



UKRAINIAN ART CENTER NEWS

THE UNSTOPPABLE FORCE OF THE ARTS

Issue No. 19

Spring 2025

CULTURE AS A BEACON: SUPPORTING UKRAINE THROUGH ART AND TRADITION

The Ukrainian Art Center has once again hosted the highly anticipated Pysanka Festival, a vibrant celebration of Ukrainian heritage that has become a staple in the Greater Los Angeles community. Traditionally, the festival offered hands-on workshops where attendees could learn the intricate art of decorating eggs using traditional Ukrainian techniques involving wax and dyes. These workshops provided a unique opportunity for guests to immerse themselves in the cultural practices that have been passed down through generations.

In response to the ongoing full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the Pysanka Festival has evolved into a dynamic artisanal fair. This transformation has allowed the event to serve as a platform for Ukrainian and local vendors, as well as various nonprofit organizations, to reach a broader audience and raise crucial funds for Ukraine. The festival now features a diverse array of handmade crafts, traditional foods, and live performances, all contributing to a festive atmosphere that honors Ukrainian culture and supports humanitarian efforts.

Held at the Ukrainian Culture Center of Los Angeles, the Pysanka Festival continues to be a testament to the resilience and spirit of the Ukrainian community, offering both a cultural experience and a means to support those in need.

Halyna Bond





A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Dear Members and Friends of the Ukrainian Art Center,

As we reflect on the first quarter of 2025, I am proud to share the remarkable achievements our organization has accomplished together.

The Ukrainian Art Center successfully organized and hosted two significant cultural events that not only celebrated our rich heritage but also extended support to Ukraine during these challenging times.

On March 2nd, we inaugurated our Classical Concert Series with a Gala featuring the exceptional talents of violinist Myroslava Khomik and pianist Pavlo Gintov. The program highlighted rarely performed Ukrainian classical compositions, many of which had been suppressed for decades. This event not only showcased Ukraine's profound musical legacy but also served as a fundraiser, with proceeds supporting the 72nd Mechanized Brigade in Ukraine.

April 6th marked our most expansive Pysanka Festival to date, drawing nearly 1,000 attendees from Los Angeles and Southern California. The festival celebrated the ancient art of pysanka – a Ukrainian Easter egg decorating – recognized by UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage of humanity. Attendees enjoyed traditional crafts, foods, and performances, fostering a deeper appreciation for Ukrainian culture.

These events would not have been possible without the unwavering dedication of our Board members, who meticulously managed every aspect of promotion and presentation. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our members and supporters, including Supervisor Hilda Solis, Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez, vendors, and nonprofit organizations, whose generosity provided both sustenance and financial support for Ukraine during the Pysanka Festival.

While Ukraine continues to face adversity, our mission remains steadfast: to establish a permanent Ukrainian Museum in Southern California. The generous donations of family heirlooms and artifacts from our community inspire us to persevere in creating a lasting institution that honors and preserves Ukrainian art and culture.

With warm regards,

Daria Chaikovsky
President, Ukrainian Art Center

Thank you for your continued support
and commitment to our shared vision.

SLAVA UKRAINI!

Preparing for the Pysanka Festival: The Importance of Traditions and Modern Promotion



The Pysanka Festival is not just about decorating eggs; it's about preserving a thousand-year-old Ukrainian tradition. In today's increasingly digital world, my role was to highlight this event on social media and share our story and culture.

I focused primarily on Instagram, where I posted updates, created video edits to showcase what the Pysanka Festival looked like last year, and gave people a glimpse of what to expect this year. I shared information about the large marketplace, workshops where participants could learn how to decorate pysankas, and how this event offered not only Ukrainians but also Americans the chance to learn more about our culture and traditions.

We also ran ads on Facebook and Instagram to attract a larger and broader audience to the festival. This helped engage not only Ukrainians in the diaspora but also Americans, newcomers, and anyone interested in our culture. Everyone was invited to participate, as we aimed to share our story and culture by telling people about ourselves.

At the festival itself, my video production company filmed a video report, which will be released on the YouTube channel of the Ukrainian Art Center.

We emphasized how ancient our culture is. The tradition of decorating pysankas has nearly a thousand years of history, which speaks for itself — Ukraine existed long before Russia was formed. This proves that Ukrainians are a distinct nation, with their own rich cultural heritage.

Our goal was to engage youth and the American audience in the celebration, focusing on the importance of preserving Ukrainian traditions. We also highlighted that most of the organizations involved were donating their proceeds to support Ukraine.

An essential part of the celebration was also the mission of helping Ukraine, especially in the context of the ongoing war. While we celebrated, we never forget that the war continues, and our support remains crucial.

Anastasiia Bazdyrieva

Every spring Ukrainian Art Center hosts the beloved PYSANKA FESTIVAL – a celebration of community, tradition and resilience through the art of PYSANKY. Each Pysanka carries a meaning of faith, hope, and new beginning especially during challenging times. We are proud to support our Ukrainian neighbors. Wishing you a joyful Easter filled with light, love, and community.

Hugo Soto-Martinez, Councilmember CD13 losangeles

On April 6th, the Ukrainian Art Center in Los Angeles hosted the vibrant “Pysanka” festival, a celebration of Ukrainian heritage that brought together the local community in support of a powerful cause. Among the highlights of the event was the culinary corner presented by Go Ukraina, a nonprofit charitable organization, in partnership with Easy Busy Meals, California’s first Ukrainian food trailer.

Guests of the festival were treated to an array of traditional Ukrainian dishes, including borscht with pampushky, varenyky, syrnyky, kotlety, deruny, and many other favorites. Every bite carried a deeper meaning—all proceeds from the food sales were dedicated to supporting Ukrainian defenders on the front lines of the ongoing struggle for independence and sovereignty.

Thanks to the funds raised during the festival, Go Ukraina was able to purchase 10 Starlink satellite systems to maintain vital communications on the battlefield. These Starlinks were delivered to the 109th Separate Mountain Assault Battalion of the 10th Separate Mountain Assault Brigade “Edelweiss”. In addition, the organization provided 2 advanced 3D printers, now used to produce critical components for drones. The printers were supplied to the Drone Aviation Complex Platoon “Arkan” of the 108th Mountain Assault Battalion, also part of the 10th Separate Mountain Assault Brigade “Edelweiss”. These supplies were sent to one of the most intense areas of the war—the Donetsk front.

Additionally, part of the proceeds supported the repair of military equipment for the 15th Kara-Dag Operational Brigade, active on the Kharkiv front.

This direct support brings Ukraine one step closer to a shared victory.

Go Ukraina extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Ukrainian Art Center Los Angeles, Chervona Kalyna Dance Ensemble Los Angeles, and the Ukrainian Saturday School “Ridna Shkola” Los Angeles for their professional organization of this major cultural event, which was held at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Los Angeles, and for preserving the beautiful

tradition of the pysanka in the United States. This celebration is a reminder of how vital cultural identity is for Ukrainians living abroad – and how it can be a force for unity and hope.

United through heritage, committed to freedom – every pysanka painted, every dish served, every dollar raised matters.

Olena Simakovski
GoUkraina



**Ukrainian Festival “Pysanka” in Los Angeles
Raises Critical Aid for Frontline Defenders**

Today, the Pysanka Festival in Los Angeles carries an even deeper meaning. It is no longer just a celebration of tradition, but a symbol of unity, resilience, and shared hope.

At a time when Ukraine is fighting for its freedom, this festival brings together the Ukrainian community and friends of Ukraine around culture, art, and common values.

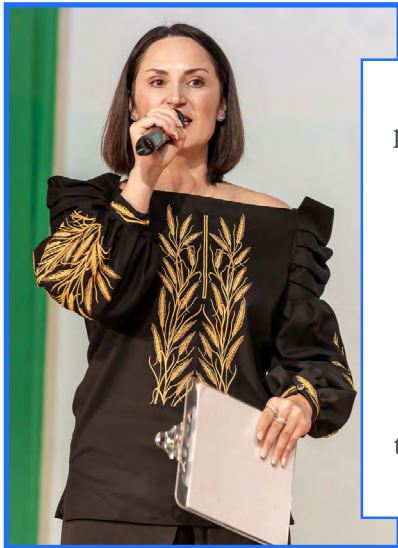
Pysanka

UKRAINIAN FESTIVAL



Through the pysanka – an ancient symbol of life, peace, and rebirth – we not only honor our ancestors, but also show the world our strength, our solidarity, and our belief in victory. This event becomes a space of mutual support, where every gesture, every song, every pattern on a pysanka is an act of love for our homeland and a call to stand together.

The Pysanka Festival opened with a powerful performance by Asya Gorska – a special song born from pain, from struggle, from our unbreakable spirit. This song is our voice – when our hearts shatter at the news from Kryvyi Rih, Sumy, Kyiv... It is our cry, our vow, our faith. “Glory to Ukraine! Death to the enemy!”



The Pysanka Festival program was thoughtfully conceived, meticulously developed, and was proudly hosted by UAC Cultural Director **Asya Gorska**. Her creativity, dedication, and leadership have been instrumental in bringing this vibrant celebration of Ukrainian culture to life.

This true beauty and rising star – **Veronika Vozna** embodies many talents.

She is a professional dancer, gymnast, model, actress and singer. Her contribution to the Art Center's media and outreach over the past year has been incredibly valuable.

We are grateful for her support, collaboration, and her kind heart!



CHERVONA KALYNA is more than a dance ensemble. It is a close-knit family that brings hearts together through Ukrainian culture, pride in our heritage, and the universal language of art. As a cherished resident of the Pysanka Festival and a true prize of the community, this ensemble continues to inspire with every step, every rhythm, and every story told through dance.



The dance ensemble **SYNEVYR** has joined us all the way from Orange County. Though this ensemble is only two years old, the children are making great progress. Under the guidance of their wonderful teacher **Svitlana Selska**, they performed at our festival for the second year in a row.



We enjoyed the beloved familiar Ukrainian melodies performed by three wonderful musicians – **Ihor Miroshnychenko, Valerii Arvat, and Volodymyr Malchik**! This is a newly formed trio **HRAIMO** that we will be hearing more of!



The second part of the Pysanka Festival had a very special opening with the newly formed choir **BLAHOVIST** from St. Andrew's Church in Los Angeles. It is under the direction of a very favorite singer and now conductor **Uliana Malyniak**!

The Pysanka Festival was not only a feast for the eyes, but also for the ears, featuring a lineup of incredibly talented singers whose powerful voices and heartfelt performances brought Ukrainian spirit and tradition to life on the stage.

Ksenia Doroshenko
Asya Gorska
Iryna Reznyska
Mykhaiko Hrabynsky
Olga Rabba
Vsudy Svoya
Inka
Marina Blanovska

Our young singers who are just 13
Maya Babych, Ridna Shkola, Los Angeles
Anna Pakholchuk from Orange County
Sofia Pogodaeva from Orange County
 And our youngest singer – 5 years old
Yeva Antonenko from San Diego



This Ukrainian dance group **NAMYSTO** (translated as beaded garland) was created in 2023 on the basis of the Ukrainian School in San Diego. **NAMYSTO** actively supports Ukraine and performs at all invited local events! The group's goal is to demonstrate the talented, powerful and underappreciated folk and modern Ukrainian culture!



As the final notes faded and the last pysanky were admired, the Pysanka Festival left behind more than beautiful memories. It reaffirmed the strength, pride, and enduring spirit of our Ukrainian heritage.

Heartfelt thanks from the Ukrainian Art Center to all who participated, volunteered, and attended. Your presence made this celebration truly unforgettable, and we look forward to continuing this vibrant tradition together in the years to come.

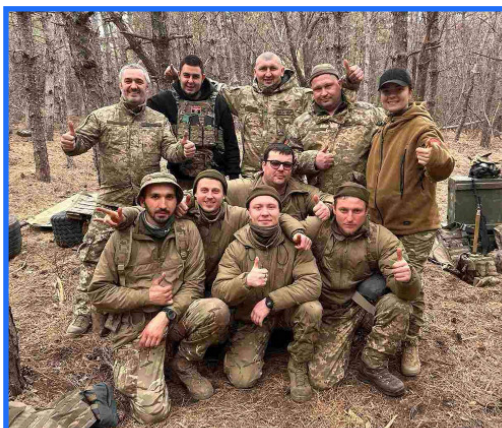
This was very busy year of teaching for me. It started with the Ridna Shkola class at Saint Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Hollywood. Teaching alongside of Natalja Vivcharenko, which we have been doing for many years. It is always fun to see how the children progress from year to year.

As always, our annual Easter egg party for family and friends. Natalja attended along with her friends. After an afternoon of working on pysanka, everyone was treated to a Ukrainian dinner. At Occidental College in Eagle Rock, as part of a seminar on Eastern European Culture and Folk Lore, I demonstrated to the class the techniques of pysanka. I then assisted the class in making several pysanka. Their finished pysanka were put on display in the college library.

Then on to McGroarty Arts Center in Tujunga, a charming old home nestled in the hills, for a workshop on pysanka. Had a group of women who learned quickly the basic techniques of pysanka. Each were able to complete 2 to 3 eggs.

As in years past, at the Pysanka Festival at the Ukrainian Art Center alongside Natalja, we taught the children's class. It has been a pleasure to share this art form with the children. And this year with a lot more adults. As always they got to take home a small piece of our wonderful heritage to keep for many years.

Barbara Wetzel



The Pysanka Festival, organized by Ukrainian Art Center and hosted by Ukrainian Culture center in Los Angeles, brought together a vibrant community of organizations, artists, and supporters with a shared goal: to celebrate Ukrainian culture and raise essential funds for those affected by the ongoing war. From traditional crafts to live music and food, the festival served not only as a cultural celebration but also as a vital platform for humanitarian support.

Post Angeles was honored to participate in this year's festival, where we raised funds to purchase a drone jammer for the personnel of the machine gun platoon of the 117th Separate Mechanized Brigade. Thanks to the generosity of the Los Angeles community and our ongoing collaboration with Ukrainian partners on the ground, the jammer has already been delivered to the frontlines.

This rapid response reflects the strength of collective action—when communities unite, we can meet the urgent and constantly evolving needs of Ukrainian defenders, hospitals, and civilians alike. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to this effort and helped turn solidarity into impact.

Natalia Rudenko



Pysanka Festival in Los Angeles Celebrates Ukrainian Culture and Delivers Critical Aid to the Frontlines

At the Ukrainian Cultural Center, I teach visual arts, but my work goes far beyond the classroom. While preparing for a classical music concert and the "Pysanka" festival, I was happy to join the organizing team. My role focused on media support: I managed press outreach, sending press releases to TV channels, radio stations, and print media to ensure as many people as possible heard about our events.

It was truly inspiring to witness how each staff member and volunteer contributed their energy and talents. Some took care of the venue decor, others coordinated performers, and some handled technical logistics. Thanks to this well-coordinated teamwork, we were able to host vibrant, heartfelt, and professionally executed events.

July Savenko



Absolutely, this has been the most successful Ukrainian gathering to date. When my children were growing up, we had to beg anyone to come. Very few Americans knew anything about Ukraine. In fact, they thought we were Russian. So sad that only now, Ukraine has come to the forefront through such a tragedy – unprovoked war. Ukrainian people have always been patriotic and proud of their heritage. It's beautiful to see so many of us come together to celebrate our culture.

I am so proud to be Ukrainian! Thank you to all who made this happen!!! SLAVA UKRAINI!!! Anna Iwankiw

*Христос Воскрес! Веселих Великодніх Свят! Дякуємо за працю і посвяту для нашої громади.
Ви інформуйте, і підготовлюєте цікаві програми і виставки про українське мистецтво в кожній формі - поширюєте
українську культуру - і зміцнюєте зв'язки української громади в Лос-Анджелесі - бажаємо дальших творчих сил і здоров'я всім!
Христия Шмотолоха*

The Classical Series Gala Opening Concert



The Classical Series Gala Opening Concert was a big success in early March. It gathered the Ukrainian community and presented a side of *Ukrainian high culture* to them that is only now being discovered by the Ukrainian arts experts themselves. Moreover, it had a deep impact by attracting new guests from the LA metropolitan area and beyond (San Francisco, San Diego and Orange County), thus making it an effective and innovative outreach tool and promoting communication and conversation among communities. Dr. Myroslava Khomik, the Founder and Artistic Director of the Series, also had the honor to be a guest at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington D.C. later that same month, initiating a discussion with Ukrainian Ambassador Oksana Markarova on the immediate needs of cultural diplomacy work. Dr. Khomik had a chance to report on this significant accomplishment on behalf of the UAC- her new spearheaded project and unique music series on the West Coast. At this time especially, cultural diplomacy and educational outreach into international communities is one of the biggest ways we can contribute to the continuous support of Ukraine and its people, wherever they may be. The Series is scheduled to present several exciting programs in the coming season 2025/26, featuring more Ukrainian composers and artists within the context of history, literature and art. Stay tuned for more details and please support with your generous donations so we can continue our

work and share many more meaningful evenings together!

Dr. Myroslava Khomik



A remarkable concert of Ukrainian classical music took place at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Los Angeles. The event was organized by the Art Center, bringing together artists, volunteers, and supporters with a shared goal — to help promote a series of Ukrainian classical music. The musical program featured renowned performers – violinist Myroslava Khomik and pianist Pavlo Gintov – who performed works of a prominent Ukrainian composers.



Alongside the concert, the Lifeline USA-Ukraine Foundation was a co-participant of the art exhibition. One of the paintings was successfully sold, and all proceeds were immediately used to purchase essential equipment for Ukrainian defenders: 2 drone signal booster antennas ("Ninja") and 1 drone detector ("Chuyka"). This is real, tangible support that saves lives on the front lines.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Art Center for initiating and organizing and hosting this beautiful event. This collaboration between artists, philanthropists, and the community proves that art can do more than inspire – it can make a real difference. Together – for Ukraine's victory!

Kateryna Marchuk-March Locust



MARIA FIGLUS On April 12, 2025, Maria (nee Chaikovsky) Figlus, passed on. She was born on July 28, 1926, in Zolochiv, Ukraine, and lived through world-changing events. Her family fled from the imperialist russian soviets at the end of World War II and settled in the USA. In 1949 she married Bohdan Figlus and they left Buffalo, New York and moved to Denver, Colorado.

"Mitya" loved everything Ukrainian! She was very active in the life of the Ukrainian community – in her Parish, Plast, Ridna Shkola, Ukrainian Women's League of America and endeavored to spread awareness about Ukraine where ever she had the opportunity. For many years Maria, although living in Colorado, was an active member of our non-profit Ukrainian Art Center, in Los Angeles, Ca.

She was very artistic – created ceramics, Ukrainian pysanky, and embroideries, for which she was recognized as a Master Artist by the state of Colorado. For many years, she organized art exhibitions

and conducted courses in community centers, museums and universities.

Maria is survived by her children Ihor and Odarka, her brother Oleh and their families. May her memory be eternal.

In lieu of flowers: Ukrainian Art Center, Inc., 4315 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90029.

IN MEMORIAM

UKRAINIAN ART CENTER, INC. - OUR MISSION

The Ukrainian Art Center in Los Angeles has been preserving and promoting Ukrainian culture in Southern California since 1986.

Our mission is to preserve and perpetuate Ukrainian culture and arts within the local community and to encourage interest, appreciation and participation in these arts by the community at large.

One goal of the Center is to establish a Ukrainian Museum to house a permanent display of artifacts and provide facilities for temporary exhibits of contemporary and traditional artists and Ukrainian folk art educational programs.

We feature exhibits of Ukrainian art and artists, music, dance, paintings, icons, and traditional crafts, as well as offer demonstrations, lectures and performances of traditional and contemporary art.

Support Ukrainian Culture & Defense – Join Our Mission!

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

BECOME A VOLUNTEER Subscribe below or e-mail us on our Contact page to receive more information about our events and volunteer opportunities.

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Slava Ukraini!

