

**CREATIVE PLANET SCHOOL OF THE ARTS HOSTS 10th ANNIVERSARY GALA
AND HONORS SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS AND RESPECTED COMMUNITY LEADERS**

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Los Angeles, CA- - Celebrating 10 years of artistic and academic excellence, Creative Planet School of the Arts, a non-profit, private elementary school from Baldwin Park, has announced their honorees at its Golden Planets Gala event at the Ford Amphitheater on June 3, 2012. The event will be an evening of song, dance and recognition.

For the past 10 years, Creative Planet School of the Arts has provided a safe space for accelerated academic training, intense Arts education, and creative expression for children from all racial, financial, and social situations. In addition, Creative Planet fosters community and humanitarian events with the talents developed there through its C.A.R.E. Initiative.

Its C.A.R.E. Initiative integrates academics, arts, and humanitarian efforts to support and foster both understanding and action within our student body. By instilling a sense of responsibility for the environment, social ills, and personal needs of their global community; Creative Planet holds to the belief that the arts are a viable source for cultivating tolerance, providing healing, and promoting change.

Through its C.A.R.E. Initiative, students of CPSOA have worked with Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, South Bay AIDS Healthcare Center, San Gabriel Valley Homeless Coalition, Congresswoman Judy Chu, the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, Vox Femina, and More Light Presbyterians for Marriage Equality to name a few. One of its proudest accomplishments, however, was partnering with the Phil Simon Clinic to send a team of 40 students, alumni, social workers, and doctors to Arusha, Tanzania to provide medical support and AIDS education throughout the community, while setting up an After-School Arts program at a local Aids orphanage.

Congresswoman Judy Chu will be awarded with the CPSOA **Golden Planet PODIUM AWARD**, for being a role model within its community by using her political service to create understanding, social change, and tolerance. Born in Los Angeles, daughter of immigrants, working as an educator in the community, and eventually becoming the first Chinese American Woman elected to the US Congress; she has provided a shining example for the students of Los Angeles. Her work in creating an Asian American Heritage Month, promoting equality for the LGBT community, and exposing military hazing has shown her use of the public podium for the welfare and advocacy of those marginalized in our community.

Randi Driscoll, will be awarded the CPSOA **Golden Planet VOICE AWARD**, for using her voice to create awareness for those with no voice. Through her song, What Matters, and her work with the Matthew Shepherd Foundation, she has been a pioneer in the movement to expose the bullying and violence thrust upon gay youth and has created an artistic dialogue to bring about tolerance, understanding, and change. Through her song, CPSOA students continue to learn the legacy of Matthew Shepherd and the important lessons his story is still teaching us today.

Entertainment legend, **Carol Channing**, with her late husband **Harry Kullijian**, receive the **PALETTE AWARD**. Established in 2005 with the hopes of bringing the importance of arts education to the general public, their Foundation for the Arts provides music instruments for underfunded public schools and scholarships for California State University students.

The Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles receives the **TRIANGLE AWARD**, for providing an artistic platform for gay tolerance and acceptance. Through CPSOA's students rehearsing and performing alongside the men of GMCLA, attending its shows, and experiencing its artistry; CPSOA students, from mostly latin-catholic households, have not only learned to tolerate the gay community, but they and their families have grown to embrace gay men as integral and inspirational individuals in their lives.

Richard Montoya, Ric Salinas and Herbert Siguenza of Culture Clash are being honored with the **LEGACY AWARD**, for being role models and pioneers in the Latin Arts community of Los Angeles. By using their talent and voice to give a face to the Chicano Community of Los Angeles, they have been an education and inspiration to the young Hispanic artists of CPSOA. By breaking down barriers within the theatre, entertainment, and education communities; they have provided an avenue for more Latin artists to strive towards their goals and achieve their dreams. They have been the storytellers for a generation of young Hispanics, a building block for their future stories.

Vox Femina Los Angeles receives the **CHRYSALIS AWARD**, for using its artistry to empower young girls. Using its voice to celebrate women, showcase female composers, advocate for the lesbian community, commission and showcase female artists, and educate its audiences concerning marginalized communities; Vox Femina Los Angeles has been an inspiration to the students of CPSOA.

Mezzo-soprano opera singer and TV host, **Susanna Guzman**, an East Los Angeles native, the first Latina opera singer to perform at the Metropolitan Opera, receives the **Legacy Award** for being a pioneer in the Latin Arts community and a positive role model to young Hispanic women in our community. Some of her more memorable roles include *La Traviata* at the Metropolitan Opera, *La Favorite* in Montpellier, France, and *Goya* at the Spoleto Festival in Italy. Known for her portrayal of the title role in *Carmen* for Houston Grand Opera's multimedia production (known as the "*MTV Carmen*"), a role she has performed more than 200 times. After years of performing professionally, she continues to perform to introduce inner city children to the world of opera.

And lastly, **Dr. Kim Shriner**, is being honored with the **HUMANITARIAN AWARD**, for using her knowledge and ability to serve others globally. Her work with the Phil Simon Clinic during the AIDS crisis, her work in Tanzania providing medical support and training, and her work with CPSOA providing inspiration to future humanitarians; has created a legacy of leadership and sacrifice that has changed students of CPSOA for generations. From the important work of providing much needed medical relief, medication, and surgery to the people of Tanzania; to the groundbreaking task of educating and supporting local citizens to continue the work long after we are gone. Her legacy as a humanitarian will be felt on both continents.

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