

**UC Irvine**

Claire Trevor School of the Arts

# CLAIRE TREVOR SOCIETY

Impact Report  
2023-2024



**Dear Claire Trevor Society members,**

Your support makes the Claire Trevor School of the Arts (CTSA) shine brighter. As a valued member of the Claire Trevor Society—a community of arts advocates, friends, and partners—you strengthen our academic and creative excellence while opening doors for our students. Together, we provide scholarships through the Claire Trevor Society Scholarship Program, fund innovative faculty research, and bring productions and exhibitions to life.

As the creative engine of UC Irvine, CTSA drives interdisciplinary collaboration across the university and with our community partners. Your involvement empowers our students and faculty to push boundaries and explore new ideas, creating experiences that resonate both on campus and beyond.

In this 2023-2024 Claire Trevor Society Impact Report, you'll see the tangible difference your support has made. From scholarships for deserving students in Art, Dance, Drama, and Music to the exciting projects funded through our Research & Innovation grants, your contributions are fueling creative exploration and innovation. You'll also learn how the Claire Trevor Society Department Grants are enriching our classrooms, galleries, rehearsal rooms, and theaters, allowing our community to explore and express their creativity fully.

As we begin the 2024-2025 academic year, your continued support will further elevate the work of our students and faculty. Thank you for being an essential part of this journey. We look forward to connecting with you at upcoming Society events and are deeply grateful for your ongoing commitment.

Sincerely,



Tiffany Ana López, Ph.D.  
Claire Trevor Dean of the Arts  
UC Irvine Claire Trevor School of the Arts



Cheryll and Richard Ruszat  
Co-Chairs  
Claire Trevor Society

### A Year In Review



**6**

Awarded Claire Trevor Society Scholars



**\$12,000**

Provided in Student Scholarships



**95**

Charter Members of the Claire Trevor Society



**\$114,718**

Raised for CTSA Dean's Excellence Fund



**\$44,000**

Awarded for Research & Innovation



**545**

Total Attendees to Claire Trevor Society Events





**Logan Brubaker**

M.F.A. Stage Management '25

Logan Brubaker is a Stage Management M.F.A. student who chose UC Irvine because of its dedication to the craft of educational performing arts. After graduating, he plans to move to Germany to pursue a career in arts administration.

*"This scholarship comes at a special time for me... Your generosity truly helps me follow my dreams as I pursue the next phase of my life. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart."*



**Anna Fitzgerald**

M.F.A. Acting '25

Anna Marjorie Fitzgerald is an actor and playwright based in Southern California. Before starting graduate school at UC Irvine as an M.F.A. candidate in Acting, Fitzgerald co-founded and served as the associate director of ISLE Theater Company, based in Deer Isle, ME.

*"This award will enable me to focus entirely on my studies and schoolwork and will also allow me to take advantage of more resources to deepen my artistry as they arise both on and off-campus."*



**Anisa Johnson**

B.F.A. Dance Performance and Choreography '25

Anisa Johnson is a fountain of versatility for the dance world, excelling in the styles of Tap, Ballet, Modern, and Hip-Hop dance. They have developed their craft from the small town of Murrieta, CA. Anisa now studies both choreography and performance at the collegiate level with UC Irvine.

*"Alleviating my financial stresses will allow me to experience the mental peace and focus necessary to find this place of pure art."*





**Antonio Lee**

B.Mus. Vocal Performance '25

Antonio Lee has been passionate about the arts since childhood, performing in theatre from the age of 10. He is also focused on growing his production company, Borinquen Productions, which provides opportunities for marginalized artists to share their talents. Antonio values being an independent artist while also empowering others through his platform.

*"It is challenging to balance work and school, so I am grateful that your contributions have allowed me to remain focused. I have grown so much in my time at UC Irvine, and that would not be possible without you."*



**Francine Mae Peji**

M.F.A. Dance Performance '25

Francine Mae Peji is a Filipino-American artist from Santa Clarita, CA pursuing her B.F.A. in Dance Performance with a minor in Film and Media Studies at UC Irvine. Within her studies, she strives to explore the intersections of different genres, primarily tap dance and contemporary dance, to create her own unique artistic voice

*"Being a Claire Trevor Society Scholar means so much to me- being able to represent the Dance Program, a program that has transformed my outlook on dance, has made me feel as if my hard work hasn't gone unnoticed."*



**Anthony Martinez**

M.F.A. Studio Art '25

Anthony Martinez is an interdisciplinary artist whose work investigates and recontextualizes art history through a historiographic and anthropological lens. His research was prompted by recent political trends as well as the scrutiny of truth and transparency

*"With the unwavering support from my mentors, peers and organizations such as the Claire Trevor Society, I find motivation and encouragement to continue on with my research and art practice. Thank you so much for your contribution and support."*

### Your Philanthropy at Work

Your contributions to the Dean's Excellence Fund through your Claire Trevor Society membership directly enhance the academic and creative excellence at the Claire Trevor School of the Arts. These funds enable the Dean to support exhibitions, professional-quality productions, and enriching learning opportunities across all four departments.

Over the past year, your support has allowed CTSA to:

- **Host internationally renowned artists** for our Visiting Artist Lecture Series, offering publicly accessible talks and one-on-one student consultations.
- **Strengthen our reputation** as a destination for highly enriching cultural engagement.
- **Elevate the overall production quality of our *Dance Visions* performance**, further supporting our students' academic experience and enabling the performance to be filmed and streamed, increasing the reach and accessibility of creative capital.
- **Improve the educational environment** for students with upgraded classroom equipment and technology.
- **Enhance the production quality** of the winter drama shows and the spring musical *THE PROM*.
- **Purchase several musical instruments** to support the learning needs of our students.





### CTSA 23-24 Research & Innovation Grants

The Research & Innovation Advisory Committee (RI Committee), led by the Associate Dean of Research & Innovation, Jesse Colin Jackson, evaluated 33 research proposals as they looked to award the 2023-2024 Research & Innovation Grants. The RI Committee distributed \$44,000 to the 17 grant awardees. \$6,000 grand prizes were awarded to Professor Joel Veenstra and Professor Jennifer Bornstein.

#### Grand Prize Winners:

**Joel Veenstra, Professor, Drama:** *Futuristic Harmony: Evolving Improvisation and Humanity with Emergent Technology in Virtual Reality (VR) and Artificial Intelligence (AI)*

**Jennifer Bornstein, Professor, Art:** *Music Swims Back to Me*

#### 2023-2024 Research & Innovation Grant Recipients:

**Talin Abadian, Ph.D. candidate, Drama:**  
*Performing with Waste: Queering Environmental Activism*

**Fabricio Cavero Farfan, Ph.D. candidate, Music:**  
*Tusuy Tech — Shape, Motion, and Sound*

**John Crawford, Professor, Dance:** *The Salt Marsh Project*

**Johnathan Gerrard, Ph.D. candidate, Music:**  
*Abolition and Classical Guitar: The Musical Life of Justin Holland*

**Oliver George-Brown, Ph.D. candidate, Music:**  
*Burning Bush*

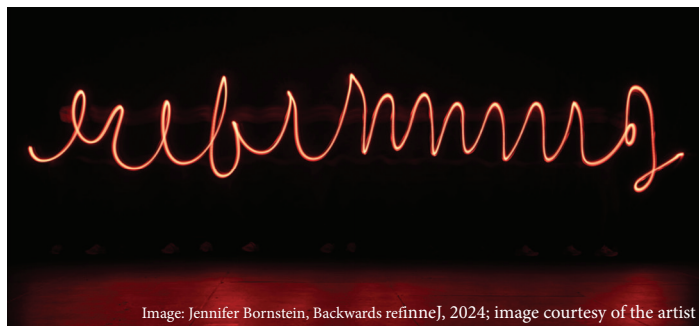


Image: Jennifer Bornstein, Backwards refine], 2024; image courtesy of the artist

**Liz Glynn, Professor, Art:** *Agentic Fragments*

**Chieh Huang, Ph.D. candidate, Music:** *Weaving Worlds: The Interlacing of Atayal and Heritage into Contemporary Composition*

**Mari Kimura, Professor, Dance:** *MUGIC(R)\_LED*

**Tianding He, Ph.D. candidate, Drama:** *The Six+1 Characters in Search of an Assembly*

**Daphne Lei, Professor, Drama:** *Roots, Routes, and Reroots: Transnational Food Network & Experimental Culinary Performance*

**Laura Li, M.F.A. candidate, Art:** *SAANG (Survivors Anchoring Art Narrative Garden)*

**Maggie Liang, M.F.A. candidate, Dance:** *Armed with Thought*

**Vincent Olivieri, Professor, Drama:** *WHITE PRIVILEGE*

**Gintaute Skvernyte, M.F.A. candidate, Art:**  
*Film Production*

**Devin Wilson, M.F.A. candidate, Art:** *The Pigeon Has Landed*

## Claire Trevor Society Department Grants

With your support, CTSA is one of the nation's most acclaimed and innovative cultural centers dedicated to the study of visual and performing arts. To sustain this reputation, our school needs to be able to experiment with new ideas and endeavors. The Claire Trevor Society Department Grants enable the Departments of Art, Dance, Drama and Music to pursue ambitious creative projects, provide our students with transformative experiences and deepen our connections and impact within the community. Looking ahead to the 2024–2025 academic year, these grants will support the development of the following initiatives:

**Visiting Artist Lecture Series (VALS):** VALS is an annual series presented by the Department of Art and organized by faculty and graduate students. The series brings boundary-pushing artists directly to students, inspiring them with new and culturally diverse artistic ideas. Funding will be used to expand the program and its resources.

**Yong Soon Min Exhibition:** The Department of Art will use the grant's funding to present the *Yong Soon Min* Exhibition from October 5 - December 14, 2024. This exhibition will honor the late Professor Emerita of Art, Yong Soon Min, for her contributions to UC Irvine and the art sector. This project is being curated by Bridget Cooks from the Department of Art History and is a collaboration with Langson Institute and Museum of California and Yong Soon Min's estate.

**Reimagining Journeys to Success:** The Department of Dance will use this funding to support workshops for students, faculty and community members. These workshops, hosted in two parts, will focus on student professional development, interdisciplinary partnerships and



**Creative Leadership Bridge Project:** The Department of Drama will use this funding to launch an initiative to advance cutting-edge arts research and innovative productions. This initiative will promote curriculum innovation, foster student professional development, facilitate interdisciplinary collaborations, nurture community partnerships and invest in future growth. The culmination of this project will be Drama's spring 2025 musical, *Starmites*.

**Expanding Music Student Pathways:** The Department of Music will use these funds to support a graduate student-led speaker series, the vocal arts students' *Liederabend* recital and a career pathways panels by Jazz Program alumni. Additionally, the grant will support composition readings and a panel on performance careers by members of the International Contemporary Ensemble.





**2023–2024 Claire Trevor Society Events**

The Claire Trevor Society provides a front door to the arts at UC Irvine for alumni, parents and friends to participate in exclusive experiences and network with fellow arts enthusiasts. In 2023–2024, the Society hosted the following engagement events to celebrate our community and provide a behind-the-scenes with the Claire Trevor School of the Arts.

August 1, 2023

**An Evening with New Swan Shakespeare Festival**

Irvine Barclay Theatre Plaza & New Swan Theater

November 15, 2023

**Cabaret & VIP Reception**

Robert Cohen Theatre & Claire Trevor Theatre

December 5, 2023

**UC Irvine & Pacific Symphony Side-by-Side with Carl St.Clair**

Avenue of the Arts Hotel & Renée & Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall

January 20, 2024

**Opening Reception of *On the Passage of a Few People through a Rather Brief Period of Time***

University Art Galleries (UAG) Contemporary Arts Center Gallery

February 22, 2024

**Dance Visions: Claire Trevor Society & VIP Backstage Soirée**

***Unveiling the Harmony of Dance & Translational Science***  
Irvine Barclay Theatre

March 13, 2024

**Fauré & Gjeilo: Winter Choral Concert & VIP Reception**

Irvine Barclay Theatre

May 14, 2024

**Claire Trevor School of the Arts Scholarship Celebration**

UC Irvine Student Center

June 6, 2024

**An Evening with the Claire Trevor School of the Arts**

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Exhibition, Tenth Thursday and performance of *THE PROM*



# UC Irvine

**Claire Trevor School of the Arts**

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