
Academy of Visual & Performing Arts Culver City High School

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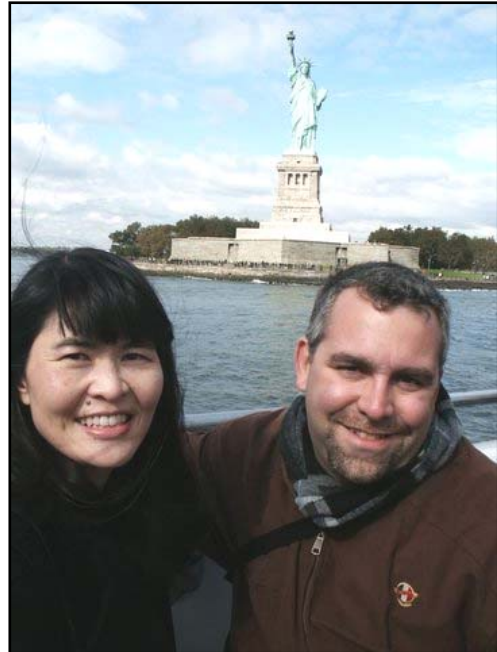
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For Immediate Release

AVPA Faculty Attend Conference In New York

Culver City, CA, November 2, 2005

Three faculty members from Culver City High School's Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) will be spending the weekend of November 11-13 in New York City at a conference for honorees of the Surdna Foundations' Art Teacher Fellowship Program. Last spring Dr. Tony Spano, a Culver City High School music teacher and Executive Director of AVPA, was awarded one of these prestigious fellowships which he used to attend the World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensembles international conference in Singapore last summer.



The grant also pays for Spano and an administrator from the Academy to attend the conference in New York where the Surdna program brings together the 2005 fellows to share their experiences and art-making. Darryl Hovis, AVPA's Artistic Director, will be attending the conference in that administrative capacity and Kristine Hatanaka, AVPA's Art Director and 2004 Surdna fellow, will be attending as a facilitator. According to Spano, "It has been an honor to have such recognition from the Surdna Foundation. I'm especially pleased that all three of us will be attending the conference in New York together to work with other arts teachers from around the country."

Conference attendees will explore a variety of areas including arts and academics, preparing students for their next steps, alumni tracking and program recruitment.

And if history repeats itself, Spano can look forward to many additional artistic opportunities from this meeting with the other Surdna fellows.

Hatanaka received a Surdna fellowship in 2004 which she used study with an artist in New Mexico and make art at one of the original adobe studios in Taos. She also took some courses at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena. Surdna has asked her back to the New York conference this year to help facilitate the meeting and to share some of the opportunities that developed as a result of her fellowship.

For Hatanaka, the most exciting outcome of her Surdna fellowship was being asked by the New Orleans Center for the Creative Arts (NOCCA)/Riverfront to participate in the Visiting/Exhibiting Artist program in January 2006. She's been invited to teach NOCCA's advanced visual art students about collage and assemblage and she will have the opportunity to exhibit her own artwork in the Goldring Riverview Gallery in February.

Hatanaka felt honored and grateful when she received her award because it renewed her commitment both as an artist and a teacher. She said, "Being asked to return to New York only brings new inspiration and an opportunity for me to share more of my artistic accomplishments."

The Surdna Arts Teachers Fellowship Program supports the artistic revitalization of outstanding arts teachers in specialized, public arts high schools. Recognizing that such teachers often lack the time and resources to reconnect with the artistic processes they teach, the Program provides grants of up to \$5,000 to enable selected teachers to make art with professionals in their disciplines and stay current with new practices and resources. A complementary grant of \$1,500 is awarded to each Fellow's school to support related post-Fellowship activities.

Only twenty-three teachers from sixteen public arts high schools from around the country were awarded Surdna fellowships in 2005. Culver City Unified School District's Superintendent, Laura McGaughy, recognizes what an honor it is for CCUSD teachers to receive these fellowships two years in a row. According to McGaughy "The District Office is thrilled to have the accomplishments of such successful teachers recognized by such a prestigious foundation."

The Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) at Culver City High School offers a comprehensive arts curriculum after regular school hours for students who are committed to excellence in Art, Film, Theatre, Dance, and Music. Established in 1996, AVPA enjoys tremendous community support from Sony Pictures Entertainment and other design, recording, and theatre companies in the area. For more information, go to www.avpa.org or contact Tony Spano at 310-842-4200 x6094 or x6009.

Photo Caption:

SpanoHatanaka: Surdna Fellows Kristine Hatanaka and Tony Spano