



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photos available upon request

Media Advisory



ART = OPPORTUNITY to Host Second Arts Literacy Residency **Partnership with The New Children's Museum and La Jolla Playhouse**

ART=OPPORTUNITY, a county-wide Arts Literacy Initiative designed to shine a light on the importance of arts education, is speeding along into Year 2. Building on the success of the program launched last year, a series of special events, a youth summit and professional and parent training activities are planned for 2018. First up is the second annual **Arts Literacy Residency** scheduled for February 13 at The New Children's Museum, downtown and February 14 at Cal State San Marcos. They will also be visiting area schools in Chula Vista on February 15.

The ART =OPPORTUNITY Literacy Residency will present an opportunity for students and educators to come together a share a creative experience followed by a more in depth discussion with author and illustrator **Lee Cataluna** and **Cheyne Gallarde**, creators of the children's book *Ordinary 'Ohana*. The book shares images of a contemporary Hawaii, both familiar and unique. **Martha Barnette**, host of the radio show *A Way With Words*, will interview Lee and Cheyne at The New Children's Museum to share how to apply their work to educational settings. *Ordinary 'Ohana* is published by Bess Press.

As part of ART = OPPORTUNITY'S commitment to community collaboration, a presentation of Cataluna's new work for young adults called **Home of The Brave**, featured in the La Jolla Playhouse Performance Outreach Program (POP) Tour production, will also be presented during the residency. The production, a collection of scenes and stories depicting the lives of children in military families, will be presented to CSUSM students on February 21, 10:15, ARTS 111

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Arts Literacy Residency- Open to public

February 13, 4 - 6 pm

The New Children's Museum
200 West Island Avenue, Downtown San Diego

Register here: <https://sdcoe.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?gid=1020&id=145611>

February 14 - All are welcome at these class presentations

Cal State San Marcos

9:30-11:30 Learning Through the Arts - Arts 111 (Arts Building)

11:30 - 12:20 Intro to digital media and arts - Arts 111 (Arts Building)

1:00-2:15 - The Role of Cultural Diversity in Schooling - UH 439 (University Hall)

“**ART = OPPORTUNITY** Anchor Events are designed to illuminate and expand the concept of arts literacy,” explained Center ARTES Executive Director **Merryl Goldberg**. “We hope that by sharing the creative process of with students, educators and aspiring writers and illustrators, we can help shine a light on the connection between art and literacy and inspire others.”

BIOS

Author **Lee Cataluna** was born and raised in Hawaii and can trace her Native Hawaiian heritage back six generations. She is the metro columnist for the Honolulu Star-Advertiser and is an award-winning playwright with more than a dozen production credits. Her plays include the musical *You Somebody* written for Tony Award nominee Loretta Ables Sayre and *The Great Kauai Train Robbery*, based on the true story of her great-uncle who was wrongly convicted of Hawaii's only train heist. In 2004 she received the Cades Award for Literature for her body of work. Lee has an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of California, Riverside, and has taught writing both at an elite prep school and in a maximum-security prison. Her favorite stories are about ordinary people struggling to live lives of dignity and purpose.

Illustrator **Cheyne Gallarde** is a multimedia artist from Honolulu. From comics and children books to photography and costume design – Cheyne has done it all. Recently he collaborated with Lee Cataluna on the “Ordinary ‘Ohana” book and also designed the set & costumes for the stage adaptation. Other recent work includes key visuals for the California Library Association 2017 conference. When not drawing or painting, Cheyne loves to play video games, binge-watch reality TV or pet cute dogs.

*The **ART = OPPORTUNITY Literacy Residency** is funded by **The Stuart Foundation, Panta Rhea Foundation, and California State University San Marcos IRA fund (Instructionally Related Activities).***

***ART=OPPORTUNITY**, funded by a Stuart Foundation grant to California State University San Marcos (CSUSM), is a San Diego county-wide campaign on providing a meaningful education by improving literacy though the arts. This research-based initiative provides leadership training, literacy residencies, summits, workshops, and anchor events for educators, parents, youth and*

teens, and arts providers. It is being implemented by Merryl Goldberg, Executive Director, Center ARTES and a leadership team of arts educators, professionals and area nonprofits.

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Visit: <http://www.csusm.edu/artopp/>

Engage: <https://www.facebook.com/artoppportunity/>

About California State University San Marcos

Building on an innovative 25-year history, California State University San Marcos is a forward-focused institution, dedicated to preparing future leaders, building great communities and solving critical issues. Located on a 304-acre hillside overlooking the City of San Marcos, it is the only public four-year comprehensive university serving North San Diego, Southwest Riverside and South Orange Counties.

The University enrolls over 14,000 students. With approximately 2,000 employees, the institution is a Great College to Work For® (The Chronicle of Higher Education). As a recipient of the annual HEED Award since 2014—a national honor recognizing U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion—CSUSM is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment.

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