



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PRESS CONTACT:**

Vy Pham, Associate Director of Communications  
vy@inner-cityarts.org | 213 627 9621 x 133

## **The 2017 IMAGINE AWARDS: Inner-City Arts to Honor Wells Fargo and Rick Madden at Fundraising Event Celebrating Arts Education in Los Angeles**

LOS ANGELES, Calif. (October 2, 2017) - On Thursday, October 12, 2017, **Inner-City Arts**—Los Angeles' leading provider of quality arts education for underserved children—will host its signature annual fundraising event the **Imagine Awards** at the **Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County**. **Wells Fargo** will be honored as an essential partner in the vital work of community transformation and youth enrichment through support of arts education in Los Angeles. The organization will also recognize its Board of Directors Chairman and long-time advocate **Rick Madden** with the *Philanthropic Leadership Award*.

Through their 19-year partnership with Inner-City Arts, Wells Fargo has shown true commitment to the growth and achievement of underserved youth.

"Wells Fargo is a proud supporter of Inner City Arts for nearly 20 years. We value the program's focus on creative innovation, and its inclusive environment where students are encouraged to celebrate their artistic expression," said **Lisa Stevens**, Wells Fargo Regional Bank Executive, Western Region. "We look forward to continuing our relationship and supporting Inner-City Arts as it prepares students for the creative economy in Los Angeles."

Inner-City Arts will also honor Board of Directors Chairman **Rick Madden** for his dedication to the organization's mission and his enduring advocacy for greater access to arts education for the kids and teens of Los Angeles.

"We are thrilled to honor Rick Madden who believes in the power of creativity in the lives of our students and remains committed to our cause through his generosity and leadership," said **Bob Smiland**, President and CEO of Inner-City Arts.

Rick Madden first allied with Inner-City Arts in 2005 when he joined the Board of Directors. In April 2016, Rick was elected as chairman.

"It has been truly rewarding to serve and support this organization," said **Rick Madden**, "and I am honored to be acknowledged. As a parent and arts advocate, I am proud to support the work of Inner-City Arts. I believe that high quality arts education has the power to inspire and empower young people in our city and will impact the future."

The evening will feature a food and cocktail hour, an engaging program, a gallery of Inner-City Arts student work, a silent art auction, an interactive Creativity Lab display and live student performances. The evening will be hosted by Inner-City Arts Founder's Board Member **Eric Schotz**.

All proceeds from the 2017 Imagine Awards support Inner-City Arts' dynamic services which utilize art and creativity to engage students in learning.

Tickets to the event start at \$500 and sponsorship packages are also available. For tickets and more information: [www.inner-cityarts.org/2017imagineawards](http://www.inner-cityarts.org/2017imagineawards)

**2017 Imagine Awards  
Honorary Committee:**

Honorary Committee Chairs

Alan Berro  
Michael Maltzan  
Amy Murphy  
Monica Rosenthal  
Philip Rosenthal

The Jaeger Family  
Glorya Kaufman  
Susan Luehrs  
Joan McCarthy  
Timothy J. Sloan  
Lisa Stevens

**2017 Imagine Awards  
Event Committee:**

Bill Bagnard  
Vera R. Campbell  
Susan Emerling-Torres  
Paul Gomez  
Susan Luehrs  
Rick Madden

**Early Supporters of the 2017 Imagine Awards:**

**IMAGINE SPONSORS**

Rosenthal Family Foundation /  
*Monica and Philip Rosenthal*  
Wells Fargo / *Susan Luehrs*

**PREMIER SPONSOR**

Jennifer and Rick Madden  
The Walt Disney Company

**DIAMOND SPONSORS**

Vera R. Campbell Foundation  
FOSart / *Linda Hothem*  
The Lee Gra Foundation  
Midnight Oil / *Tom Stillwell*

**PLATINUM SPONSORS**

Trader Joe's / *Jon Basalone*

**GOLD PATRONS**

Appelbaum-Kahn Foundation /  
*Emerling-Torres Family*  
Marion and Craig Benell  
California United Bank / *Dave Rainer*  
Eric and Kelley Coleman  
Robin and Doug Hinchlie  
The Jaeger Family  
KWDZ Manufacturing, LLC /  
*Vera R. Campbell*  
N&H Apparel  
Tempted Apparel /  
*Janet and Steve Schoenholz*  
& Famma Group / *Don Ho*

**SILVER PATRONS**

The Boeing Company  
Ross Stores  
Self Esteem Clothing

**BRONZE PATRONS**

GRow @ Annenberg  
Tom and Julie Stillwell

**ABOUT INNER-CITY ARTS:**

*Founded in 1989, Inner-City Arts is a learning oasis in the heart of downtown Los Angeles. Under the guidance of professional teaching artists, Inner-City Arts' students are immersed in a safe and supportive environment where they engage in a variety of visual and performing art forms in studio and theater settings. Services include classes during the instructional day for elementary students, after-school, weekend and summer workshops for teens and creativity-based professional development for educators.*

*Children who attend Inner-City Arts develop skills that are highly valued in the 21st-century workforce such as collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. We have also found consistent and significant gains in student proficiency in English language arts— a 15% average increase among English language learners and a 10% average increase among whole school populations where we provide services, as well as a 6.5% average gain in mathematics. More information available at: [www.inner-cityarts.org](http://www.inner-cityarts.org)*