
Academy of Visual & Performing Arts

Culver City High School

4401 Elenda Ave.
Culver City, CA 90230
<http://www.avpa.org>
Phone 310-842-4200 x6094

Contact: Kristine Hatanaka
Art Director
kristinehatanaka@ccusd.org
Phone 310-842-4200 x6001

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AVPA Students Receive Scholarships for USC's Ryman Arts

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USC's Ryman Arts has selected four art students from Culver City High School's Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) to participate in their Fall semester art classes. These intensive beginning, intermediate and advanced classes in both painting and drawing are held on Saturdays in the USC Roski School of Fine Arts studios and are designed specifically for high school students exhibiting talent in the visual arts.



CCHS seniors Enrique Serrano, Noel Ekker, Zoe Ahearn and Kenny Muhamedagic received full scholarships to participate in Ryman Arts. Last spring these students were recommended by a teacher and/or professional artist and applied to the program with a portfolio and an essay about their goals as an artist. They found out they had been accepted just before school started again this fall.

AVPA art student Ahearn has this to say about the program: "I am so excited to have been selected to the Ryman program. It is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity to receive a full scholarship for such high-quality art supplies and amazing classes. The teachers go above and beyond to help you develop your natural artistic ability to prepare you for art college."

Kristine Hatanaka, co-executive director of AVPA and the director for the arts program at the Academy, can't help but feel a sense of accomplishment. She currently has ten AVPA students who have participated in Ryman Arts. According to Hatanaka, "My students have experienced tremendous success in Ryman Arts. I can't wait to see how these four talented students develop their creativity through this one-of-a-kind program."



The Ryman Program teaches small, intense studio classes in drawing and painting techniques. These classes give the serious student the skills necessary to pursue a career in the arts. This program is for students who are passionate about their artwork and are willing to commit to a rigorous training program -- homework included -- on Saturdays.

Ryman students come from throughout Southern California. The majority are from Los Angeles and Orange counties but Ventura, Riverside and San

Bernardino counties are also represented.

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 about the Academy, go to www.avpa.org or contact Tony Spano at 310-842-4200 x6094 or Kristine Hatanaka at 310-842-4200 x6001.

Photo caption:

Ryman2: Fall Semester Ryman Arts scholarship recipients (L-R) Noel Ekker, Kenny Muhamedagic, and Zoe Ahearn. Not pictured, Enrique Serrano

Ryman1: AVPA's Ryman Arts scholarship recipients (L-R): Valentin De La Cruz, Noel Ekker, Zoe Ahearn, Guillermo Palacio, Kenny Muhamedagic, Manuel Huitron, Danny Gardner, Ashley Eslick, and Jolynn Hiram. Not pictured, Enrique Serrano