

neighbor to neighbor

COMMUNITY NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF ORANGE

HILBERT MUSEUM BREAKS GROUND ON RENOVATION

The Hilbert Museum of California Art celebrated the official groundbreaking of its renovation on Feb. 15. The yearlong construction project, which will repurpose the neighboring building recently vacated by Chapman’s Department of Dance, will triple the size of the museum, adding galleries, event spaces, a café and a research library.

Since opening in 2016, the Hilbert Museum has established itself as one of the leading art museums in Southern California, attracting more than 30,000 visitors to the City of Orange annually, and has been named one of the best museums in Orange County by OC Weekly and the Los Angeles Times. The museum’s collection features thousands of California Scene paintings donated by museum founders Mark and Janet Hilbert, and includes collections of animation, movie art and American illustration.

“The Hilbert Museum serves both Chapman University and our larger Orange community in so many ways,” City of Orange Mayor Dan Slater said at the groundbreaking. “This museum has become not just a showcase for the paintings on its walls, but also a meeting place for all the arts — its rich programming schedule presents talks, films, performances and more. It has become Orange’s de facto cultural living room where local arts lovers gather.”

The museum is expected to reopen early in 2024. Until then, visitors can see special exhibitions and highlights from the Hilbert Collection at a temporary location at 216 E. Chapman Ave., one block east of the Orange Plaza, in a building formerly occupied by U.S. Bank.

Visit hilbertmuseum.org for more information.



City of Orange Mayor Dan Slater, Janet and Mark Hilbert, and Chapman University President Daniele C. Struppa break ground at the Hilbert Museum of California Art.

STUDENTS PARTNER WITH YOUTH CENTERS OF ORANGE TO HELP KIDS STUDY STEM

This April, elementary students at Youth Centers of Orange (YCO) Spring Break Camp got to learn about science with hands-on experiments courtesy of ThinkMED, a Chapman student organization that supports STEM learning. The experiments included working with non-Newtonian fluids and the students making their own lava lamps.

“ThinkMED has been able to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for science with young learners in a way that is both accessible and relatable, which is no easy feat!” said Cameron Geringer-Pate, director of YCO.



Students at Youth Centers of Orange have the opportunity to actively engage with STEM through hands-on activities and experiments.

“It’s had an incredibly positive impact on our organization and the children we serve,” said Geringer-Pate. “The STEM experiments created

by ThinkMED have been engaging and fun, inspiring curiosity and critical thinking in our kids.”

ThinkMED was started by Steven Trinh ’22, a human physiology major who researched ways to reverse blindness caused by diabetes while an undergrad at Chapman’s Crean College of Health and Behavioral Sciences.

“I recognized how privileged I was to attend a private institution and to pursue a very fulfilling path towards a career in STEM,” said Trinh. It wasn’t always like that. As a member of an immigrant family who grew up speaking English as a second language, Trinh grew up in an environment that wasn’t always conducive to thinking as a scientist. “One of the things that I always wanted to do was join the elementary school science fair, but the playing field was never leveled to begin with,” he said.

But at 10 years old, armed with a science fair brochure and one trip to Walmart, Trinh won first place at his school, a victory that became a pivotal moment in his career path.

“I wanted to be able to give back somehow,” said Trinh.

So far, ThinkMED, which is run entirely by students, has delivered over 20,000 free science kits to students from kindergarten to sixth grade, and their demographic has grown to include special education, high school kids and kids dealing with parents’ cancer through the Camp

Kesem organization. Each week, kit recipients have the opportunity to speak with real scientists — Chapman faculty members from Crean and Schmid Colleges.

ThinkMED’s partnership with YCO was possible thanks to a Community Involvement Grant from Chapman’s Office of Community Relations. The microgrants are available to Chapman student organizations for service projects carried out within the City of Orange.

Did You Know?

While a record number of applications were received this year, Chapman admitted 14% fewer students for fall 2023 compared to last year. Admitted students hail from 48 states, four U.S. territories, and 69 different countries, and speak 54 different languages at home. Seventeen percent are the first in their families to attend college, and 52% of the students identify as students of color, including our international students. This is a reflection of Chapman’s dedication to creating an inclusive campus environment where all students feel valued and supported.

Need to report a concern?

- Contact Chapman University’s Office of Community Relations at (714) 289-2097 or email neighbors@chapman.edu.
- To report a disturbance that needs urgent attention, please call City of Orange PD dispatch at (714) 744-7444.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Join us for these engaging events at Chapman.

There are many terrific Chapman University in-person and virtual events, and neighbors are always welcome. Here are just a few. Find more at the university's online events calendar, chapman.edu/events. Advance tickets for performing arts events may be purchased online at chapman.edu/tickets.

Gospel Voices of OC

Saturday, June 10, 7 p.m.
Musco Center for the Arts

A multi-generational artistic celebration of African Americans through the lens and the influence of gospel music as a source of historical impact and resiliency presented from Juneteenth to the present day.

More info: muscocenter.org

Economic Forecast Update

Thursday, June 22, 3 p.m.
Musco Center for the Arts and virtual

Learn firsthand from President Emeritus Jim Doti and his team of experts as they revisit their findings from December 2022 and provide crucial insights for the rest of 2023.

More info: economicforecast.chapman.edu

Summer Engineering Academy

July 14–August 4
Fowler School of Engineering

Do you have a middle school- or high school-age student who is interested in fabrication, engineering and electronics? Consider signing them up for an upcoming summer engineering workshop hosted by the Fowler School of Engineering.

More info: chapman.edu/SEA



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CHAPMAN STUDENT PHILANTHROPISTS CONTINUE TO GIVE BACK

Each semester, students get to experience the joys and challenges of philanthropic giving as part of an innovative educational program at Chapman, the Panther Experiential Philanthropy Project (PEPP). Students enrolled in courses such as IES 103 "Philosophy of Helping" are charged with the task of awarding grants of up to \$2,000 to local nonprofit organizations.

Since the project launched in 2019, students in PEPP have made grants to more than 30 charities, with donations totalling more than \$50,000 for local organizations. Past recipients include the Friendly Center, Mary's Kitchen and Higher Ground Youth and Family Services. This semester's beneficiaries were:

- Someone Cares, a soup kitchen in Costa Mesa
- Jessie Rees Foundation, support for children with cancer
- Kherut, empowering survivors of sex trafficking

"Chapman encourages our students to become global citizens, and that includes supporting causes in their own backyard," said Alisa Driscoll, vice president of community relations at the university. Driscoll created and runs the program along with Whitney McIntyre Miller, associate professor of leadership programs.

"But PEPP is more than an educational opportunity for our students," Driscoll said. "It's become a real force for good in our community."



A Chapman student shows off a Joy Jar created by the Jessie Rees Foundation for children undergoing treatment for cancer. The foundation's motto is "Never Ever Give Up."

More inside!