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# Doan Gala

Partnership Opportunities



THE DOAN FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS

# DOAN GALA

A NIGHT TO BENEFIT UNDERSERVED CREATIVES



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# Explore Opportunities

The Doan Gala convenes business leaders, civic officials, artists, and philanthropists to support the next generation of creatives while strengthening the cultural fabric of Southern California.

Each year, the Doan Gala serves as a gathering point for leaders who believe that culture, creativity, and community investment are essential to a thriving city.

Proceeds fund scholarships, direct artist grants, youth programs, and cultural initiatives that expand opportunity for underserved communities.



# About Us

## Our work centers on three key areas:

- Scholarship investment
- Direct artist support through Roots and Resilience
- Community based cultural programming
- Advocating for arts & culture

The Foundation believes the arts play a vital role in shaping identity, preserving heritage, and strengthening communities. By supporting artists and young creatives, we contribute to a cultural landscape that reflects the diversity and stories of the region.

Doan Incorporated, doing business as The Doan Foundation, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 2022 to expand access to the arts for underserved and justice impacted youth as well as elevating the voices of underserved artists.

# The Cultural Landscape

One example of this work is [Convoy Rising](#): Lunar New Year Kickoff Celebration, launched in 2026 in San Diego's Convoy District. The event brought together cultural performers, community organizations, local businesses, and hundreds of attendees to celebrate Lunar New Year through food, music, art, and traditional performances.

Convoy Rising demonstrated the power of community led cultural programming. It activated one of the city's most vibrant cultural corridors while creating opportunities for artists, small businesses, and community groups to share their work with a broader audience.

Events like Convoy Rising illustrate how thoughtful cultural programming can strengthen neighborhood identity, support local economies, and foster meaningful connections across communities.

Through programs, partnerships, and cultural activations, The Doan Foundation continues to support a creative ecosystem where artists, traditions, and community voices remain central to the future of San Diego.



San Diego is home to an extraordinary range of cultural traditions and creative talent. Yet many emerging artists and youth face limited access to resources, mentorship, and financial support.

Communities rich in cultural heritage often remain underrepresented in institutional arts funding and visibility. The Doan Foundation works to address these gaps by investing directly in creatives and by building platforms where culture can be shared, celebrated, and sustained.

# Cultural Activation and Community Impact



*Partnership with Teens Rise Foundation*

The Foundation produces and supports cultural programs that bring communities together through art, storytelling, and shared experience.

These initiatives include heritage celebrations, youth showcases, artist exhibitions, and collaborative cultural events throughout Southern California.

Our programs highlight the creative voices of communities whose stories deserve broader recognition. They also create opportunities for artists to present their work while connecting audiences, businesses, and community leaders.

Through partnerships with city officials, cultural organizations, educators, and local businesses, these efforts strengthen both the cultural vitality and economic activity of the region.

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# Scholarship Program

## 2023 Scholarship Recipients

Lian Batungbacal	Laguna College of Art and Design
Leslie Pagel	Crawford
Mailin Martinez	California State University Fullerton
Krystal Tablas	Gompers
Rebeca Refugio	Palomar College
Jocelyn Villalobos	Alliance Piera Barbaglia Shaheen Health Services
Shania Camaja	Maranatha
Sophia Hoover	Steele
Kyra Philips	Otis College of Art and Design
Angelica Garcia	California State University San Marcos

**Total Awarded: \$5,500**

## 2024 Scholarship Recipients

Jennifer Franco	Eastside College Prep
Dejanelle Chagalla	California State University Long Beach
Tania Lopez	Ramon C. Cortines School of Vis. & Perf. Arts
Chloe Baik	Cypress High
Paula Guerra	Lakeview Leadership Academy
Annika Brown	Wildwood School
Emily Vazquez	California State University Fullerton
Jesus Garcia	Synergy Quantum Academy
Jayde Grant	DePaul University
Cindy Vo	Valley View High
Ruu Portillo	Canyon Springs High
Annabelle Ortega	Los Angeles H.S. of the Arts

**Total Awarded: \$8,000**

## 2025 Scholarship Recipients

Haley A.	San Diego School of Creative & Performing Arts
Laila G.	San Diego School of Creative & Performing Arts
Adalynn T.	Steele Canyon High School
Naomi G.	Gompers Preparatory Academy
Emma B.	San Clemente High School
James M.	University City High School
Nina T.	Canyon Hills High School
Azalea A.	San Diego School of Creative & Performing Arts
Michelle N.	Hoover High School
Abigail O.	Mayfield Senior School
Sarai G.	John W. North High School
Oriah B.	Muhammed University
Min S.	Pasadena High School
Violet U.	Chaparral High School
Dominic N.	San Diego School of Creative & Performing Arts
Blaze R.	Kearny High School
Richard N.	Loara High School

**Total Awarded: \$12,000**

Glendale, CA  
San Diego, CA  
Chula Vista, CA  
San Diego, CA  
Escondido, CA  
Los Angeles, CA  
Alhambra, CA  
Spring Valley, CA  
Chula Vista, CA  
Vista, CA

East Palo Alto, CA  
Temecula, CA  
Los Angeles, CA  
Cypress, CA  
Victorville, CA  
Los Angeles, CA  
Santa Ana, CA  
Los Angeles, CA  
Los Angeles, CA  
Moreno Valley, CA  
Moreno Valley, CA  
Monterey Park, CA

San Diego, CA  
San Diego, CA  
Spring Valley, CA  
San Diego, CA  
San Clemente, CA  
San Diego, CA  
San Diego, CA  
San Diego, CA  
San Diego, CA  
Pasadena, CA  
Riverside, CA  
Los Angeles, CA  
Pasadena, CA  
Temecula, CA  
San Diego, CA  
San Diego, CA  
Stanton, CA



Education remains one of the strongest pathways for creative development.

The Doan Foundation's [scholarship program](#) provides financial support to students pursuing higher education in disciplines including visual arts, performing arts, film, design, writing, and cultural studies.

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# Roots & Resilience Artist Grant

Roots and Resilience is the Foundation's direct to artist grant program designed to support working creatives whose work reflects culture, community, and lived experience.

## Fall 2025-Early 2026 impact:

- 12 artists funded
- \$12,000 distributed directly to creatives

Supported disciplines include visual arts, film, performance, writing, and cultural preservation.

These grants provide artists with the resources to develop projects, share their work with broader audiences, and sustain their creative practices.

By investing in artists at critical stages of their careers, the program strengthens the creative ecosystem that helps define San Diego's cultural identity.



# Youth and Justice Impacted Programming

Arts education can provide a powerful sense of direction and purpose for young people navigating difficult circumstances.

The Foundation partners with educators and teaching artists to create programs that encourage creativity, confidence, and long term educational goals.

Participants gain opportunities to explore artistic expression while building discipline, communication skills, and cultural awareness.

These programs focus particularly on underserved and justice impacted youth who may otherwise have limited access to the arts.

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# Civic Leadership and Cultural Equity

Founder and President Dennis Doan was sworn in as Commissioner for Arts and Culture for the City of San Diego in May 2024, becoming the first Southeast Asian to hold the role.

This appointment strengthens the Foundation's ability to support equitable access to arts resources and expand opportunities for communities historically underrepresented in cultural spaces.

Through collaboration with city leadership and cultural organizations, the Foundation continues to advocate for inclusive arts programming across the region.



*Launch of the City of San Diego's first Creative City Cultural Plan at the Comic-Con Museum*

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# New Initiatives

## Fresh Start Initiative

The Fresh Start Initiative is a program of The Doan Foundation focused on helping individuals move forward from difficult past circumstances through mentorship, artistic transformation, and community support.

## Creative Futures Lab

The program will focus on three disciplines within today's creative economy:

- Photography
- Music production
- Fine art marketing



Tattoos connected to past affiliations can become barriers to employment, education, and social mobility for individuals seeking a new direction.

Through the Fresh Start Initiative, The Doan Foundation partners with professional tattoo artists to transform or cover tattoos associated with past identities, replacing them with artwork that reflects personal growth and a renewed sense of purpose.

By combining artistic skill with mentorship and community support, the program helps participants reclaim their stories and move forward with confidence while reinforcing the Foundation's commitment to using the arts as a pathway to opportunity and healing.

Creative Futures Lab is an upcoming initiative of The Doan Foundation designed to help emerging creatives build sustainable careers from their artistic work.

Many talented artists lack access to the marketing knowledge and business tools needed to generate income from their craft. Creative Futures Lab will provide practical guidance on branding, audience development, pricing, and strategies for promoting creative work.

Participants will gain insight from working professionals while learning how to present and monetize their work in real world markets. Creative Futures Lab is currently in development with support from The California Endowment, whose investment helps expand creative and economic opportunities for emerging artists.

# Regional Partnerships

Some Organizations We Have Partnered With

*Vietnamese American Arts & Letters Association*  
*LAOSD*  
*Vietnamese Federation of San Diego*  
*Vietnamese American Youth Alliance*  
*Viet Voices*  
*Ronald McDonald House Charities San Diego*  
*Vietnamese Boat People*  
*Lao Community Cultural Center San Diego*  
*First Gen Scholars*  
*Finest City Dance*  
*Hate Is A Virus*  
*Seniors Fight Back*  
*UNAVSA*  
*Teens Rise foundation*  
*First Gen Scholars*  
*Rising AAPI Youth*  
*Asian Solidarity Collective*  
*San Diego Foundation*  
*ACMA Socal*  
*Pacific Arts Movement*  
*The California Endowment*  
*North County Promise*

The Doan Foundation collaborates with cultural associations, youth organizations, and nonprofit partners throughout Southern California.

These partnerships expand the reach of our programs while strengthening relationships between artists, community leaders, and institutions.

By working collectively, we create opportunities that celebrate heritage, support creative expression, and foster community pride.



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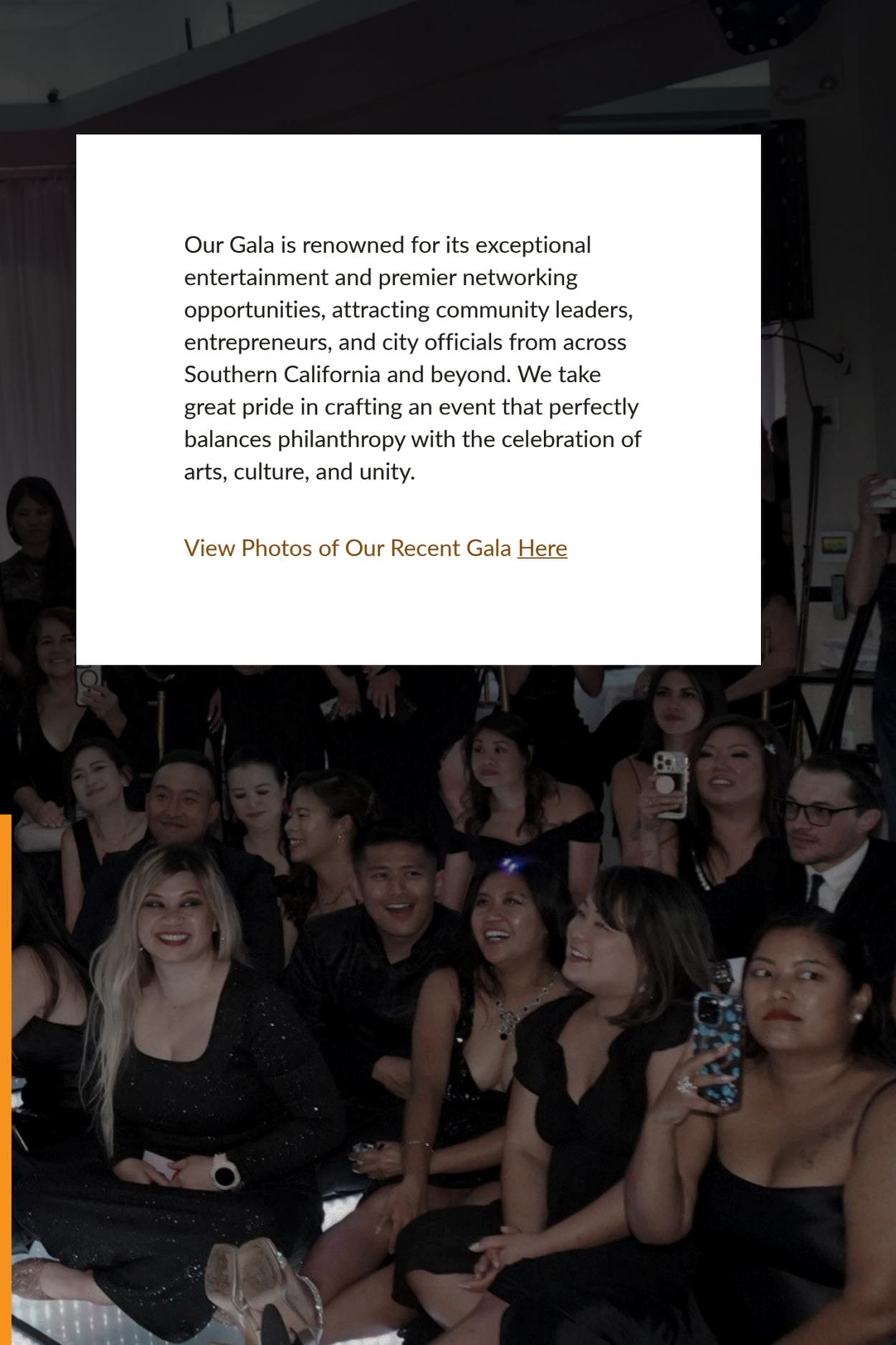
# The Doan Gala Experience

Our Gala is renowned for its exceptional entertainment and premier networking opportunities, attracting community leaders, entrepreneurs, and city officials from across Southern California and beyond. We take great pride in crafting an event that perfectly balances philanthropy with the celebration of arts, culture, and unity.

[View Photos of Our Recent Gala Here](#)

Every detail of the Doan Gala is meticulously curated to reflect our commitment to the arts. From the elegant decor to the auction items featuring unique, handcrafted pieces, each element is designed to showcase and support the rich cultural fabric of our community. The culinary experience is also a tribute to diverse culinary arts, with a menu featuring gourmet dishes that highlight the flavors and traditions of various cultures.

The Doan Gala is a highly anticipated black-tie event, celebrated each year for its immersive arts and culture experience, bringing together individuals from all walks of life, complete with unique surprises and an unparalleled ambiance that keeps attendees eagerly coming back.

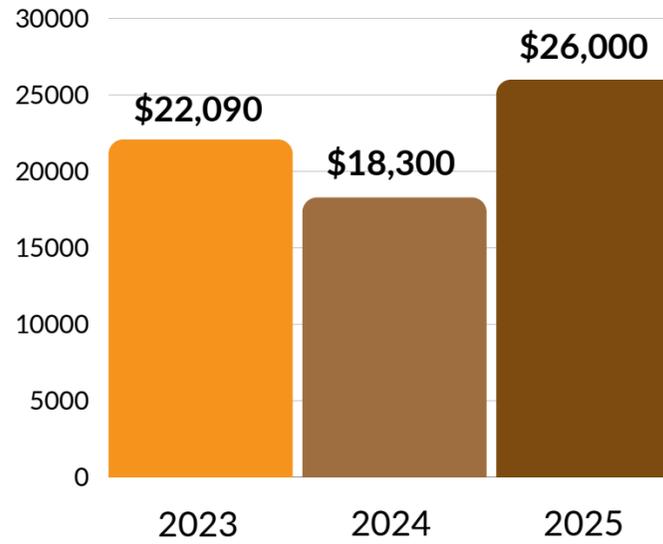


# Doan Gala Performance

The Doan Gala has grown steadily each year, expanding both community participation and sponsor investment while increasing funding for scholarships, artist grants, and cultural programming.

Attendance has grown significantly, with 2025 attendance increasing to 380 guests, reflecting expanding regional interest and support for arts programming and cultural initiatives led by The Doan Foundation.

## Sponsorship Revenue



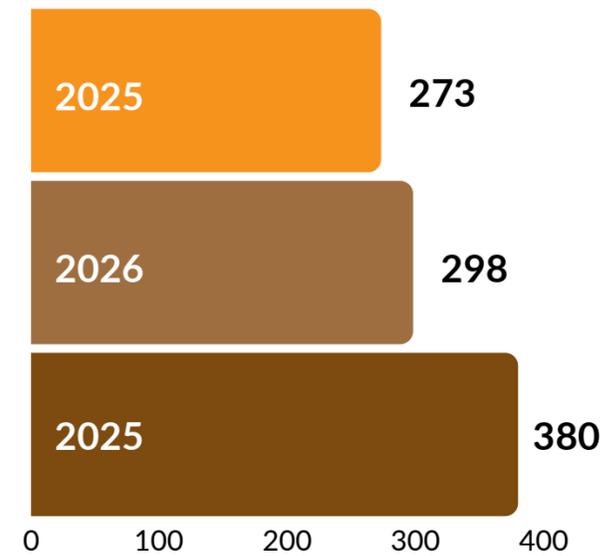
## Day-Of Event Contributions

2023	\$5,770
2024	\$10,500
2025	\$13,567.71

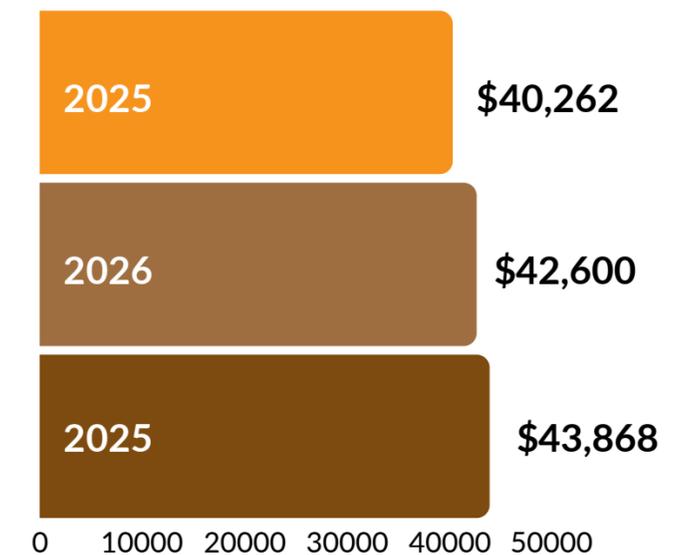
## In-Kind Contributions

2023	\$12,403
2024	\$13,800
2025	\$4,300

## Attendees



## Total Impact



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# Doan Gala 2026

Featuring *Amanda Perez*

July 25, 2026 | Royal Banquet | San Diego, California

This year, The Doan Gala IV will feature a special live performance by acclaimed recording artist **Amanda Perez** in an intimate setting rarely experienced by the public.

Known for timeless hits such as “Angel,” “I Pray,” and “Candy Kisses,” Amanda Perez rose to national prominence in the early 2000s with music that blended R&B, soul, and deeply personal storytelling. Her songs became anthems for resilience, love, and perseverance, resonating across generations and cultures.

For this year’s gala, Amanda Perez will deliver a rare, stripped-down performance for our guests, bringing an emotional and unforgettable moment to the evening. Her presence reflects the spirit of The Doan Foundation’s work: authenticity, perseverance, and the power of art to connect communities.

## The event features:

- Cocktail reception
- Cultural performances
- Plated dinner
- Scholarship presentations
- Introduction of Roots and Resilience grantees
- Live auction and raffle
- Special performance by R&B artist Amanda Perez
- Networking with artists, educators, business and civic leaders



# Sponsor Packages

CATEGORY	TITLE \$10K+	DIAMOND \$5k+	PLATINUM \$2500+	GOLD \$1000+	SILVER \$500+
NAME ON TITLE PAGE OF ALL EVENT MARKETING AND TICKETING PAGES, SLIDESHOWS FOR EVENT (MARKETING BLAST)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNT CREATED ON BEHALF FOR FOLLOWING SCHOOL YEAR	\$2.5K	\$1K	\$500	✗	✗
BOTTLE OF PREMIUM LIQUOR FOR TABLE(S)	2	1	1	✗	✗
EVENT TICKETS	20	10	6	4	2
NAME/LOGO ON MAIN EVENT BACKDROP (RED CARPET)	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
NAME/LOGO ON SECONDARY EVENT BACKDROP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
BRAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ON WELCOME SIGN UPON ENTRY	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
NAME/LOGO ON EVENT STAGESKIRT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NAME/LOGO ON EVENT FLYERS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NAME/LOGO/LINK ON WEBSITE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ON ALL SOCIAL MEDIA (SPOTLIGHT)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

À LA CARTE ADD-ONS	TYPE	CONTRIBUTION
	INTERVIEW/PROMO VIDEO SUBMISSION TO POST ON SOCIAL MEDIA	\$50
	BRAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ON WELCOME SIGN UPON ENTRY	\$75
	NAME/LOGO ON SECONDARY EVENT BACKDROP	\$100
	BOTTLE OF PREMIUM LIQUOR FOR TABLE(S)	\$200
	NAME/LOGO ON MAIN EVENT BACKDROP (RED CARPET)	\$500

We are also open to accepting **In-Kind Items or Services** pertaining to the following in the amounts equivalent to sponsor tiers.

In some cases, items may be combined with monetary contributions to sum up the difference. Please view list below or contact us for more information.

TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PHOTO/VIDEO SERVICES	Photobooths, Event Photography, Videography, Promotional Content
PERFORMER/ENTERTAINMENT	Singers, Dancers, Cultural Performers, DJs, MCs
PRINT SERVICES	Printing of Promotional Content, Banners, Backdrops, Etc.
FOOD/BEVERAGE	Dinner Catering, Appetizers, Beverage Companies, Snack Companies, Cocktail Hour
OTHER PRODUCTS	Items/ Goodies for Sponsor Gift Bags and/or Attendee Giveaways, Auction Items, Etc.

# Year Round Impact

Funds raised through the Gala support programming throughout the year, including:

Scholarships

for Emerging Creatives

Roots & Resilience

Artist Grants

Youth Arts

Education Programs

Cultural

Community Events

Exploring

Mental Health Initiatives

Operational

Sustainability



These efforts create lasting opportunities for artists and young people across Southern California.

All donations are tax deductible under Section 501(c)(3)

EIN 88-1998969

# Words from our Recipients



**Emma Barbernell**  
*San Clemente, California*

“Dear Doan Foundation, I just wanted to put forth my greatest thanks to the foundation. This is my first ever scholarship, and at a time where I feel hopeless about my further education due to the cost, I now feel excited and hopeful for my future. Art takes work, and persistence and at times I feel unmotivated I will think of this award. Currently, I am going to have a booth to sell my photography prints this coming April to save money for college. I am both excited and proud. I will upload a video I recently made and edited of the Market! “



**Naomi Corona-Gonzalez**  
*San Diego, California*

“Dear Doan Incorporated (Doan Foundation), Thank you for your generous award. Your support means so much as I pursue my dreams in the arts. Knowing you believe in my potential inspires me greatly. I will carry this encouragement with me as I work toward a future in film and literature.”

# Meet Our Team



**Dennis Doan**

*Founder | President*

Overcoming adversity, Dennis Doan turned a passion for tattoo art into a platform for change, co-founding businesses and challenging stereotypes. As founder of The Doan Foundation, he empowers marginalized youth in the arts. An award-winning author, Dennis also made history in 2024 as San Diego's first Arts and Culture Commissioner of Southeast Asian descent.



**Dr. Thao Ha**

*Chairwoman*

Dr. Thao Ha, a professor at Mira Costa College, focuses on race, gender, immigration, and Vietnamese-American narratives. With a Ph.D. from the University of Texas, her work spans academia, film, and community advocacy. Dr. Ha also leads and advises nonprofits, including North County Promise and the Vietnamese Arts and Letters Association, championing youth and cultural initiatives.



**Vu Nguyen**

*Vice Chairman*

For over 20 years, Vu Nguyen has been a pillar of mentorship and advocacy in San Diego County, creating safe spaces and opportunities for disadvantaged youth and families. A former Board Chair of North County Promise and current Vice Chair of The National Crypto Inclusion Council, his leadership transforms lives. Vu also serves on multiple boards and as an Advisory Member for the Oceanside Police Department, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to community well-being.



**Lori Kongmalay**

*Secretary*

Lori Kongmalay, a Temecula-based entrepreneur, has built her life around beauty, culture, and community. As the owner of Lady Kong - The Lash Co., she supports female entrepreneurs and encourages others to pursue their ambitions. Her diverse career includes experience as a makeup artist for pageants and models, as well as work in real estate, medical administration, and cultural advocacy. Through her store, Oskdi Imports, Lori promotes Laotian culture and works to bring it greater visibility on broader platforms.



**Kalvin Le**

*Treasurer*

Kalvin Le's journey reflects his cultural roots, entrepreneurial spirit, and professional growth. Growing up in the Vietnamese Boy Scouts and Van Kiep Lion Dance, he developed a strong sense of community early on. Now leading KRXSSD, an athletic apparel brand, Calvin channels his passion for fitness into his business ventures. With a degree in sociology from UCSB and an accounting credential from Harvard Business School, his career includes roles at MyCase, OwnBackup, and his current position as an Account Executive at Cisco.

# Meet Our Team



**Mary Ann Chanthala**

*Chair of Donor Relations and Engagement*

Mary Ann Chanthala has been part of The Doan Foundation from the very beginning. As one of our first and most committed donors, she believed in our mission to uplift underserved creative youth long before it grew into the movement it is today.

A respected real estate leader and principal of The Chanthala Group, she brings deep community insight and relationship-driven expertise. Her generosity and leadership have shaped our scholarships, artist grants, and outreach efforts, helping the foundation grow with integrity and heart.



**Nguyet Pham-Camacho**

*School Liaison & Scholarship Program Director*

Nguyet Pham is a seasoned educator and counselor with over 15 years of experience supporting students in marginalized middle and high schools. Her work centers on empowering youth from underserved communities, helping them navigate academic challenges and fostering a true sense of belonging.

Her deep experience in education and her commitment to academic equity make her an essential leader in advancing the foundation's mission to uplift the next generation through scholarships and mentorship.



**Lan Dang**

*Event Strategy and Community Development Advisor*

Lan Dang is a community leader, entrepreneur, and mentor. As President of the Vietnamese Federation of San Diego, he plays a vital role in preserving Vietnamese culture and supporting the local Vietnamese American community. He is also a successful business owner.

A longtime organizer of the San Diego Tet Festival, Lan's expertise in event planning and community engagement has shaped one of the region's largest cultural celebrations. As a former Adventure Scout and Boy Scout Leader, he has mentored countless youth, helping them develop leadership, confidence, and cultural pride.



**Lauren Garces**

*Special Events and Community Development Advisor*

Lauren Garces is an event producer and community advocate dedicated to uplifting diverse communities. Through her company Social Artistry and her role as Special Events Director for the Convoy District, she helps lead major cultural events across San Diego, including December Nights and the San Diego Night Market. A respected AANHPI leader, Lauren also serves as Co-Chair of the San Diego Asian Pacific Islander Coalition and on the San Diego Foundation AANHPI Fund Advisory Committee.



**Benjamin Srioudom**

*Ambassador of Community Relations and Awareness*

Benjamin Srioudom is a community-focused leader with a talent for building connections and creating opportunities for engagement. Known for his work as a barber, DJ, and now as a rising real estate professional, he brings creativity and strong networking skills to every space he enters.

As The Doan Foundation's Ambassador of Community Relations and Awareness, Benjamin helps share our mission, engage new audiences, and strengthen relationships that expand our impact.

# Meet Our Team



## Quiana Santos

*Event Strategy and Logistics Advisor*

Quiana Santos is an experienced administrative professional with a strong background in event coordination, customer service, and operations. After growing up in Oakland and Sicily and spending over 20 years in San Diego, she has built a diverse career across roles at Southwest Airlines, Alamo Car Rental, Heffler Contracting Group, and now A&S Industries, while pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Psychology at Grand Canyon University.



## Emily Ng

*Volunteer Engagement and Community Impact Advisor*

Emily Ng is a multifaceted leader, artist, and scientist with a passion for community engagement. A Marine Biology graduate from UC San Diego, she has worked in food tech and aquascaping while developing her artistic practice in printmaking and sumi painting. She is currently a tattoo apprentice at BLVCK LOTVS TATTOO and a recipient of Mesa College's 2023 Up-and-Coming Artist Award. Fluent in Japanese, Chinese, and Spanish, Emily connects easily with diverse communities.



## Brandon Buenavides

*Volunteer Engagement and Community Impact Advisor*

Brandon Buenavides is a community-focused leader with a background in organizing, business administration, and volunteer coordination. A former President of the Filipino American Student Association at SDSU, he led initiatives promoting cultural awareness, leadership, and service. He has also gained professional experience in finance and law and is currently a tattoo apprentice at BLVCK LOTVS TATTOO.



## Tarrah Aroonsakool

*Teaching Artist*

Tarrah Aroonsakool is a multidisciplinary artist and arts educator from San Diego whose work explores identity, heritage, and community storytelling. A Loyola University Studio Art graduate, she creates large mixed-media installations using materials such as found objects, concrete, cloth, and wire, with exhibitions at the San Diego Art Institute, Athenaeum Art Center, and more.

With over a decade of teaching experience, Tarrah has supported arts programs in underserved communities and serves as a Teaching Artist with Project PAINT inside justice-impacted settings.

# Thank You

The Doan Gala represents a shared investment in creativity, culture, and community.

By supporting this event, partners help sustain programs that empower young creatives, uplift artists, and strengthen the cultural identity of our region.

Together we can continue building a city where culture is supported, artists are valued, and future generations have the opportunity to create and lead.

**Please reach out at**

858-380-7134

[sponsor@doan-foundation.org](mailto:sponsor@doan-foundation.org)

[www.doan-foundation.org](http://www.doan-foundation.org)