



## Gala Honoring Kay Kimpton Walker Raises \$1,267,000 for Student Scholarship Fund

Event marks CCA's largest grossing Gala in history



*(left to right) Stephen Beal, Cathy Podell, Kay Kimpton Walker, Stanlee Gatti*

**San Francisco, CA—May 24, 2018**—California College of the Arts (CCA) drew 375 supporters to its San Francisco campus for a celebration benefiting CCA student scholarships and honoring Kay Kimpton Walker, who has been a champion of artists and designers for decades through her 26 years running K Kimpton Contemporary Art, her tenure as president of the San Francisco Art Dealers Association, and her 12 years as a CCA trustee.

The annual fundraising event—which grossed the largest donations for a CCA Gala to-date at **\$1,267,000**—was helmed by co-chairs and CCA trustees **Cathy Podell** and **Stanlee Gatti**. Ms. Walker's daughter and **Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jennifer Egan** about her mother's avid support of her writing career; a video tribute to Ms. Walker with virtual messages from leading figures in the art world and culture and society in San Francisco; moving speeches from CCA scholarship students Daniel Ortiz (Industrial Design 2018) and Arleene Correa Valencia (Individualized Major 2018); and an energetic real-time donation "raise

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**California  
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the paddle” event **hosted by Emmy Award-winning radio and television personality Liam Mayclem.**

The gala brought together long-standing CCA patrons, museum directors, gallery owners and art collectors, architects, artists, renowned authors, and CCA alumni, students, faculty, and staff.

Leaders of major San Francisco arts institutions who attended included **John and Gretchen Berggruen** (Owners, Berggruen Gallery), **Jennifer Biederbeck** (Director, Sotheby’s San Francisco) and **Doug Biederbeck, Neal Benezra** (Director, SFMOMA) and **Maria Makela, Robert J. Fisher** (Board President, SFMOMA) and **Randi Fisher, Ann Hatch** (Founder/Owner, Workshop Residence), **Lawrence Rinder** (Director, BAMPFA), **Andy and Mary Pilara** (Founders, Pier 24), **Jessica Silverman** (CCA alumna and Founder, Jessica Silverman Gallery), and **Valerie Wade** (Director, Crown Point Press).

Major art collectors included the likes of **Sabrina Buell, Frances Bowes, Chara Schreyer, and Susy and Jack Wadsworth.** Also in attendance were: designers, architects, and artists such as **Yves Béhar, Arthur Gensler Jr., Jim Jennings, Michael Vanderbyl, Sandy Walker, Alyssa Warnock, Ann Weber, Sonya Yu and Zack Lara;** renowned authors **Tom Barbash, Jennifer Egan, and Vendela Vida;** musicians such as **Boz Scaggs;** and major cultural and society figures in the San Francisco Bay Area including owner of the Giants **Larry Baer,** founder of Hiball Energy **Todd Berardi, Gay-Lynn and Robert Blanding, Penny Coulter,** vice president of Google **Catherine Courage, John and Ellen Drew, Heidi Fisher, Fred and Shelby Gans, Michael Krasny, Michele Meany, Amanda Michaels, Paul Pelosi, Gina Peterson, Alison Pincus, Cathy and Mike Podell, Leslie Podell, John Pritzker, Allison Speer, Kim Swig, Roselyne Swig, Susan Swig, Hillary Thomas, Laney and Pasha Thornton, Katie Traina, Danielle Walker, Summer and Brooks Walker, and Pat Wilson.**

### **About the Program**

Festivities began with a lively cocktail reception, where guests enjoyed libations by Rye. Attendees mingled amid an exhibition curated by CCA alumna Tanya Gayer (MA Curatorial Practice, Visual



and Critical Studies 2016), and showcasing works by other CCA alumni including Dalia Anani (MFA Social Practice 2013), Patricia Leal (Sculpture 2017), Dionne Lee (MFA 2017), Weston Teruya (MFA, MA Visual and Critical Studies 2007), and Ann Weber (MFA 1987).

A tented venue located just outside the Nave hosted a chic black and white design by Stanlee Gatti which created an ambiance of refined elegance and sophistication for the evening's celebration. A dinner served by Taste featured courses utilizing locally-sourced delicacies from Knoll Organic Farms and Sonoma-based Liberty Farms. Wine was generously provided by Peregrine Ranch, Vintap, and RMH-River Myst Haven.

Following dinner, CCA President Stephen Beal kicked off the program by highlighting Ms. Walker's long history of supporting the college and showcasing an early rendering of the college's planned campus unification project spearheaded by MacArthur-winning architect Jeanne Gang and set to open in academic year 2021-22.

"This is an incredibly exciting moment for CCA," he said. "Today we are on the cusp of expanding our campus in San Francisco. We are going to create a living learning laboratory for all 2,000 students here to work across disciplines and create hybrid connections between analog and digital ways of working."

A video tribute to Ms. Walker featured messages from friends who spoke to her commitment to the arts, mental health, and impact on the Bay Area. Those featured included **Jennifer Biederbeck, Michael Brennan, Lorna Meyer Calas, Ann Hatch, Michael Krasny, Anthony Meier, Jennifer Morla, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi** and **Paul Pelosi, Lawrence Rinder, Valerie Wade, Sandy Walker**, and Kim Norman, MD and professor of psychology at UCSF.

**Ms. Egan** spoke next, sharing personal anecdotes of her relationship with her mother, and highlighting her support of her writing career even at its most nascent and difficult stages.

Ms. Walker then expressed admiration for the college. "I love being a part of this board and school and I love coming into the Nave and

seeing these amazing kids doing amazing work,” she said. “CCA has given every bit as much to me as I’ve given to them.”



The evening then turned to celebrate the students who directly benefit from the school’s scholarships. Graduating seniors **Daniel Ortiz (Industrial Design 2018)** and **Arleene Correa Valencia (Individualized Major 2018)** spoke to the hard work it took for them to pursue a degree in arts education, the incredible experiences CCA offered them, and the indispensable help that student scholarships provided them on their journey.

“It is because of my time here at CCA and my scholarship that I have come to embrace who I am, being a Mexican artist,” said Ms. Correa Valencia who was born in Arteaga Mexico and was raised in an immigrant community in Napa Valley. “I can truthfully say that this education has empowered me now more than ever to continue fighting for my culture.”

At the close of the evening, the college announced a new scholarship fund established in honor of Ms. Walker—The Kay Kimpton Walker Endowed Scholarship—and Mr. Mayclem inspired the crowd to make generous, real-time donations to inaugurate the fund.

### **About CCA’s Scholarship Program**

CCA devotes 27 percent of its annual budget to student scholarships. Two of every three CCA students receive scholarship support of some kind. The college firmly believes that an excellent art and design education is only made possible with the inclusion of diverse persons and perspectives on campus, and that financial barriers should never prevent any talented, committed student from enrolling at CCA.

To achieve this goal, CCA dedicates significant institutional resources to need-based aid, with the scholarship fund being its highest fundraising priority.

### **About Kay Kimpton Walker**

Kay Kimpton Walker owned K Kimpton Contemporary Art (formerly the Ivory/Kimpton Gallery) in San Francisco, from 1980 to 2006. She was an active member of SFADA (San Francisco Art Dealers



Association) and its president in 1990 and 1991. For many years she has been a passionate advocate for mental health issues. She chaired two fundraisers for Langley Porter Psychiatric Hospital and Clinics in San Francisco, and—with the help of many generous donors—founded a Fitness Center at McLean Hospital in Belmont, Massachusetts. Also at McLean, she redecorated Appleton House, a 30-patient live-in facility. Ms. Walker has been a CCA board member since 2006 and has chaired or co-chaired seven gala fundraisers. Thanks to her leadership, these galas raised over \$4 million for CCA student scholarships. She earned her BA from Vassar College.

### **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, design, architecture, and writing taught by a faculty of expert practitioners, and attracts promising students from across the United States and from 55 countries around the world.

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.

CCA is creating a new, expanded college campus at its current site in San Francisco that will open during the 2021–2022 academic year. Spearheaded by Studio Gang architects, the new campus design will be a model of [sustainable construction and practice](#); will unite the college’s programs in art, crafts, design, architecture, 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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