



Cal State LA alumni and Alhambra residents Amelia Perez-Silverman and Jeffrey Silverman in front of the sign for the newly named Ronald H. Silverman Fine Arts Gallery. Photo by Cal State LA.

Cal State LA celebrates naming of Ronald H. Silverman Fine Arts Gallery

Cal State LA celebrated the naming of the Ronald H. Silverman Fine Arts Gallery, honoring the legacy of a distinguished alumnus and professor.

Mr. Silverman received a master's degree in art at Cal State LA in 1955 and was a beloved emeritus professor and former chair of the Department of Art in the College of Arts and Letters. He spent more than three decades teaching, mentoring, and sharing his passion for art with students and established the Ronald Silverman Endowed Scholarship Fund to provide financial support to students pursuing arts education.

"This gallery showcases the work of professional artists, the work of students; it provides a space for visitors to explore art and reap the benefits that come with art experience," said President William A. Covino, who was introduced by gallery director Mika Cho. "There is no better venue to honor Dr. Silverman than this gallery."

The ceremony honored a generous gift from Mr. Silverman's son Jeffrey Silverman and daughter-in-law Amelia Perez-Silverman, both Cal State LA alumni and longtime supporters and friends of the university. The gallery is part of the College of Arts and Letters.

The Silvermans' gift will fund professional development to help students advance the arts community. The gift will also fund a lecture series in the College of Natural and Social Sciences that will be focused on STEAM: science, technology, engineering, art, and math.

The Silvermans, Alhambra residents, shared fond memories with the crowd gathered in the gallery courtyard of their time studying at Cal State LA, where they met as undergraduates. Mr. Silverman, who had a career in biopharmaceuticals, received a bachelor's degree in biochemistry and Ms. Perez-Silverman, a longtime educator, received a bachelor's degree in environmental and health sciences.

They recounted stories of their father and father-in-law engaging their two children in art projects, sparking and fostering their creativity at a young age. The couple emphasized the importance of art education for developing critical thinking skills and self-expression and creating well-rounded students and community members.

"Even though we have science-based backgrounds, Amelia and I wanted to take this opportunity to support a critical but

often overlooked part of a liberal arts education, and what better way than to support a gallery focused on exhibiting the work of both our students and community artists," Mr. Silverman said.

The Ronald H. Silverman Fine Arts Gallery hosts a wide range of visual arts and cultural exhibitions, including a recent exhibit celebrating Self Help Graphics & Art's 45 years of art and activism and a collection featuring seven decades of alumni art as part of Cal State LA's 70th anniversary.

"This gallery is a really significant place, and it's a significant place in the College of Arts and Letters, helping us to achieve one of the college's primary priorities: to forge community-cultural connections," said Linda Essig, dean of the College of Arts and Letters. "Thanks to the Silverman family, we will also be able to achieve another of our priorities: to build pathways for the professional success of our students."

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