



NEW VILLAGE ARTS

MEDIA ALERT

New Village Arts Celebrates Kristianne Kurner Day: Honoring a Legacy of Art, Community, and Connection

September 20th recognizes the visionary founder of New Village Arts and invites the community to help carry her legacy forward.

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Contact Olivia Pence, Manager of Marketing & Communications: olivia@newvillagearts.org

Carlsbad, CA – New Village Arts (NVA) is thrilled to share that September 20th officially marks **Kristianne Kurner Day** in the County of San Diego, a celebration of the visionary founder and Executive Artistic Director, whose dedication to adventurous theatre, artistic collaboration, and community connection has helped shape the cultural landscape of North County San Diego.

On September 20th, 2026, during the closing performance of *WE WILL ROCK YOU*, the first production of our 25th season, Kurner was presented with a County of San Diego Proclamation by Cipriano Vargas, a representative from Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer's office, recognizing her extraordinary contributions to the arts and the community. The recognition marked a meaningful milestone as NVA celebrates 25 years of artistic excellence and prepares for a new chapter in its history.

Since founding New Village Arts in 2001, Kurner has championed the belief that theatre has the power to bring people together, inspire meaningful conversations, and create a sense of belonging. Under her leadership, NVA has grown into a thriving professional theatre and arts center, providing a creative home for countless artists, students, volunteers, and audiences.

As Kurner prepares for her retirement from New Village Arts, the inauguration of Kristianne Kurner Day carries special significance. Her final directing project at New Village Arts, *As You Like It*, a musical adaptation of Shakespeare's beloved comedy featuring music and lyrics by Tony Award winner Shaina Taub, opens this weekend and runs through November 29th, 2026.

While September 20th celebrates Kurner's extraordinary contributions, it also serves as an opportunity to look toward the future of the organization she built. New Village Arts invites the community to honor Kristianne's legacy by investing in its next chapter. Contributions help sustain adventurous professional



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theatre, support local artists, expand arts education, and ensure that New Village Arts remains a welcoming creative home for generations to come.

Kristianne's legacy is not only found in the 40+ productions she has directed or the organization she founded, but in the community of art makers and arts lovers she has brought together over the past 25 years.

To celebrate Kristianne Kurner Day and support the future of New Village Arts, visit <https://newvillagearts.org/donate/>.

HONORING KRISTIANNE KURNER

WHEREAS, since founding New Village Arts in Carlsbad, California, in 2001, Kristianne Kurner has spent 25 seasons shaping the organization into one of Southern California's most acclaimed professional theatres and community arts organizations; and

WHEREAS, Kristianne Kurner discovered her calling for theatre at a young age. Writing, directing, and starring in backyard performances, she later honed her craft by earning her BA in Theatre from the College of William & Mary and an MFA in Acting from the Actors Studio Drama School at New School University, laying the foundation for her distinguished leadership in the performing arts; and

WHEREAS, under her leadership, New Village Arts grew from its humble beginnings in a converted chicken coop to a fully renovated, multi-million-dollar arts center; now the Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center, reflecting Kurner's commitment to accessibility, diversity, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, Kurner has directed numerous award-winning productions and championed bold artistic programming that elevates diverse stories, strengthens community connections, and enriches the cultural landscape of Carlsbad and North County San Diego; and

WHEREAS, her leadership has nurtured partnerships, expanded arts education, and helped New Village Arts become a regional force, launching careers, hosting premieres, and creating a vibrant cultural hub in Carlsbad Village; **NOW THEREFORE**,

BE IT PROCLAIMED, by Chair Lawson-Remer, that the County of San Diego commends **Kristianne Kurner** for their outstanding service, leadership, and commitment to the residents of San Diego County and hereby declares **September 20, 2026, as "Kristianne Kurner Day" throughout San Diego County.**



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About New Village Arts

Celebrating 25 years of award-winning professional theatre and thriving education and outreach programs, New Village Arts (NVA) has truly become the cultural hub of North County San Diego. NVA attracts more than 30,000 patrons each year to experience professional theatre, music and art events in the heart of Carlsbad Village. In addition to full seasons of plays and musicals featuring some of the best artistic talent in Southern California, NVA hosts talkback discussions and other supplementary events designed to create conversation and cultivate community. The White Family Next Stage in the Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center presents a series of music, comedy, and improv events throughout the year. NVA offers robust theatre programs in partnership with local schools and strongly believes that theatre and arts experiences should be accessible to all people, becoming a recognized leader in equity, diversity, and inclusion in San Diego. NVA has been fortunate to receive support from the City of Carlsbad and other local businesses, who recognize the importance of a resident professional theatre company as a crucial component of an inclusive and creative community. In turn NVA prioritizes serving its community by presenting works that respect its diversity, engaging every citizen with relevant and inspiring stories.

New Village Arts is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization listed
under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS.

New Village Arts, Inc.
2787 State Street, Carlsbad, CA 92008
760-433-3245

www.newvillagearts.org

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