (CSSSAF)

The CSSSA Foundation was incorporated alongside CSSSA to raise a diverse array of private sector funds and ensure no qualified student is denied access to the program due to financial circumstances. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to supporting CSSSA — its programs and its students, from pre-application through their CSSSA summer and as alumni in their post-CSSSA pursuits. CSSSA and the CSSSA Foundation have worked together for the past 32 years to train more than 16,000 artists from all 58 counties in California, as well as students from across the country and around the world.

### WHAT WE DO

To ensure all students have equal access to CSSSA and to equip alumni for long-term success, the CSSSA Foundation facilitates the following programs:

#### Fundraising and the Low-Income Scholarship Fund:

At the heart of CSSSA Foundation fundraising is the Low-Income Scholarship Fund, which guarantees that any admitted student who qualifies for a low-income scholarship will receive financial aid accordingly. Over the years, approximately 40% of CSSSA students have required scholarships to attend.

#### Outreach and Diversity Initiatives:

One of our critical objectives is to ensure equitable access for all students. We work with schools and community programs throughout the state, with focus on underserved areas, to encourage talented students to apply for CSSSA.

#### Guest Artist Residencies:

Every year, cutting-edge guest artists lead master classes and workshops at CSSSA, challenging students to engage with unfamiliar perspectives and influence their communities through their art.

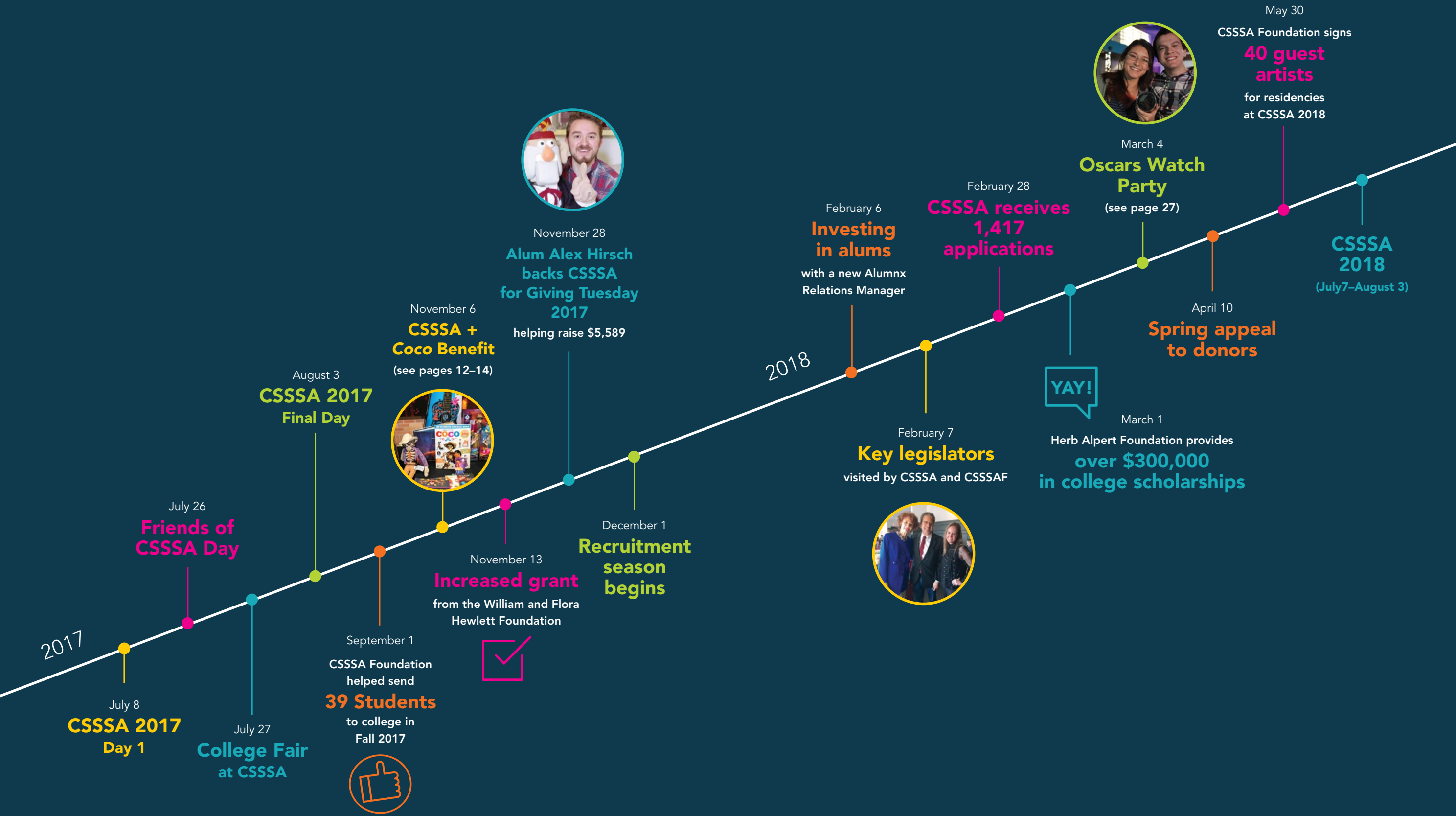
#### College Access and the Alumni Network:

As students graduate from CSSSA, the Foundation seeks to support their many pathways to college and the professional sphere to create a worldwide CSSSA community. Program initiatives include partnerships with colleges and art schools across the country offering exclusive tuition discounts to CSSSA alumni, as well as traditional college scholarships presented during the CSSSA session. The Foundation works to deepen alumni connections through college and into career. The network hosts fun and enriching events throughout the year for both recent and past alumni.

#### Endowment:

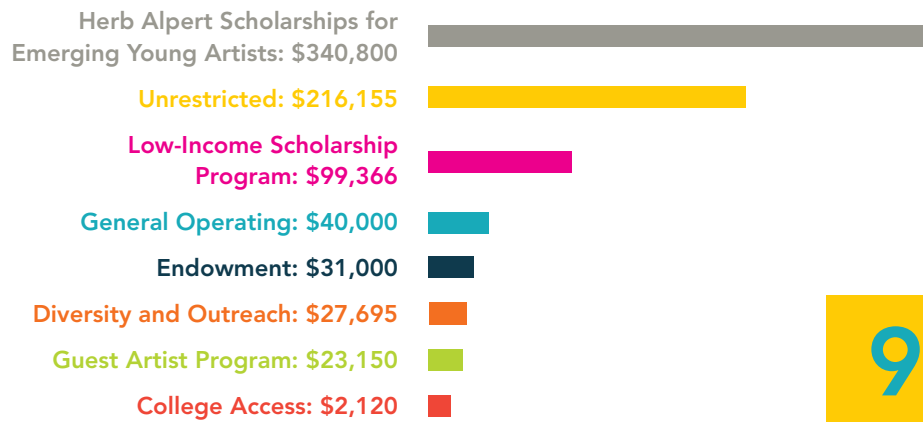
The Foundation maintains and develops a permanent endowment fund for CSSSA to ensure a lasting legacy of support.

# CSSSA FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS



THE CSSSA FOUNDATION HAS PROVIDED OVER \$4.5 MILLION IN LOW-INCOME SCHOLARSHIPS.

FY18 FUNDS RAISED



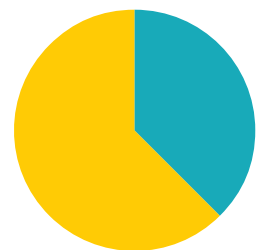
**9** NEW CORPORATE CONTRIBUTORS

**25** NEW ALUMNI AND FAMILY DONORS

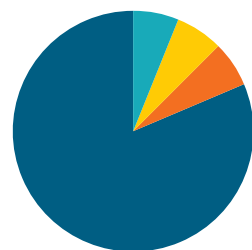
FY18 CONTRIBUTIONS BY TYPE



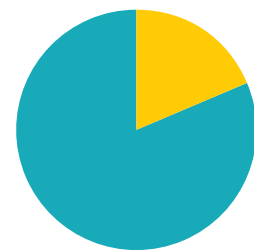
BOARD COMPOSITION



Female (10)  
Male (6)



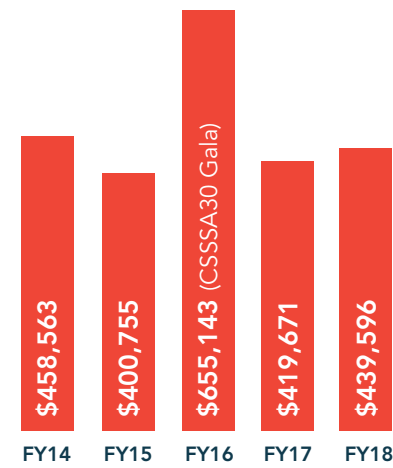
White (13)  
African American (1)  
Asian American (1)  
Latina (1)



Northern California (3)  
Southern California (13)

\*One of our FY19 board recruitment goals is to increase Board diversity, particularly with regard to race and ethnicity as well as geography.

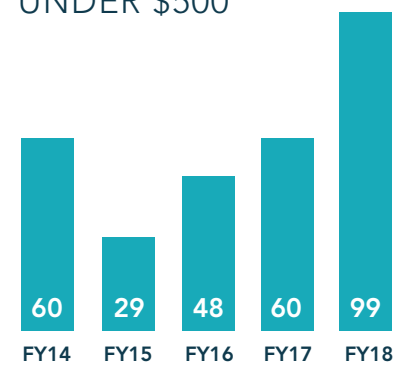
FY14–FY18 FUNDS RAISED



These totals do not include the Herb Alpert Scholarships for Emerging Young Artists funds.

THE CSSSA FOUNDATION RAISED 117% OF ITS FY18 GOAL: \$439,596

FY14–FY18 INDIVIDUAL DONORS UNDER \$500



**2** NEW COLLEGE PARTNERS:  
UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS  
MT. SAC

**12** CONTINUING COLLEGE PARTNERS

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

**t** Highest single-post engagement on Twitter: **984** retweets and **5,153** likes on Alex Hirsch's Giving Tuesday tweet

**f** Top Facebook video received **962** views

**ig** Average of **61** likes per Instagram post in the month of June

**t** TWITTER: @RealCSSSA

**ig** INSTAGRAM: csssa\_alum

**f** FACEBOOK: /CSSSAFoundation

CSSSA SIGHTINGS

The Hollywood Reporter

Page Six

National Endowment for the Arts podcast

KRZZ La Raza

## CSSSA + COCO BENEFIT

On November 6, 2017, sponsors, supporters, alumni, and members of the Board gathered at **Pixar Animation Studios** for a benefit screening of Disney-Pixar's latest blockbuster *Coco*. Our generous sponsors, donors, and attendees raised an incredible **\$143,315** for the CSSSA Foundation. Pixar's *Coco* is an inspirational and groundbreaking (and Oscar-winning) film written and co-directed by CSSSA alum, Adrian Molina (Animation '01, '02). Prior to the screening, Adrian was presented with the Alumni Inspiration Award by fellow CSSSA alum and Pixar Supervising Animator, Bobby Podesta.

Guests included CSSSA alumni and their families as well as members of the CSSSA Board of Trustees and CSSSA Foundation Board of Directors. Preceding the film, guests explored a vibrant reception featuring guided tours of the Pixar art galleries, enthralling dance and music performances, delicious food, and a silent auction. Following the film, guests attended a private Q&A with some of Pixar's CSSSA alums, including Adrian Molina, Bobby Podesta, Edwin Chang, and Tasha Sounart.

### Host

Pixar Animation Studios

### Presenting Sponsor

The Draper Foundation

### Sustaining Sponsors

Bandolier

City National Bank

CTRL Collective

### Gold Sponsors

California Resources Corporation

Donna Miller Casey

### Silver Sponsors

Blackappl

La Raza

The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation

### Bronze Sponsors

Empire & Great Jones Creative Arts Foundation

Little Dancer

Sony Pictures Entertainment

Surf Air

Westmount Asset Management

Susan Dolgen

Jamie McGurk

Wendy Wolstoncroft

### In-Spirit Donors (\$800+):

Jacqueline Avant

Bernadette Cheyne

Adams Cowan Foundation

Carolyn Folks

Edward Goodstein and Fran Eastman

Laurie Harbert

Miriam Muscarolas and Grant Abramson

Susan Steinhauser

Hope Warschaw

The Weingart Foundation

### Silent Auction Donors:

Pixar Animation Studios

NBC Universal

Oakland Athletics

John Kelly Chocolates



CSSSAF Director and CSSSA Trustee Melissa Draper and guest.



CSSSAF Director Maggie Drake and guests.

Coco co-director Adrian Molina with CSSSA graduates after the Q&A.



CSSSA Founder Gayle Surabian and Executive Director Heidi Kershaw.



CSSSA Founder Donna Miller Casey and guests.

**Notable Attendees:** CSSSA Foundation Directors Leslie Birnbaum, Maggie Drake, Steve Nissen, Martha Ryan, and Wendy Wolstoncroft; CSSSA Trustees Phoebe Beasley, Lilia Chavez, Melissa Draper, and Adrienne Go; CSSSA Advisory Board members Donna Miller Casey and Gayle Surabian; Community Partners: Hamilton High School, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, San Francisco School of the Arts, San Francisco Arts Council, San Mateo Arts Council, Pacific Foundation Services; Representatives from Adobe, The CDE Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and The Wonderful Company; California Arts Council Vice Chair Nasha Lindo, Eric Hanks, Brian Earley, Emeryville Mayor Scott Donahue, and the Consulates of Mexico in San Francisco and San Jose.



## FOUNDATION PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### GUEST ARTISTS

The Guest Artist Program brings professional, cutting-edge artists to the school from around the world for residencies, master classes, and discussions with the students.

Guest artists are integrated into CSSSA's overarching curriculum and play a key role in student development. Taking advantage of the interdisciplinary environment of the school, guest artists demonstrate for students how genre and discipline boundaries can be crossed to create provocative work.

In honor of Rob Jaffe, the beloved CSSSA Director, a special fund was created to support guest artists in perpetuity. The Rob Jaffe Memorial Fund helps ensure that this unique program continues to bring today's most innovative and accomplished artists to CSSSA. We are honored to celebrate Rob's legacy through the Guest Artist Program.



The guest artist experience in one word:

super wonderful  
 excellent fantastic excellent  
 fantastic great inspiring  
 fabulous rewarding  
 fantastic delightful  
 inspiring stimulating  
 rewarding

### 2018 GUEST ARTISTS

#### Interdisciplinary

Sonja Bruzauskas

#### Creative Writing

Tim Menke

Elizabeth Liang

Jen Hofer

Jacqueline Ilam

#### Dance

Bodytraffic Dance Theatre

Yeko Ladzekpo-Cole

Victor Wisehart

Martha Leebolt

Tobias Batley

#### Animation

Felix Urquiza

Adrian Molina

Bobby Podesta

Jason Scheier

Mark Toscano

Ari Castleton

Dillon Markey

Claire Lenth

Dave Sherbune

Tommy Perez

Brooke Keesling

Ivaylo Anguelov

Kat Kosmala

#### Film

Lee Lynch

Ryan Harper Gray

Fanshen Cox DiGiovanni

Arielle Kilker

Desmond Faison

Carolyn Mao

Simon Kilmurry

#### Music

Josh Shaw

Brett Bassock and

David Pramik

Daniel Suk

Cuicani

#### Theater

Under the Table Theatre

Amber Gutierrez

Giolisu Company

Nina Rausch

Otherland Ensemble

Glitter Gizzard

#### Visual Arts

Marit Benthe Norheim

and Claus Orntoft

Nancy Mithlo

Jay Lizo

Yair Agmon

Young Joon Kwak

Beatriz Cortez

## FOUNDATION PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### OUTREACH AND DIVERSITY

The Outreach and Diversity Program for the 2018 CSSSA application season began in December 2017. Three Regional Outreach Coordinators visited 41 schools in Los Angeles, the Bay Area, and the Central Valley, specifically focused on areas underrepresented at CSSSA. Coordinators met with educators to spread the word about CSSSA and worked with prospective students through the application process and portfolio assembly.

#### Coordinators

BJ Dodge: Los Angeles  
 Diane Shepp: Bay Area  
 Gayle Surabian: Central Valley

### LOW-INCOME SCHOLARSHIPS

The Low-Income Scholarship Program is at the heart of the CSSSA Foundation's mission. Through this program, the CSSSA Foundation guarantees that any admitted student who qualifies for a full or partial low-income scholarship will receive financial aid accordingly. No student is denied access to CSSSA on the basis of financial need. Since 1987, the CSSSA Foundation has provided over \$4.5 million in low-income scholarships.

#### 2017

**\$184,625** awarded in scholarships

**149 students** received scholarships

Low income scholarships benefitted students  
**from 36 California counties**

#### 2018

**\$221,850** awarded in scholarships

**153 students** received scholarships

Low income scholarships benefitted students  
**from 35 California counties**

## WHO GOES TO CSSSA?

### CSSSA 2017

CSSSA students represented 51 out of 58 counties in California

21 out-of-state students came from 10 states and 9 countries

30% of students received full or partial CSSSA low-income tuition scholarships

23 students were awarded college scholarships ranging from \$2,500 to \$40,000

### CSSSA 2018

CSSSA students represented 53 out of 58 counties in California

17 out-of-state students came from 7 states and 5 countries

32% of students received full or partial CSSSA low-income tuition scholarships

21 students were awarded college scholarships ranging from \$2,500 to \$40,000

### 2017 STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS



### 2018 STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

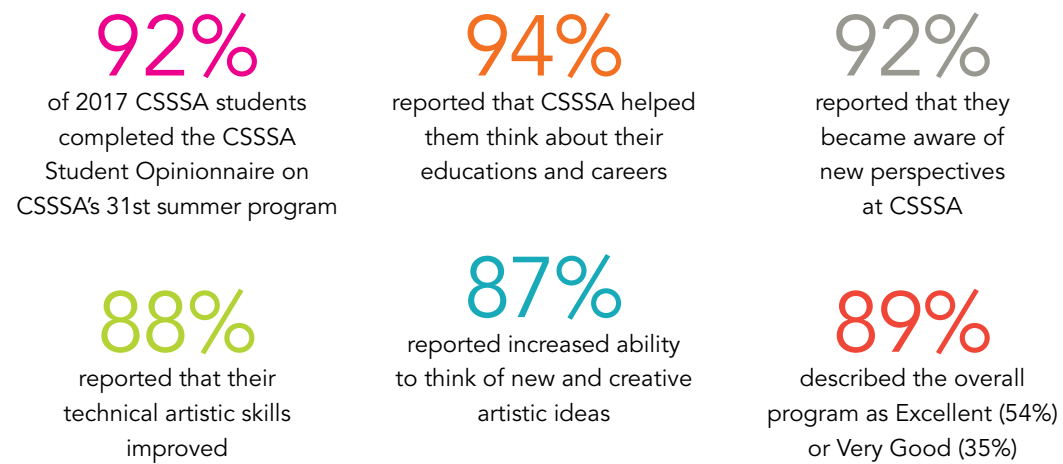


## THE CSSSA STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Highly talented, passionate students from all over the state of California come together to experience the power and possibility of CSSSA. Whether they become practicing artists, join the entertainment industry, or work in business, CSSSA students are creative thinkers who are well prepared for the competitive workplace of the 21st century. Students report that at CSSSA, they find a place to call home among a community of like-minded artists.

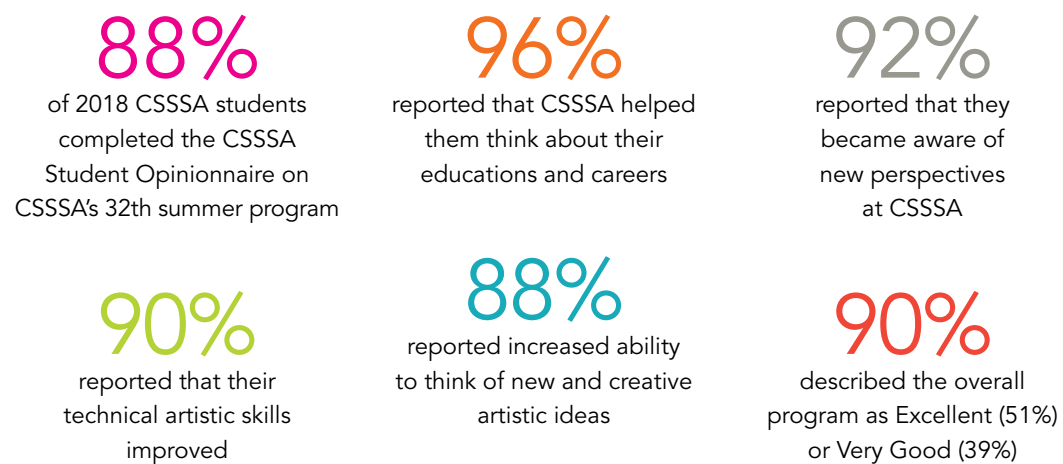
### STUDENT REPORT RESULTS 2017

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### STUDENT REPORT RESULTS 2018

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Every year since 1987, Professor David M. Harrington has surveyed students at the conclusion of the CSSSA program.



## PATHWAYS TO COLLEGE WITH THE CSSSA FOUNDATION

### HERB ALPERT FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS FOR EMERGING YOUNG ARTISTS (EYAS)

The CSSSA Foundation is proud to be the exclusive partner of the Herb Alpert Foundation Scholarships for Emerging Young Artists, a major funding program for college-level artists. Each year, 21 CSSSA students receive awards ranging from a one-time scholarship of \$2,500 to a four-year scholarship totaling \$40,000. The Herb Alpert EYA scholars are able to use these funds to cover tuition and educational expenses at any college or university they choose to attend. The students are also supported with a financial aid counselor and online resources to maximize the use of funds at their college of choice.

### CSSSA 2018 \$40,000 EYA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



TOP ROW, FROM LEFT:  
 Andy Pineda (Animation)  
 Bailey Small (Visual Arts)  
 Felix Stec (Dance)  
 Celine Nguyen (Music)  
 BOTTOM ROW, FROM LEFT:  
 Miles Potter (Film)  
 Naseem Alavi  
 (Creative Writing)  
 Jordan Tierney (Theater)



### CSSSA 2018 \$2,500 EYA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Sue Lee (Film), Maggie McKelvey (Animation), Paul Salzberg (Music), Samuel Lai (Music), Pranav Mishra (Creative Writing), Gerardo Navarro (Theater), Lena Jones (Creative Writing), Panote Nuchprayoon (Animation), Angeline Bourgeault (Dance). FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Joie Toth (Film), Tisha Custodio (Theater), Jordan Moses (Visual Arts), Isabella Uchimura (Visual Arts), Hannah Huang (Dance).

### CSSSA LEGACY SCHOLARSHIPS

Blake Brewer and Yazmin Curiel-Ruth studied Theater at CSSSA in 2015 and are both now attending Syracuse University in New York thanks in part to the CSSSA Foundation's legacy scholarships. Through the CSSSA Foundation, Blake received the \$10,000 Mel Swope Performing Arts Scholarship, in honor of founder and longtime Board member Mel Swope. Blake is currently studying Musical Theater. Yazmin was awarded the \$10,000 Cal Pritner Theater Scholarship in memory of beloved CSSSA faculty member Cal Pritner and is majoring in Communications and Rhetorical Studies.

## COLLEGE PARTNERS

The CSSSA Foundation develops partnerships with colleges and institutions across the country to offer opportunities and resources to CSSSA alumni. These exclusive partnerships include multi-year, renewable scholarships for CSSSA alumni. Each summer, the CSSSA Foundation participates in the CSSSA College Fair with over 30 universities and arts institutions.

● Art Center College of Design



BENNINGTON COLLEGE



CaLARTS



## ALUMNI NETWORK

The CSSSA Foundation Alumni Network helps foster the unique bond CSSSA alumni have with each other and with their shared experience. We are just starting to build the alumni community with the launch of the Alumni Web Gallery, alumni network events throughout the state, and by developing engagement with alums on social media. We have big plans ahead to continue reconnecting with our inspiring alumni.

### Movies and TV shows involving CSSSA alums won:



11 Annie Awards



2 Golden Globes



2 Oscars



1 Primetime Emmy Award



1 Teen Choice Award



CSSSA alum Adrian Molina with his Golden Globe award for *Coco*.



**EVENTS** On March 4, 2018, alums, family, and friends joined us for a night of Hollywood magic celebrating Oscar victories for *Coco* (co-directed by CSSSA alum Adrian Molina). Alums donated artwork for a silent auction, and thanks to Sony Pictures Entertainment, one lucky family won a studio tour raffle prize.



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

**Martine Syms** (Film 2003) premiered her first solo exhibition, *Project 106: Martine Syms*, at the the Museum of Modern Art in New York. ++ **Adam Jacobs** (Theater) completed a seven-year run starring in *Aladdin* on Broadway after originating the lead role ++ **Lin-Manuel Miranda**, creator of *Hamilton*, praised **George Watsky** (Creative Writing 2004) and **Max Vernon** (Creative Writing 2003). "Funny, subversive, and able to excavate such brutally honest sentences that you find yourself nodding your head in wonder and recognition." (Lin-Manuel Miranda on Watsky's book *How To Ruin Everything: Essays*.) ++ CSSSA Animation alums and good friends **Alex Hirsch** and **Adrian Molina** supported the CSSSA Foundation on Giving Tuesday with social media messages.

## LEADERSHIP

### CSSSA TRUSTEES AND CSSSA FOUNDATION DIRECTORS

The California State Summer School for the Arts is a state agency governed by the Board of Trustees, appointed by the Governor, State Legislature, State Board of Education, California Arts Council, State University Board of Trustees, Regents of the University of California, and the California State Summer School Arts Foundation. The CSSSA Foundation Board of Directors, appointed by the CSSSA Board of Trustees, governs the Foundation. Four Foundation Directors also sit on the Board of Trustees. Advisory Board Members serve as ambassadors for the organization.

#### CSSSA Board of Trustees

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 Adrienne Go, *Vice Chair*  
 Lilia Chavez  
 Bernadette Cheyne  
 Alexander De Ocampo  
 Sue Freitag  
 Janice Pober  
 Laura Romero  
 Niki Sandoval  
 Teri Schwartz  
 Michael Fields,  
*CSSSA Director*

#### Trustees Emeritus

Alan Sieroty

#### CSSSA Foundation Board of Directors

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 Wendy Wolstoncroft,  
*Vice President,*  
*Acting President*  
 Leslie Birnbaum\*  
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 Maggie Drake  
 Melissa Draper  
 Wendy Howard Goldberg  
 Chris Heijnen  
 Chrisette Hudlin  
 Brad Krevoy  
 Josh Love  
 AJ Major  
 Jamie McGurk\*  
 Steve Nissen  
 Vicki Reynolds\*  
 Heidi Kershaw,  
*Executive Director*

#### Advisory Board

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 Mike Burns  
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 Hon. John Garamendi  
 Jonathan Garson  
 Charlie Haid  
 Joanne Horning  
 Sallie Huntting  
 Warren Jenson  
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 Nikiko Masumoto  
 Marty Muller  
 Edward James Olmos  
 Diane Paskerian  
 Miranda Payne  
 Bobby Podesta  
 Jeff Rose  
 Suzanne Russell  
 David Schiff  
 Alan Sieroty  
 Gayle Surabian  
 Mel Swope  
 Kirsten Vangsness  
 Teal Wicks  
 Marlene Wynne

\*Resigned before end of term.

## WELCOMING NEW TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS



#### Laura C. Romero, Trustee

Laura C. Romero, Ph.D. is the founding President & CEO of her consulting firm, Brillante Strategies, which advises organizations on education, mentoring, public-private partnerships, government & community relations, and strategic planning.

Prior to Brillante Strategies, Laura C. Romero worked at Los Angeles Universal Preschool focusing on corporate relations. She spent 10 years at UCLA, including in the Office of Government & Community Relations, the Higher Education Research Institute's Cooperative Institutional Research Program, and the Extramural Programs and Opportunities Center.

Laura was previously Acting Director of Public Affairs at Univision Los Angeles and National Mentoring Coordinator of the award-winning Communities In Schools, Inc./Univision Mentoring Initiative. She received her bachelor, master and doctoral degrees from UCLA and was appointed to the CSSSA Board of Trustees by the California Senate Rules Committee in July 2017.



#### Teri Schwartz, Trustee

Teri Schwartz is the Dean of the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television (UCLA TFT), where she has launched a long-range strategic plan that re-imagines entertainment and performing arts education as an interdisciplinary enterprise grounded in humanistic storytelling, social impact, technology and innovation, and global diversity. Dean Schwartz created a program for new scholarships to give access and opportunity to the most talented and diverse array of students from around the world. She also launched the Skoll Center for Social Impact. Her passion to cultivate talent in meaningful ways is a driving force in her work.

Prior to joining UCLA TFT, Dean Schwartz served from 2003 to 2009 as the founding dean of the Loyola Marymount University School of Film and Television. She is an award-winning feature film producer whose works have garnered nominations for Academy, Golden Globe, Emmy, Grammy, MTV, and CLIO awards. She is the 2015 recipient of the Cayman International Film Festival's inaugural award for Outstanding Achievement in Film Producing. She received the 2013 American Spirit Award from the Caucus for Producers, Writers & Directors for her Special Achievement in Educating New Filmmakers, and she was honored as Variety's 2012 Media Mentor of the Year. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of California, Los Angeles and a Master's in Film from the University of London. She was appointed to the CSSSA Board of Trustees by the UC Regents in July 2017.

## WELCOMING NEW TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS

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### **Sue Freitag, Trustee**

Sue Freitag is a 19-year veteran educator specializing in LGBTQ youth advocacy and theatre for social justice. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts from UCLA in Theater, a Teaching Credential in English from CSUN, and is a National Board Certified Teacher. Sue has sat on the Board for The Drama Teachers of Southern California as both Vice President and Secretary for eight years. She is also a longtime member of California Educators of Theater Arts and the International Thespian Society.

Currently, Sue is the Coordinator of the Academy of Music and Performing Arts at Hamilton High School. AMPA is an award-winning arts conservatory, preparing students for careers in music, choral, jazz, dance, theater, musical theater, and technical theater. Previously, Sue spent 18 years as a theater educator and the Visual and Performing Arts Chair at El Camino Real Charter High School. One important mission for Sue is to empower young people to identify, develop, and lead social justice initiatives using the arts as a unifying point. Sue is excited for the opportunity to support young artists on a larger scale through serving on the Board for CSSSA. She was appointed to the CSSSA Board of Trustees by the Governor's office in March 2018.



### **AJ Major, Director and Trustee**

AJ Major is a recently retired Certified Public Accountant. AJ was a partner with Vavrinek, Trine Day and Company, LLP, a regional firm based in California. He provided assurance, tax, and advisory services to the private sector and governmental agencies for over 30 years. Private sector clients included software development, other high-tech, mortgage bankers and brokers, engineering firms, common interest realty associations, and manufacturing firms. His governmental experience included counties, cities, towns, public utilities, financing authorities, and transit agencies. AJ enjoys golf, tennis, cooking, watching his daughter play lacrosse and his son play baseball. He is active in his Church and other not for profit organizations. AJ is also a member of an acoustic rock band that plays originals and covers.



### **Mike Cannone, Director**

Mike Cannone is a Partner at Westmount Asset Management. He has over 16 years of experience in the financial services and investment management industry. Prior to joining Westmount, he served as Assistant Vice President at Bernstein Global Wealth Management in Los Angeles, where he advised high-net-worth individuals and families, small-to-medium-size businesses, and nonprofit groups on a wide range of financial planning and investment matters. Prior to Bernstein, Mike worked in the Fund Financial Services division of Vanguard in Philadelphia, PA. He earned a BSBA from Georgetown University, majoring in both Finance and Business Management. Mike received his MBA from The Anderson School of Management at UCLA, with a focus in Finance and International Studies. Mike is a board member of Venice Arts and the Founder and former President of the Emerging Leaders Board of Covenant House California. Both organizations serve disadvantaged children in Los Angeles. He is also an active member of both the Georgetown University and the UCLA-Anderson School of Management alumni networks in Los Angeles.



### **Josh Love, Director**

Josh Love is an associate at the law firm Reed Smith, where he represents the interests of songwriters, producers, and artists as well as record labels, music publishers, and global media companies. Josh is particularly interested in the intersection of art and technology, as well as in emerging talent and creative trends in the Pop and Electronic genres. He regularly lectures on these topics at the UCLA Extension Music Business program, and at various conferences around the world. Josh received his undergraduate education at Indiana University, graduating with distinction with degrees in Political Science and Communication & Culture. He pursued his legal education at the University of Southern California.



### **Steve Nissen, Director**

Steve Nissen is Senior Vice President of Legal & Government Affairs at NBCUniversal, one of the world's largest media companies. He has served on the Board of the L.A. Police Foundation and on the Board of Metro YMCA. He is past Board Chair of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, FilmLA, Central City Association and L.A. BioMed. Prior to joining NBCUniversal, Nissen worked in the private sector as a partner in the national law firm of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, in the public sector as CEO of the California State Bar and Staff Director/senior adviser with Governor Gray Davis, and in the nonprofit sector as President of Public Counsel Law Center, which he built into the largest pro bono law firm in the United States. Mr. Nissen received his undergraduate degree from Stanford University and his law degree from U.C Berkeley (Boalt Hall) School of Law. His wife, Lynn Alvarez, consults for charitable foundations. The oldest of their three sons attended CSSSA in 2013.



