



UKRAINIAN ART CENTER NEWS

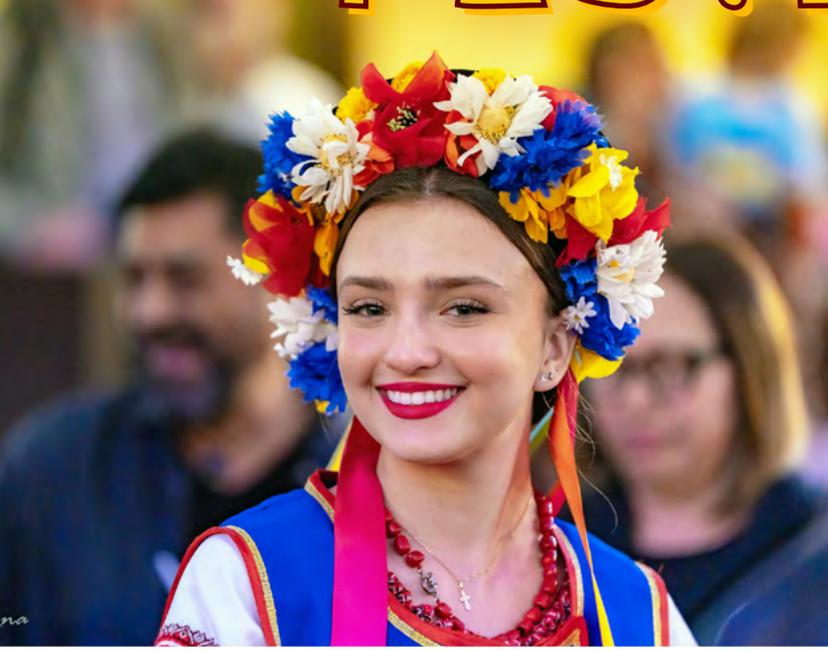
THE UNSTOPPABLE FORCE OF THE ARTS

Issue No. 17 Spring 2024

PYSANKA FESTIVAL!



Photography Credits: Oleg Kharchenko



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Dear Members and Supporters,

It was a spectacular day at the PYSANKA FESTIVAL on April 14th at the Ukrainian Culture Center, filled with smiles and hope. This was expressed with satisfaction by an active UAC Board member, Taras.

The Art Center welcomed a substantial crowd, and many left with wonderful, positive comments. "The bright "Easter" holiday, which took place on April 14th, brought unforgettable emotions and joy!"

Another, "The Pysanka holiday is not just a Ukrainian holiday. It is an event that unites us in common joy and rich colors of national culture".

"It was a day when we felt our efforts and creativity could change the whole world around us. It was a day when we became a part of the great, powerful, and incomparable Ukrainian spirit!"

Congratulations to the Ukrainian Art Center Board for their efforts in presenting, and a great big thank you to many co-producers – Chervona Kalyna Dance Ensemble, dancers from Dana Point, and our Bulgarian dance troupe, plus the many outstanding singers and musicians who complemented a wonderful varied cultural program. We were very fortunate to have attending and representing our District 1 Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, her Deputy District Director Guadalupe Camberos and Councilman Hugo Soto-Martinez for providing financial and material assistance and where both affirmed their support for the Ukrainian Community in LA.

For several events recently, we depended on and were grateful to another Ukrainian non-profit, Post Angeles, for providing traditional food and drinks. We must share with you the ever-growing group of supporting vendors who we depend on for raising funds for the ever-growing needs in Ukraine.

We never forget to be grateful to the Board of the Ukrainian Culture Center for hosting the Pysanka event in the beautiful community Home!

UAC is searching for Ukrainian crafters in any field, from fine art to embroidery, ceramics, woodwork, Ukrainian culinary arts, glass works, etc. If you know of any that are local – Southern California, please connect with us.

If you were not able to attend, please consider making a donation to the Ukrainian Art Center Inc. as we raise funds for humanitarian assistance in Ukraine.

Sincerely,



Daria Chaikovsky
President
Ukrainian Art Center, Inc.





MAGIC OF PYSANKA



UKRAINIAN PYSANKA IN THE CLASSROOM

Letter to the UAC president Daria Chaikovsky

Dearest Daria, I am not of Ukranian descent; however, I do have a bit of history with you and the Ukranian Art Center. I recently received your latest newsletter where you, your work, vision and dedication to sharing the Ukranian arts was praised and the creation of the Ukranian Art Center was born in 1986.

My story; however, began before this date so there must have been some kind of a shop where materials were available for sale for some years prior to the founding of the center. My mother, Marian Schroeder, became interested and intrigued by the beautiful art of the Pysanka eggs. She went into L.A. to purchase the dyes, wax, kitskas, even eggs and so on from you Daria. I still have your card from this adventure. My mother passed in 1986. This is how I have concluded that there must have been a shop prior to the initiation of the UAC. In the process of going through all of her things I came across her box of all of the Pysanka supplies. Now I was intrigued.

I was an art teacher at Bonita High School in La Verne, CA for 30 years and was doing a lot of curriculum writing in order to get approval for my various art classes to qualify as academic electives through the State of California educational code. Well, here was this wonderful gift! I wanted to incorporate the historical background and techniques of Pysanka into my Fiber Art classes. It fit perfectly into my unit covering batik and the use of wax resist in dyeing in various cultures. This met the California requirement for historical and cultural instruction in an academic elective for this class. So, in my mother's things was some of the information but I wanted more. I looked at that card with your name on it and thought "What are the chances?" So I called. To my greatest surprise and pleasure you, Daria, answered. I was beside myself with delight! It was a two-fold joy, a connection to expand my understanding of the art of Pysanka and also a wonderful connection to my mom.

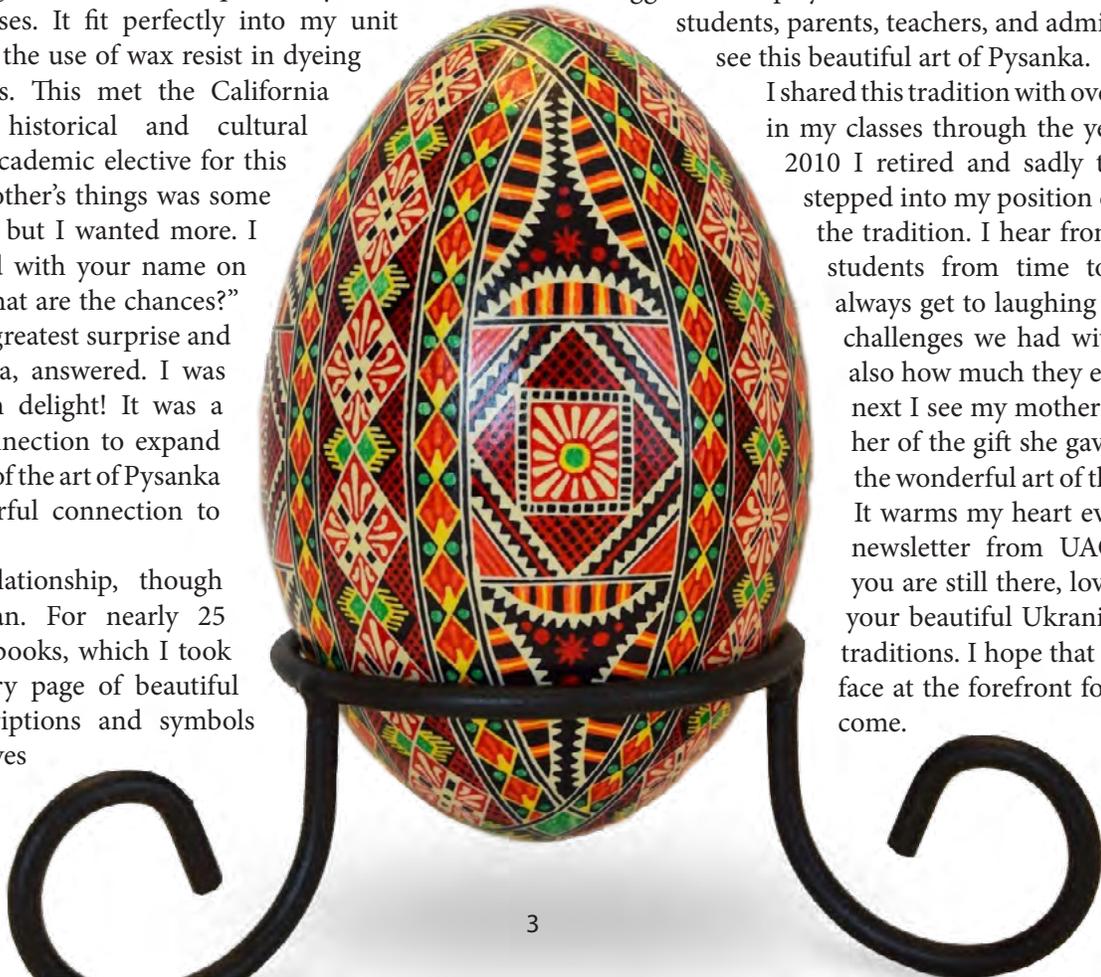
And so the relationship, though quite casual, began. For nearly 25 years I purchased books, which I took apart, putting every page of beautiful photographs descriptions and symbols into plastic sleeves so that my students could reference them

without damage, dyes, wax, kitskas, display egg holders, lathes, everything Pysanka, was purchased every year. In order for you to understand how I used the Pysanka history in my class... my students, for the first couple of years, followed the tradition of dying raw, fertile, eggs. A friend of mine supplied the eggs from her little "farm." I also had the students using candles to melt the wax in the kitskas. After a few years of odiferous mishaps we began to blow out the eggs. This day was celebrated with a big egg feast! Also, by this time the candles were wisely replaced with alcohol lamps. The eggs were also not finalized with a flame to remove the wax but, rather, a low temperature oven where frequent wipings were required until all the wax was removed. This proved to be much more advantageous over mini explosions and burned eggs. I discussed some of the history and legends with the classes then required each student to design one egg inspired by using traditional motifs found in the books. A second egg was to be designed by using motifs they found through researching their own family cultural backgrounds. Each student then presented their eggs to the class by explaining the significance of the design elements and colors they chose.

This couldn't have been better to comply with the State mandated requirements of an academic elective. The students loved doing this project and learning so many new things about this tradition of dyed (batiked) eggs. Many of these beautiful eggs were displayed in our annual art shows where other students, parents, teachers, and administrators could see this beautiful art of Pysanka.

I shared this tradition with over 1,700 students in my classes through the years I taught. In 2010 I retired and sadly the person who stepped into my position did not carry on the tradition. I hear from my graduated students from time to time and we always get to laughing about the many challenges we had with the eggs, but also how much they enjoyed it. When next I see my mother I will surely tell her of the gift she gave us all through the wonderful art of the Pysanka eggs. It warms my heart every time I get a newsletter from UAC and see that you are still there, loving and sharing your beautiful Ukranian heritage and traditions. I hope that I may I see your face at the forefront for many years to come.

Warmest regards,
Janet Castro



As a Southern California native of Ukrainian descent, and active in several organizations including the Ukrainian Art Center, the Ukrainian Culture Center and the Southern California Holodomor Genocide Committee, my support for the Pysanka Festival is to continue to make it the biggest event of the year for fun and outreach to the wider Southern California community.

Taras Semchyshyn



I joined the Ukrainian Art Center in March 2022 with the purpose to support and empower Ukrainians who are going through probably the hardest times in the history of independent Ukraine. Approximately at the same time, I started working as an interpreter for the wave of Ukrainian refugees running from the impact of war. Every day I was listening to the real-life stories of real people, half of them had nothing left from their previous lives, and nowhere to return. I was constantly determined and professional in my working duties but every single day I was breaking one of the main laws of the International Interpreters Code of Ethics – “interpreters must stay impartial at all times”.

The interpreter’s job allowed me to see immigration through the eyes of refugees. After having that working experience, I know exactly what they are looking for when they come to the new country. They seek everything that reminds them of home: language, people, that typically Ukrainian warm welcoming family environment... I sincerely hope that in the Ukrainian Art Centre, we can create this environment that our people need so much.

Our Pysanka Festival is the most waived and cheerful Ukrainian holiday. It is a symbol of a new beginning. Significantly, we had approximately 40 kids involved in our concert at the festival where 70% of them arrived from Ukraine recently. The same trend we can see with our freshly joined volunteers. I want to believe that art has the power to heal and our volunteering effort in the Art Center gives both kids and adults hope for a brighter future and inspiration to revive, rebuild, and raise.

Warmly, Anna Maistrenko



My passion for pysanka is in my blood. My mother – Annette Hricko Czupyllo – was one of the most prolific pysanka artists in her day. In fact, she embodied the mission of the Ukrainian Art Center “to present, preserve and promote” this traditional craft before our non-profit was even founded. In the 1970s, her artistry caught the attention of Hallmark – which featured (and credited) her pysanka on Easter greeting cards and even a puzzle. Throughout that decade and into the 1980s, she also demonstrated how our eggs are made at malls and events throughout Southern California. When I was only a child, I not only accompanied her to these events – but demonstrated the craft alongside her. My pysanky were never close to her level – but her sharing the craft with me is emblematic of the importance of generation-to-generation storytelling and passing on of Ukrainian traditions. Fast forward a few decades, and I am now able to combine my personal love of pysanka with my professional skills as a public relations specialist. For the past two years’ Pysanka Festivals, I’m proud to have elevated the “promotion” part of our mission by securing publicity across mainstream outlets including CBS, ABC, NBC, FOX, KCAL, Spectrum News, Time Out Los Angeles, AARP and AAA’s Westways Magazine.

Dimitri Czupyllo





PYSANKA FESTIVAL: Embracing Ukrainian Culture in the Heart of Los Angeles

For many years in a row, one of the most vibrant celebrations of Ukrainian culture has been taking place in Los Angeles - the Pysanka Festival. This event brings together the Ukrainian community and introduces Americans and other nationalities to the deep traditions and colorful culture of the Ukrainian people.

The main purpose of the festival is to encourage and unite the Ukrainian community, as well as to open up the richness and beauty of Ukrainian culture to a wider audience of Americans and other nationalities. From enchanting pysanky (Easter eggs) to unique dances and melodies, the Pysanka Festival impresses with its vivid imagery and unique atmosphere.

The preparation and organization of the festival is meticulous and laborious work undertaken by professional organizers, directors, and scriptwriters who have been members of the Art Center for many years. Asya Gorska and Victoria Kuzina have organized numerous programs and not only festivals but also thematic concerts that will remain in the history of the Art Center's work for many years to come.

A special highlight of the festival is the participation of many talented Ukrainian artists from various corners of Southern

California. Every year, the festival discovers new talents who have the opportunity to showcase their skills and creativity to art enthusiasts.

The Pysanka Festival is not just a celebration of color and art, but also an opportunity for Ukrainians and all supporters of Ukrainian culture to come together, share experiences, and feel a sense of unity. May everyone who attends this festival find a piece of soul and inspiration in it.

Asya Gorska



Having the great honor to perform on this holiday, we, members of the dance group "Synevir" from the Ukrainian school in Orange County, felt the majesty and importance of this day. Our first performance with Hutsul dance left bright traces in the hearts of the audience. We felt that our soul and energy turned into magic that filled the hall, and every moment was filled with patriotism and love for our culture. We felt that we had become a part of the great and powerful heritage of Ukraine.



I have always had an artistic background in one way or another along with being a fashion designer and combining that with being a Ukrainian allowed the Art Center and I to fall into each other's lap. I've lost count how long I've been involved but being V.P. of the center and a perfectionist, I try to make sure things look good and run even better. The Pysanka Festival is always a major event for us and even though it can be stressful initially, it ends up being a challenge I take to heart! I enjoy decorating the stage and helping with creating a floor plan to help make shopping, eating and watching performances as pleasant and smooth as possible.

As of this year we now have a masterplan to work from for the years to come. I have always been a proud Ukrainian and teaching non Ukrainians all about us is another passion of mine. We need to straighten out false information first of all and then show people all the beauty of Ukraine whether it's dancing, music, embroidery, ceramics, art and especially the kitchen! Our people are so talented and it all needs to come out. That is why having a west coast museum/center would be so beneficial to Los Angeles. We plan to bring workshops back for all to try their hand at some of our national arts. Currently we are working on a fashion show that will feature fashion inspired by Ukraine's heritage. This will be something I hope will be successful as it's been quite a number of years since we last had a show. We plan to do many exciting things in the future as being a

Ukrainian is always fun and it must be shared!

Elizabeth Zaharkiv-Yemetz, V.P. of the Ukrainian Art Center

PERFORMERS





This year's Pysanka Festival was a vibrant celebration filled with an array of vendors and workshops. Local artists, entrepreneurs, and Ukrainian organizations came together to make our annual fair a memorable event.

Renowned Pysanka Artists such as Barbara Wetzel, Linda Mudlo, Anne-Marie D'Agostino, and Victoria Yumatova graced our festival with unique workshops, showcasing their talent and expertise. Additionally, attendees had the privilege of participating in an embroidery workshop led by the talented Vessie Kazachka from Bulgaria.

Local Ukrainian businesses proudly showcased their offerings at the festival, including Mamai Coffee from San Diego, Yana Peremoga Cakes, Denis Zubov's honey from a local beekeeper, and U4U Chocolates by Olha Yaloza.

The festival also featured a diverse range of souvenirs, crochet animals, artisanal boards, Easter basket embroideries, and children's books, offering something for everyone.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Ukrainian Culture Center, Post Angeles, Stand With Ukraine Foundation, GoUKRAINA, Ridna Shkola, Chervona Kalyna, Brighter Ukraine Foundation, The Angels for Ukraine, Holodomor Committee of Southern California, and UNWLA Branch #111 for their unwavering support and participation.

Together to Victory!

Halyna Bond



Our nonprofit organization Post Angeles has recently participated in the Pysanka Festival organized by the Ukrainian Art Center, an event celebrating Ukrainian culture and traditions. During the festival, we had the opportunity to spread awareness about our mission of providing humanitarian aid to Ukraine and all Ukrainians affected by the ongoing war. During the Festival, our organization provided and served hand-crafted Ukrainian dishes, enriching the Festival experience with authentic flavors and traditional Ukrainian treats. Thanks to the generosity of festival attendees and supporters, we successfully raised \$5000 in donations, which will directly contribute to our next shipment of humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

The Pysanka Festival proved to be a resounding success for our organization, not only in terms of fundraising but also in terms of community engagement and outreach. By actively participating in this cultural event and sharing our commitment to supporting Ukraine, we were able to forge meaningful connections with individuals who share our values. The funds raised during the festival will play a crucial role in enabling us to continue

our humanitarian efforts, providing essential aid and assistance to those in need and we are sincerely thankful to all those who generously contributed to our cause.

We are deeply grateful to the Ukrainian Art Center for organizing this impactful cultural event sharing Ukrainian traditions with a larger Los Angeles community. By showcasing the rich heritage of Ukrainian traditions, including music, dance, and art, the Festival successfully promoted cross-cultural understanding and unity within the diverse fabric of the Los Angeles community. Through these cultural exchanges, we hope to have an opportunity to inspire greater empathy and solidarity for Ukraine, while also celebrating the resilience and vibrancy of Ukrainian culture in our local community.

Together, we are making a tangible difference in the lives of Ukrainians both in Ukraine and in Los Angeles and helping to build a brighter future for all those affected by the war.

Nataliya Rudenko

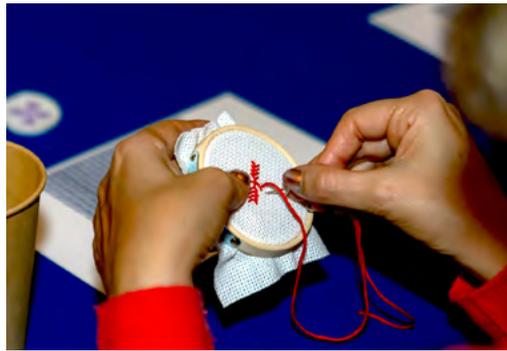
Natasha Rudenko, CFO
Post Angeles 501(c)(3) nonprofit







I would like to thank you all for organizing such a great event - it was wonderful to be back and see the amazing support and the huge turnout. I'm donating my proceeds directly to an artist family who live in Kyiv so I thank you on their behalf for providing this opportunity! Thank you again for your hard work and I look forward to being back next year ❤️💛 - Maryam Nickooshiam



LArtistsForUKRAINE

On October 29, 2023, LArtistsForUKRAINE held another Exhibition and Silent Auction to benefit Ukraine. The list of local artists joining under the LArtistsForUKRAINE umbrella is growing. We would like



to express gratitude to the Ukrainian Culture Center for their unwavering support and to the following artists who lend their talent and passion to this vital initiative: Masha Archer, Casstronaut, Lado Goudjabidze, Marlene Greenberg, Alicia Hollinger, Nik Le Skela, March Locust, Victor Makohonenko, Mary Pie, Yulia Misinkevych, Herman Padilla (in memoriam), Dan Paun, Mariia Petruniak, Galina Tsygylyk, Valya Simpson, Ving Simpson, and Rich Wilkie.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for the upcoming LArtistsForUKRAINE Exhibition and Silent Auction, slated for September 15, 2024, at the esteemed Ukrainian Culture Center. As we anticipate this eagerly awaited event, let us continue to rally behind this noble cause with unwavering support and fervent participation. Together, through the transcendent language of art, we affirm our commitment to standing in solidarity with Ukraine and embodying the profound impact of collective action. Join us on this inspiring journey, where every brushstroke and bid serves as a beacon of hope in the face of adversity.



Halyna Bond

LETTER OF APPRECIATION from International Charitable Foundation of Dr. Bersenev to Ukrainian Art Center for donation in support of the medical treatment and rehabilitation of children affected by russian invasion of Ukraine



Міжнародна благодійна фундація лікаря Берсенева
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 тел. +38 (044) 272-47-06
 UA17305299000026008016216474 в "Приватбанк"
 МФО 300711, ЄДРПОУ 26408951
www.fondbersenev.org.ua

Letter Appreciation

Presented to Ukrainian Art Center

In gratitude for your support of the medical treatment and rehabilitation efforts for children affected by the russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Your commitment to providing care for those with limb disabilities has significantly uplifted disadvantaged families, enhancing their journey toward healing.

Your generosity has been instrumental in nurturing hope and resilience, contributing significantly to the brighter future of Ukraine. Your compassion and solidarity have made a meaningful difference in our collective path to our nation's recovery.

With sincere appreciation,

"International charitable foundation of doctor Bersenev"

18/03/2024

Sincerely yours,
 Alona Danylenko



We at Ukrainian Art Center are very grateful to Mariia Mykhno and Anastasiia Bazdyrieva for creating video report of the PYSANKA FESTIVAL 2024

Mariia Mykhno and Anastasiia Bazdyrieva are filmmakers from Ukraine who are currently working on documentary series about the russian war against Ukraine. The first episode will be dedicated to the city of Mariupol.

Thank you for such a wonderful contribution!



THE HISTORY OF THE UKRAINIAN ART CENTER

Based in Los Angeles, California, UAC, Ukrainian Art Center is a non-profit community organization. It was initiated by Daria Chaikovsky together with a group of like minded people in 1986 to preserve, promote and develop the Ukrainian arts in Los Angeles and California. Its initial goals reflect its present plan to create a new Ukrainian Museum in Los Angeles and to develop cultural and educational programs, alongside festivals and exhibitions. Mrs. Chaikovsky worked tirelessly with the UAC Board alongside her own business, presenting folk festivals, lectures, workshops and community projects on a small scale, consistently providing a much needed resource for the local area. Over the years UAC was the main focal point for Ukrainian arts and culture on the West coast and involved people from all ages and backgrounds including non-Ukrainians. During these fruitful years, the local city council and private patrons funded its activities including regular Annual Easter Pysanka and Holiday Yalynka events, exhibitions, concerts and more, encouraging many diverse groups and individuals to explore the richness of Ukrainian Culture.

Become a Member of UAC

If you enjoyed any of UAC programs/events like Maidan, Road to Freedom, Pysanka Festival, Museum Fundraiser Auction, Magestic Woman-Lesia Ukrainka, and other events and workshops over the years, you are invited to become Member of UAC and take part in development or have the opportunity to help the organization grow. A Ukrainian background is not necessary - just a passion for and a need to learn about Ukrainian contemporary arts and folk arts. You will work closely with our artists, board directors and other members. We could use your help and expertise in running future programs. **Email:** ukrainianartcenter@gmail.com | **Tel:** 818-635-8999
Website: ukrainianartcentersocal.org | **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/UkrainianArtCenterLA "Ukrainian Art Center Los Angeles"

Newsletter

The Board worked together to create a newly formatted newsletter. Previously several editions of the UAC Newsletters were published and after a break has reemerged in its new form and is available online. The UAC is run by a newly formed Board, each bringing with them unique skills and life experience that enriches the organization with a true commitment to developing its long term goals.

The Ukrainian Art Center News' Editorial Group:

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Daria Chaikovsky; **CONTRIBUTORS:** Taras Semchyshyn, Anna Maistrenko, Dimitri Czuplyo, Elizabeth Zaharkiv-Yemetz, Asya Gorska, Halyna Bond, Nataliya Rudenko, Iryna Vasylkova; **DESIGNER:** Petro Brecko; **PRINTING:** PrinterPretation
PHOTOGRAPHER: Oleg Kharchenko, **VIDIOGRAPHERS:** Mariia Mykhno & Anastasia Baxdyrieva

UAC BOARD 2024

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Slava Ukraini!

