



**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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## Community celebrates the launch of California College of the Arts Float Lab in Oakland Bay



L to R: Keith Krumwiede (CCA), Adam Marcus (CCA), Stephen Beal (President, CCA), Evan Jones (CCA), Libby Schaaf (Mayor of Oakland), JD Beltran (CCA), Brad McCrea (San Francisco BCDC), Margaret Ikeda (CCA), Jan Novak (Port of Oakland), and Amy Tharpe (Port of Oakland). Photo by Wes Miller/Center for Impact at CCA.

**Oakland, CA—September 26, 2019—**During a weekend of worldwide climate protests and California Coastal Cleanup Day, leaders from California College of the Arts (CCA), Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, Port of Oakland representatives, and community members gathered on Saturday, September 21, to commemorate the launch of CCA Buoyant Ecologies Float Lab into the Oakland Middle Harbor. This innovative floating research station offers a first-of-its-kind approach to addressing the effects of climate change to be deployed in the San Francisco Bay.

Led by CCA architecture faculty Adam Marcus, Margaret Ikeda, and Evan Jones, the Float Lab builds upon five years of applied research at CCA and merges art and design expertise, advanced digital fabrication manufacturers, and marine ecologists. It is engineered to serve as a breakwater to reduce coastal erosion and also be a habitat for marine life in order to increase marine biodiversity. The Float Lab will be used as an educational tool in fulfillment of Middle Harbor Shoreline Park's mission to be a place for learning about local history, natural environment, maritime activities, and stewardship for the environment.

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The Float Lab launch celebration kicked off with a jazzy, New Orleans–style ceremonial procession performed by the Edna Brewer Middle School Band. The band led over 100 guests down to Port View Park, where the festivities and remarks took place. In the crowd were City of Oakland and Port of Oakland leaders, fifth grade students from Prescott School in West Oakland, musicians from Edna Brewer Middle School in Oakland, multiple community members, and CCA leadership and faculty, as well as current and former CCA students involved with the development of the Float Lab. The celebratory procession lead guests to Port View Park, where the community picnic joyfully commenced with food, refreshments, DIY kites, and coloring book activities as they viewed the Float Lab doing its work in the bay.

The distinguished speakers then gathered for remarks. Speaking at the event were (in order): **Amy Tharpe**, director of Social Responsibility, Port of Oakland; **Adam Marcus**, **Margaret Ikeda**, and **Evan Jones**, CCA Architecture faculty and Buoyant Ecologies Float Lab project leaders; **Stephen Beal**, CCA president; **Keith Krumwiede**, CCA dean of Architecture; **fifth grade students** from Prescott School; **Brad McCrea**, director of Regulatory Program, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission; and **Richard Sinkoff**, director of Environmental Programs and Planning, Port of Oakland; and **Libby Schaaf**, Mayor of Oakland.

Four students from educator **Connie Zunino’s fifth grade class** at Prescott School in West Oakland gave a special presentation about Tanaids, a small crustacean native to the bay. The students displayed a colorful, papier-mâché representation of a Tanaid while stating scientific facts delivered in rhyming poetic verse.

**Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf** concluded the remarks. Wearing her California Coastal Cleanup T-shirt and green Oakland Proud ball cap, Mayor Schaaf delivered impassioned remarks about the importance of offering innovative solutions to climate change and expressed her commitment to environmental stewardship, especially for future generations. She then shared the ceremonial ribbon-cutting moment with one of the fifth grade students from Prescott School.

“What’s so exciting about these Float Labs is this is not just a scientific laboratory, this is a show of power from our students—our students at CCA, our students in the Oakland Unified School District—and just know that you have an entire community here in the city of Oakland cheering you on, telling you how important this work is, and telling you to use this information for good, for change,” stated Oakland Mayor **Libby Schaaf**.

“The challenges around environmental issues are just enormous, and we’re so proud of the work that our faculty and students have done to begin to address this,” said CCA President **Stephen Beal**. “The founder of CCA, Frederick Meyer, believed that the best thing was to take young creative people and to connect them to the complexities of social, political, and economic life. And that’s been at the heart of CCA for 112 years. Never has that been more important than it is today.”

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### **About CCA Buoyant Ecologies Float Lab**

CCA Architectural Ecologies Lab's (AEL) [Buoyant Ecologies Float Lab](#) project is an award-winning, innovative floating breakwater structure engineered to be a habitat for native marine life in order to increase marine biodiversity and reduce coastal erosion. This project builds upon five years of applied research at California College of the Arts and merges expertise from design, advanced digital fabrication manufacturers, and marine ecologists.

The Buoyant Ecologies Float Lab project has received the following recognition: Columbia University, [GSAPP Incubator Prize](#), 2019; Center for Impact at CCA, [Impact Award](#), 2019; *Architect Magazine*, [R+D Award](#), 2018; and Buckminster Fuller Institute, [Catalyst Program](#), 2017.

**Project leaders:** Adam Marcus (CCA), Margaret Ikeda (CCA), Evan Jones (CCA)

**Design team:** Taylor Metcalf, Georine Pierre, Jared Clifton

**Marine ecology:** [Benthic Lab](#), [Moss Landing Marine Laboratories](#) — John Oliver, Kamille Hammerstrom, Daniel Gossard

**Fabrication:** [Kreysler & Associates](#) — Bill Kreysler, Joshua Zabel

**Maintenance and deployment consultant:** [DC Marine](#) — Dean Christian

**Naval architecture and engineering:** [Tri-Coastal Marine](#) — Andrew Davis

**Deployment team, Port of Oakland:** Bill Morrison, Donald Ockrassa, Kevin Nekimken, Sean Wheels, Greg Skeen

**Administrative support:** Dustin Smith (CCA), Amanda Schwerin, Karina O'Neill, Laura Ng (CCA), Sarah Lowe (CCA), JD Beltran (CCA Center for Impact), Wes Miller (CCA Center for Impact), Tracy Tanner (CCA Center for Impact)

**Project sponsors:** Miranda Leonard, Kreysler & Associates, Ashland Reactive Polymers, Autodesk Workshop at Pier 9, Port of Oakland, CCA Center for Impact

**Photography:** Architectural Ecologies Lab, Mike Campos (aerial photos), Wes Miller (event photos and video), JD Beltran (event photos), Scott Minneman (event photos)

### **About California College of the Arts**

Founded in 1907, California College of the Arts (CCA) educates students to shape culture and society through the practice and critical study of art, architecture, design, and writing. Benefitting from its San Francisco Bay Area location, the college prepares students for lifelong creative work by cultivating innovation, community engagement, and social and environmental responsibility.

CCA offers a rich curriculum of 22 undergraduate and 11 graduate programs in art, architecture, design, and writing taught by a faculty of expert practitioners. Attracting promising students from across the nation and around the world, CCA is [one of the 10 most diverse colleges in the U.S.](#)

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Graduates are highly sought-after by companies such as Pixar/Disney, Apple, Intel, Facebook, Gensler, Google, IDEO, Autodesk, Mattel, and Nike, and many have launched their own successful businesses. Alumni and faculty are often recognized with the highest honors in their fields, including Academy Awards, AIGA Medals, Fulbright Scholarships, Guggenheim Fellowships, MacArthur Fellowships, National Medal of Arts, and the Rome Prize, among others.

CCA is creating a new, expanded college campus at its current site in San Francisco, spearheaded by the architectural firm Studio Gang. The new campus design will be a model of [sustainable construction and practice](#); will unite the college's programs in art, architecture, design, and writing in one location to create new adjacencies and interactions; and will provide [more student housing](#) than ever before.

For more information, visit [cca.edu](http://cca.edu).

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