



## Tierra's New Gallery Opens in WeHo!



*Catherine Benita and Marlena Arthur, Tierra Gallery Artists*

do at Tierra is help them find their voice. This gallery is that launching point for our artists to be on a level like all other contemporary artists, and for them to be viewed and valued for the work that they do. We help them shine by communicating to the larger art community and the world."

*(continued on page 6)*

Tierra's New Gallery has officially opened in West Hollywood! This historic step forward not only expands opportunities for Tierra's artists, but it enhances the presence of artists with disabilities in the contemporary art scene. Tierra del Sol is currently the only art gallery in Los Angeles for adults with disabilities.

An inaugural opening on Saturday, November 11, introduced the work of 122 Tierra artists, in the collaborative exhibition, Taking Up Space. The 960-square-foot space had wall-to-wall patrons, artists, and their families, as well as Tierra board members and staff, celebrating this momentous occasion.

Rebecca Lienhard, Tierra's CEO, shares, "Tierra artists bring beauty and culture into the world, and what we



*Ericka Lopez (C), Tierra Gallery Artist, and mom, Alicia Lopez (L), and Jennifer Aguirre (R), Tierra Gallery Artist*

# Advancing Access, Equity, and Partnerships

Every October, Tierra celebrates National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), which pays tribute to the accomplishments of people with disabilities whose work helps keep the nation's economy strong by reaffirming their commitment to ensuring equal opportunity for all citizens.

This year's NDEAM theme focused on "advancing access and equity," which recognized the importance of ensuring all people have equal opportunities to contribute their unique skills and talents. While many employers have recognized that an inclusive disability workforce is a strong workforce, there is still a 75% unemployment rate for people with disabilities. Tierra is working hard to change that number, but we aren't doing it alone.

On October 19th, Tierra celebrated the incredible business partners who believe in our mission and make employment opportunities possible for the people we serve.

## Congratulations to our 2023 Awardees:

### Trailblazer Award

for pioneering accomplishments in exemplary internship opportunities

**Grocery Outlet  
Chatsworth**

**Grocery Outlet  
Canoga Park**

**Grocery Outlet  
Sun Valley**

**Geronimo's  
(G'mos at CSUN)**

### Pacesetter Award

for establishing and implementing an exemplary volunteer to employment program

**Kidspace Children's  
Museum**

**Kaiser Permanente  
Woodland Hills**

### Star Thrower Award

for outstanding work as an exemplary volunteer

**Karren McClenahan**

### World Changer Award

for innovation and leadership in employment diversity and inclusion

**Los Angeles  
Valley College**



“In my heart, I knew, if I ever had my own business, which I do now, I wanted to have an internship program. It has been such a pleasure working with the interns from Tierra - just good young adults. The way I see it, we provide a training ground where they can learn. I try to be consistent, but I am tough, and I have high expectations. Honestly, what I love seeing is the confidence develop in each individual in this program. This is a wonderful partnership.”

**Christopher Herrera**

Chatsworth Grocery Outlet Owner and  
Tierra del Sol PIP and Employment Partner

“We do work with other programs, but Tierra is, by far, the best! You guys are the standard - from A - Z. We are able to hire and confidently bring on these students because of the work that you guys do. You figured it out in 2014 and you stuck to it. We appreciate you.”

**Monique Mascari**

Canoga Park Grocery Outlet Owner and  
Tierra del Sol PIP and Employment Partner



“It's been such an honor to be able to work with Tierra for as long as we have. I've been working with Kurt, Karen, and Becky, since 2018, so to see them grow from volunteers into paid staff has been fantastic. What has been most impactful are the families and children that get to come into our museum and see themselves represented in our staff. It's one thing to be a staff member there, but to be a staff member as well as a representative for children and families is another.”

**Vincent Dominguez**

Kidspace Museum Floor Operations Manager and  
Tierra del Sol Volunteer and Employment Partner



“FOBA – fear of being awkward. It just takes one interaction to get over FOBA. And that's what you guys are doing by introducing Tierra associates to your community and companies. Thank you for what you are doing and for being here today.”

**Karren McClenahan**

Tierra del Sol Board Member and Parent



“I want to touch on a comment that was made earlier about the 'unknown' and the 'bias' that is out there. When we first started this partnership in 2018, in talking with Department Directors in Supply Chain, which is my department, EVS, and Food Service, there was a lot of uncertainty because we just didn't know. But after many discussions, we felt we could embrace this work. I can't say enough about this program and the good things that come out of it. Kaiser is proud to be here.”

**Domingo Mendias**

Kaiser Permanente Director of Supply Chain, Project Search  
Internship Partner, Tierra del Sol Employment Partner





# Tierra Welcomes New Board Members

As Tierra began a new fiscal year on July 1, 2023, three new members were welcomed to its Board of Directors, Priscila Martinez, Gerardo Menegaz, and Jessica Martinez. Rebecca Lienhard shares, "While all three bring a unique and diverse background of talents, networks, and skills to the organization, their desire and passion to further Tierra's mission is an inspiration to us all!"

For **Priscila Martinez**, Founder and CEO of The Brand Agency, a full-service creative communications and public relations firm, the familiarity of working with people with disabilities was a welcomed prospect. "I had established a program in college working with the same population and when I learned how incredibly effective Tierra was in showing a different side of people with disabilities, it was like kismet. The new gallery is just one way Tierra does this and creates space for artists to flourish. I'm excited to share my network and look for interesting opportunities to give the organization visibility," shares Priscila, who hit the ground running and landed Tierra's new Gallery media coverage on NBC-California Live and Spectrum News, as well as Forbes and VoyageLA.



"When I first learned about Tierra, I was impressed by its holistic approach of integrating vocational training, community engagement, and personalized support," tells **Gerardo Menegaz**, Managing Director at Opening Bell Ventures, whose career as a Corporate Technology Officer and St. Peter's University Data Science Professor spans 26 years. "Tierra's programs are innovative, forward-thinking and encourage independence and self-determination, and their Board and staff are dedicated. The combination greatly appealed to me and inspired me to join the Board. Working alongside their committed leadership to help Tierra meet future fundraising and advocacy challenges, as well as developing innovative programs to enhance the lives of the people Tierra serves is what I look forward to the most as a member of the Board."

As Vice President, Head of Culture for Blizzard Entertainment, **Jessica Martinez** focuses on creating a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive workplace culture where all individuals can thrive at work and at home. "When I learned of how Tierra recognizes each person's gifts and how they help them develop those gifts to contribute to the community, I knew this organization was right for me. Tierra's customized approach to serving people with disabilities and building their skills through employment, volunteerism, education, and the arts, is going to be more important than ever in the coming years," notes Jessica. "As the economy and workforce environments evolve with AI and hybrid work models, preparing Tierra's associates will be key to setting them up for long-term success. At the same time, it's an exciting moment to explore new opportunities for people with disabilities to be included in our workforce. I look forward to being a part of that."



*"Tierra's Board is excited to work with these three outstanding individuals and welcome them to our leadership team."  
—Pat Moore, Tierra Board Chair*

## Tierra del Sol Foundation 2023-24 Board of Directors

### Executive Committee

**Patricia (Pat) Moore\*** – Chair  
Vice President - Employee Benefits  
Alliant Insurance Services, Inc.

**Matt Chase** – Vice Chair  
Executive Vice President  
Bolton & Company

**Stephen Maseda\*** – Treasurer  
Owner  
Maseda & Associates

**Elisabeth Stimson\*** – Secretary  
Human Resources Director (retired)  
Gothic Landscape, Inc.

**Karren McClenahan\***  
Member at Large  
Philanthropist

**Vinod Assomull, M.D.\***  
Managing Partner  
Renal Consultants Group

**Greg Eisenman**  
Area Assistant Vice President  
Gallagher

**Peter Koettters, M.D.**  
Pediatrician  
Valley Presbyterian Hospital

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Southern California

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Hamer Toyota

**Elizabeth Likes\***  
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Likes Accounting Firm

**Tara Siener**  
TV Executive Producer  
Freelance

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Vice President - Marketing  
L.A. Newspaper Group

**Andrea C. Diebel, SSND**  
Educator and Counselor  
School Sisters of Notre Dame

**Chloe Houghton**  
Associate  
Tierra del Sol Foundation

**Marc Littman\***  
Playwright and Author

\*parent of person served

## 2022 - 23 Circle of Inspiration Members

### VISIONARY

Department of Developmental Services  
John Gogian Family Foundation  
QueensCare  
The Rose Hills Foundation

### INNOVATOR

Emergency Food & Shelter Program  
Tel Gilroy in memory of  
Patti Gilroy & Darryl Ann Parker  
The Green Foundation

Lon V. Smith Foundation  
National Endowment for the Arts  
The Quevedo Family in memory of  
Rebecca Quevedo

### PARTNER

Annenberg Foundation  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
The Brown Family  
Carrie Estelle Doheny Foundation  
Hochman Salkin Toscher Perez P.C.  
Fanny & Svante Knistrom Foundation

Karren & Patrick McClenahan  
MUFG Union Bank Foundation  
Jennifer & Loren Philip  
Patti & Don Redding  
TDA Investment Group Inc.  
U.S. Bank Foundation  
Marina & Harry Wong

Nirmila & Vinod Assomull  
Mara W. Breech Foundation  
Bolton & Company  
Birdie & Dave Gilman  
Joyce & Henry Harris  
in memory of Clare Zeitlin  
Hermes Health Sciences  
Raul Huerta

Bill Allen -  
Weingart Foundation  
Anonymous  
Stan Bilchik Carpet Co, Inc  
Bud Brown in Memoriam  
Christa & Matt Chase  
Grace & Jay Chase  
Tensie & Rocco Davies  
Shadi & Greg Eisenman  
Enterprise Holdings Foundation  
Caroline & Sal Esparza  
Susan Gaon  
The John C. Griswold  
Family Foundation  
Hamer Toyota

AmWins Insurance Brokerage  
Christina Anthony & Ted Shatz  
Barnes Family Foundation  
David Beck  
Drs. Susan & Michael Blumenfeld  
Disney Worldwide Services  
Lee & Peter Freidenberger  
Cathy & Jim Galarneau  
The Garland

ADV  
Los Ang  
Department  
Laborers' Int  
of North An  
Elizabeth &  
Morton  
Family  
Montro  
Beaus

BENE  
Carol Ann  
in honor of K  
Interior Ren  
Catherine  
Laborers' Inte  
North A  
Rebecca  
Sharon &  
Fred & Ju  
Fou  
Jan & Ste  
MNZ  
Pat & K  
Walter W. Mos  
Pacific South

PA  
Sam  
Rebecca Ha  
Julie &  
Kay &  
Julia &  
Tho  
Leah & J  
Shirley &  
Dagn  
Mike

*"For about the cost of a cup of coffee a day, you can create a life-changing opportunity for someone with a developmental disability by supporting Tierra's COI campaign. Your gift supports education, jobs, volunteer programs and artists whose skill and creativity underscores that people with disabilities shouldn't be defined by them."*

**Marc Littman**  
**Tierra Board Member,**  
**Parent and Charter COI Member**



value for all people with disabilities through creative pathways to  
our exceptional generosity is a true commitment to empowering  
lead productive and personally meaningful lives.

## ADVOCATE

Los Angeles County  
Department of Arts & Culture  
Laborers' International Union  
of North America Local 300  
Eric & Christine Likes  
H. Meyerson  
Foundation  
Rose Church -  
We You Matter

Muir-Chase Plumbing Co., Inc.  
Larry and Marlys Sack  
School Sisters of Notre Dame  
Tara Siener  
Elisabeth and Milt Stimson  
in honor of Robert Stimson  
Studio City Farmers Market  
Sidney Stern Foundation  
Kim & Richard Villa

## BENEFACTOR

John & Lloyd Harris  
Kelly McClenahan  
Removal Specialists  
& Peter Koettters  
Laborers' International Union of  
North America 1309  
& Ray Lienhard  
Marc Littman  
The MacMurray  
Foundation  
Stephen Maseda  
Janitorial  
Kevin Moore  
Shirley, Jr. Foundation  
West Administrators

Reseda Women's Club  
Garry Spanner  
Southern California District  
Council of Laborers  
Thrivent Financial  
Marcy & Steve Toscher  
Julia Trujillo -  
Disney VolunteERS  
Joyce & John F. Walter  
Jeanne Ward Foundation  
Larry Wong  
Sharon Young  
Karen & Tom Zimmerman

## CONTRIBUTOR

Glendon  
Hamm & David Brock  
Greg Hoegee  
Randall Huff  
Bill Jensen  
Mas Jung  
Gorg Lenninger  
& Tom Mahan  
Mey Maseda  
M's Roofing

Sarah & Joseph Montes  
Monument Insurance Services  
Off the Walls Inc., in  
honor of Angela Miliareis  
Philadelphia Insurance Companies  
Jo Anne & Bill Sadler  
Daniel & Betsy Savant  
Doreen & Dean Stoutland  
Technicolor Federal Credit Union  
Valley Presbyterian Hospital  
The Walmart Foundation, Inc.

## FRIEND

AIG  
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BJ's Restaurants, Inc  
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Merrilyn & Jim Brown  
Rose Ann Boken  
Jean & Greg Buesing  
California Disability Service  
Association  
California Plumbing &  
Mechanical Contractors  
Association  
The Charitable Foundation  
Theresa DeBell

Film Chinatown LA LLC  
Lifehouse Church  
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Elizabeth & Michael Ford  
The Giving Block -  
Renaissance Charitable  
Julie & Roy Gonella  
William Greene  
Suzi & Phil Hoge  
Kaiser Permanente  
Panorama City  
Matt Kamin & Phillip LeClair  
Jenny & Brian Lee  
LIUNA Pacific Southwest  
Education and Event Fund

Los Angeles Trial  
Lawyers' Charities  
Eric & Raquel McClenahan  
Sally Metry  
San Marino  
Congregational Church  
Brigitte & Khaldoun Sroujeh  
Lauren & Kyle Stoutland  
Anne Marie Rosenstein  
John A. Rowlinson  
Gustavo Valdespino  
Michelle & Frank Vega  
John Waid  
Michael Webb  
Anne Wilson

## IN-KIND CONTRIBUTORS

Karen Kimmel  
Kristine & Tony Raluy  
Stephen Toscher

Technicolor Federal  
Credit Union  
Suzanne Trott, MD

Bill Van Laningham &  
Southern California  
News Group

## LEGACY OF LOVE

The Bartus Family  
Bud & Althea Brown  
The Bryant Family  
Karen Dermer  
Sarah Eisner  
Fortman Trust

Estate of Lois Hansen  
Estate of Patrick Harris  
Estate of Mary Ellen Hughes  
Jan & Stephen Maseda  
Jennifer & Alan Moses  
Joseph Nicoletta

Estate of Armand Ouellette  
Larry & Marlys Sack  
Patricia & Steven Smith  
The Stanton Family  
Sister Harriet Stellern SSND  
Elisabeth & Milt Stimson

## 2022-23 Giving Levels

Visionary	\$50,000 and above	Benefactor	\$2,500 – \$4,999
Innovator	\$25,000 – \$49,999	Patron	\$1,499 – \$2,499
Partner	\$10,000 – \$24,999	Friend	\$1,000 – \$1,499
Advocate	\$5,000 – \$9,999	In-Kind	\$1,000 and above

## 2022 - 23 AMBASSADORS\*

Nikolas Adell  
Alliant Insurance Services  
Tara & Anthony Baker  
BJ's Restaurants Inc.  
Gary and Lorna Bjorklund  
Maureen & Bob Bruncati  
California Pizza Kitchen, Inc.  
The Columbus Foundation  
Paul Davis  
Dana Franklin  
Family of  
Elizabeth & Michael Ford  
Kathryn & Frank Gangi  
Gelb Charitable Foundation  
Barbara Halter

Leroy Hamm  
Dr. Gayla Kraetsch Hartsough &  
Jeffrey Hartsough  
Hilton Los Angeles/Universal City  
The Hyman Levine Family Foundation:  
L'Dor V'Dor  
Image 2000  
Institute of Contemporary Art, LA  
Cynthia & James Jurgensmeier  
Christine Kesilis  
Elliot Korach  
The Kroger Co.  
L. A. County Supervisor,  
Kathryn Barger (5th District)  
Laborers' International Union of North  
America Local 220

Laborers' International Union of North  
America Local 585  
Laborers' International Union of North  
America Local #652  
Landegger Verano & Davis, ALC  
Amy & Mike McClenahan  
Donna & Richard McLeod  
Lorena McWilliams  
John Michnya  
Janet Morris  
Elva & Dan Nuno-O'Donnell  
ONEgeneration  
Philanthropy International  
PRP Wine International  
Aida Recalde

Julie Reynolds  
Kathy & Louis Ricord  
Clifford Russell  
Joseph Salzillo  
The Stand, LLC  
Stay Green, Inc.  
Total Wine & More  
Robert Trim  
Suzanne A. Trott M. D.  
Bill Van Laningham  
Lisa VanLanduyt  
Nancy & Frank Zazanis

\*Gifts of \$500 - \$999

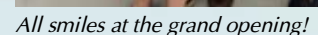




(Continued from page 1)



*Esmeralda Ballesteros,  
Tierra Artist*







Tierra del Sol Gallery is located at  
7414 Santa Monica Blvd.

Hours: Tuesday through Saturday  
11 am to 6 pm or by appointment.

For further inquiries, contact  
gallery director Paige Wery at  
[pwery@tierradelsol.org](mailto:pwery@tierradelsol.org)  
or 323-243-0658

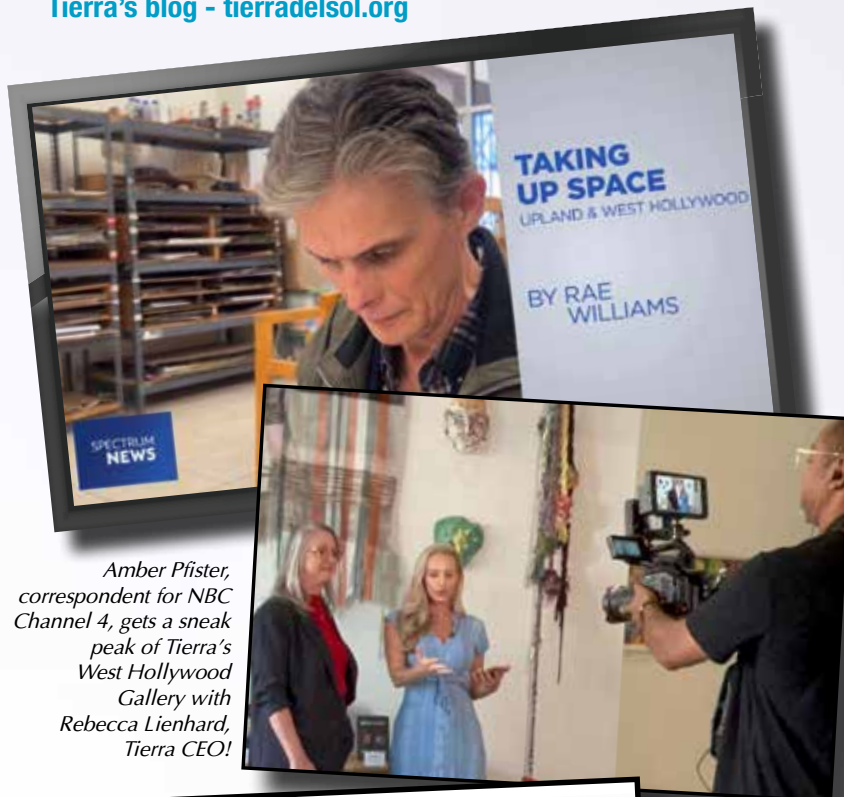


Paige Wery, Gallery Director, and Zoë Blair-Schlagenhauf,  
Gallery Manager



# Tierra's Gallery in the News!

Have you seen Tierra's Gallery in the news? Our opening  
was featured on NBC California Live, Spectrum News,  
Forbes, and VoyageLA. Check out the highlights on  
Tierra's blog - [tierradelsol.org](http://tierradelsol.org)



Amber Pfister,  
correspondent for NBC  
Channel 4, gets a sneak  
peak of Tierra's  
West Hollywood  
Gallery with  
Rebecca Lienhard,  
Tierra CEO!

## VoyageLA Meet Paige Wery



Today we'd like to introduce you to Paige Wery.

Hi Paige, please kick things off for us with an  
As part of the larger Tierra del Sol Foundation, it  
thriving art studio. Over thirty years ago, Tierra  
studio through First Street Gallery in Claremont.

In 2019, a space dedicated to the artists of Tierra  
expanding the gallery's programming and content.  
Since then, Tierra del Sol Gallery has debuted art  
as well as partnered with a dynamic range of organizations.  
Transformative Arts. Tierra del Sol Gallery has provided  
contemporary art. All sales go directly to support  
provides studio space, career support, and mentorship.

Tierra del Sol Foundation is a not-for-profit focused  
all individuals with disabilities through creative  
strong and vibrant community is one in which all  
assets for the common good. Tierra's vision is to  
meaningful lives, regardless of the nature of disability.

## Forbes Tierra Del Sol Foundation CEO Rebecca Lienhard Talks 'Taking Up Space' Exhibit, Disability Inclusion, More In Interview

Steven Aquino Contributor to Forbes  
Steven explores accessibility and creative technologies.

Listen to article 3 minutes



In a press release last month, the Tierra del Sol Foundation announced  
the opening of the "Taking Up Space" exhibit at its namesake Tierra del  
Sol Gallery. The exhibit, which runs from November 11 to December 23  
at the Gallery's new West Hollywood location, is in its third year.



9919 Sunland Boulevard, Sunland, California 91040  
www.tierradelsol.org

# SAVE THE DATE

Tierra's 17th Annual  
Golf Tournament and Dinner

Monday, April 29, 2024  
10 am - 6 pm

Moorpark  
Country Club

*Watch your email for details*

Tierra Family Day

Saturday, June 8, 2024  
11 am - 1:30 pm

Sunland  
Campus



On behalf of the men and women we serve, Tierra's Board of Directors, and staff, we thank each of you for supporting our mission and belief in the people we serve. The progress that we have made together brings us that much closer to changing the way the world sees people with disabilities.

**We look forward to endless opportunities and wish you health and happiness in the New Year!**