

UC MERCED ARTS

2024-25 SEASON



Dear Friends and Patrons,

Welcome to the 2024–2025 Season here at UC Merced Arts! We're excited to present a dynamic lineup of performances, exhibitions, and events this year that celebrate the rich tapestry of artistic expression from both near and far. From groundbreaking and inspiring productions to thought-provoking artworks and interdisciplinary festivals, this season offers something for everyone and is built with *you*, our community, in mind.

Our musical concerts this year feature multiple styles and genres, bringing together local and international artists who are pushing the boundaries of their crafts and blending the traditional with the contemporary. The UpstART concert series returns with four exciting new acts performing at the Merced Theatre throughout the year, and I'm excited to also present two special concerts this Fall with the Silkroad Ensemble and our local Merced Symphony.

La Galería is presenting two new exhibitions this season that will bring a diverse mix of contemporary artworks by artists from around the globe to Merced for the first time. The year starts with *Alma, Corazón y Vida: Latinx Art Legends from the Mike "Surito" Echeverria Collection*, a multi-site showcase of the cultural and artistic contributions of Latinx artists in California, curated by UC Merced's Prof. Tonya López-Craig. In the Spring, we will open with *Actions for the Earth: Art, Care, & Ecology*, a traveling exhibition organized by Australian curator Sharmilla Wood and featuring groundbreaking works by international artists that focus on the interconnectedness between humanity and the earth. These exhibitions are complemented by our Friends of UC Merced Arts Preview Nights, public receptions, and special panel discussions and artist talks, providing deeper insights into the art and the artists behind them.

Our annual arts programs that have become staples of the artistic calendar here in Merced are also back – the Todo Cambia Human Rights Film Festival, Shakespeare in Yosemite, and Children's Opera are all returning with new programs that will continue to delight and inspire audiences. In addition, we're excited to launch new programs like the inaugural Merced Lit Fest and the first partnership between UC Merced and Merced Shakespearefest, which are both bringing exciting events to downtown Merced this Fall.

I am deeply grateful for the support of our audiences, donors, sponsors, and community partners. Your dedication to the arts enriches our campus and the broader community, making all of this possible. Thank you for joining us this season, and I look forward to celebrating the transformative power of the arts with you in the upcoming year.



Collin Lewis

Collin Lewis

Executive Director for the Arts, UC Merced

Season Calendar 2024–25

At a Glance

September 2024

09/14

Merced Lit Fest:
We Are California

09/25–27

Silkroad Ensemble:
Train Station Trios

October 2024

10/11

La Galería: Alma, Corazón y Vida:
Latinx Art Legends from the
Mike “Surito” Echeverria Collection

10/12

UpstART:
Mariachi Arcoiris
de Los Angeles

10/18

Merced Symphony:
Modern Melodies: Mexican &
American Masterpieces

10/19–27

Spanish Program and
Merced Shakespearefest:
La vida es sueño

10/27

UpstART:
Danay Suárez

January 2025

01/30

La Galería: Actions for the Earth:
Art, Care, & Ecology

February 2025

02/01

UpstART: OkCello

March 2025

03/01–10

2025 Todo Cambia:
Merced Human Rights Film Festival

03/15

UpstART: Las Cafeteras

April 2025

04/24

Shakespeare in Yosemite:
As You Like It (Campus Performance)

04/25–27

Shakespeare in Yosemite:
As You Like It (Park Performances)

May 2025

05/31

UC Merced Children’s Opera:
Treble Trouble



**PURA
FÉ**



**SHANE
SHANAHAN**




**MICHI
WIANCKO**

Silkroad Ensemble presents *Train Station Trios*

Residency: September 25 – 27, 2024 

Concert: September 27, 2024 | 7 PM 

The Art Kamangar Center at the Merced Theatre 

Free and Open to the Public — Reservations Required 

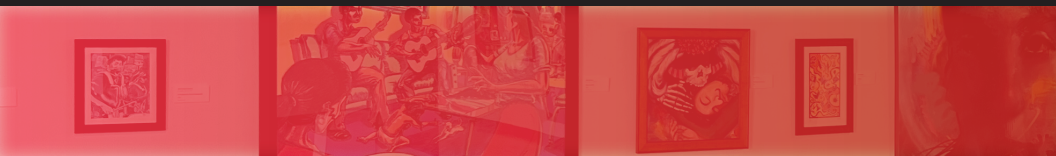
Silkroad presents *Train Station Trios*, a series of open workshops generating new music as part of Silkroad’s multi-year American Railroad project, an initiative led by artistic director Rhiannon Giddens that illuminates the impact the African American, Chinese, Indigenous, Irish, and other immigrant communities had on the creation of the Transcontinental Railroad and connecting railways across the United States.

In this one-of-a-kind Merced event, a trio of Silkroad artists along with UC Merced Historian Dr. David Rouff and Merced Historian Sarah Lim will explore untold stories from these communities, contextualizing the railroad through music and reminding us of America’s intricately rich history.

LEAD SPONSORS



UC Merced Dept. of History and
Critical Race and Ethnic Studies





Merced Symphony presents

Modern Melodies: Mexican & American Masterpieces



October 18, 2024 | 6 PM



Wallace-Dutra Amphitheater



\$40 Orchestra Seating* | \$10 Lawn Seating

The Merced Symphony returns to UC Merced for a concert of symphonic masterpieces by Mexican and American composers.

Julia Morris: Conductor

José Moncayo: Huapango

Samuel Barber: Adagio for Strings

Arturo Márquez: Danzon No. 2

Jessie Montgomery: Strum

Aaron Copland: Four Dance Episodes from *Rodeo*

**Orchestra Seating* tickets include a fixed chair, reserved parking, and a golf cart ride to and from Bellevue Parking Lot.

To reserve and purchase tickets, visit
arts.ucmerced.edu/boxoffice



La Galería

Open Tue–Sat
10AM–6PM



Alma, Corazón y Vida

Latinx Art Legends from the Mike “Surito” Echeverría Collection



October 11 – December 6, 2024



La Galería, UC Merced Art Gallery, and The MAC

Curated by Professor Tonya López-Craig, this multi-site exhibition will showcase a substantial array of Latinx art from the art collection of Mike “Surito” Echeverría, featuring work by renowned Chicanx artists Carlos Almaraz, Diane Gamboa, Harry Gamboa, Margaret García, Yolanda González, Gronk, Judithe Hernández, Willie Herron, Gilbert “Magu” Lujan, José Lozano, José Orozco, Frank Romero, Richard Valdés, Patssi Valdez, Jaime Zacarías (a.k.a. GERMS), and more!

Member Preview Night

La Galería
October 10

Opening Day Art Crawl | Oct 11

UCM Art Gallery: 2–3:30pm
La Galería: 4–6pm
The MAC: 7–9pm



SPONSORED BY
UC Merced Center
for the Humanities

Mural, “Backdrop from the play
Los Faustinos,” by Gronk





Want to experience the excitement of these exhibitions with other art enthusiasts before the official opening? Join Friends of UC Merced Arts at the \$25 level to enjoy exclusive access to our Member Preview Nights! For more information, see the back cover.

Actions for the Earth: Art, Care & Ecology

January 30 – April 19, 2025 

La Galería 

Actions for the Earth: Art, Care & Ecology is a traveling exhibition that considers kinship, healing, and restorative interventions as artistic practices and strategies to foster a deeper consciousness of our interconnectedness with the earth. Featuring work by artists from across the globe, including Lhola Amira, Sayan Chanda, Ana Mendieta, Pauline Oliveros, Yoko Ono, Eric-Paul Riege, Cecilia Vicuña, Zheng Bo, and more.

Member Preview Night

La Galería
January 29

Opening Reception

La Galería
January 30

Lhola Amira, *"IRMANDADE: The Shape of Water in Pindorama"*, 2018-2020, film still. Copyright Lhola Amira.



For more information, visit
arts.ucmerced.edu/lagaleria





Mariachi Arcoiris de Los Angeles



October 12, 2024 | 3:00PM



The Art Kamangar Center at Merced Theatre



\$15 General Admission, Free for Students (with ID) and Children



Mariachi Arco-Iris de Los Angeles is the world's first LGBTQ+ mariachi band. A unique and dynamic ensemble representing the traditions of the rich culture of Mexico, this group was created as a haven for mariachi musicians who identify as LGBTQ+ to come together and perform traditional Mexican regional music in an otherwise "machista" subculture of the mariachi world.

Danay Suárez



October 27, 2024 | 3:00PM



The Art Kamangar Center at Merced Theatre



\$15 General Admission, Free for Students (with ID) and Children



Danay Suárez has embarked on a journey fusing the world rhythms of Hip Hop with the melodies of the Caribbean and Latin music. With her unique sound and vocal gift, she continuously represents her traditional origins while contributing to the new sound of global music.


Friends of UC Merced Arts Pre-Sale Through September 11
General Public On-Sale Begins September 12





Want to make sure you don't miss out on any of these incredible performances? Join Friends of UC Merced Arts at the \$100 level to enjoy an exclusive pre-sale period and special behind-the-scenes insights! For more information, see the back cover.



OkCello

February 1, 2025 | 3:00PM 

The Art Kamangar Center at Merced Theatre 

\$15 General Admission, Free for Students (with ID) and Children 


Okorie "OkCello" Johnson is an Atlanta-based cellist-composer, looper, improviser, and storyteller. His work centers on themes and expressions of the African Diaspora, while also exploring the phenomenon of musical prayer. Drawing upon his experience as a teacher and writer, OkCello immerses his audiences in vivid stories and songs, creating a richly layered, transcendent concert experience.



Las Cafeteras

March 15, 2025 | 3:00PM 

The Art Kamangar Center at Merced Theatre 

\$15 General Admission, Free for Students (with ID) and Children 

Born and raised East of the Los Angeles River, Las Cafeteras are remixing roots music as modern day troubadours. They are a sonic explosion of Afro-Mexican rhythms, electronic beats and powerful rhymes that document stories of a community seeking to 'build a world where many worlds fit.'

To purchase concert and season tickets, visit
arts.ucmerced.edu/boxoffice



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Merced Lit Fest

- September 14, 2024 | 1–8:30 PM
- Downtown Merced
- Free and Open to the Public

MERCED LITFEST 2024

WE ARE CALIFORNIA



Merced's inaugural *LitFest* will offer interpretations on the theme "We Are California," inspired by California Poet Laureate Lee Herrick's *Our California* project. Listeners will be able to attend readings throughout the afternoon, all in downtown businesses, to hear poetry, creative nonfiction, and fiction writers read their original works.



La vida es sueño by Pedro Calderón de la Barca

- October 19–27, 2024
- Multicultural Arts Center (The MAC)
- \$10+ Admission, Available at the Door

La vida es sueño
Life is a Dream



In this collaboration between Merced Shakespearefest and the UC Merced Spanish Program, students and community members perform a new bilingual adaptation of Calderón de la Barca's timeless play. With additional funding provided by the Center for the Humanities, this deeply philosophical performance encourages the actors and audience alike to consider fundamental questions such as what is reality, what makes a good life, and what responsibilities do we hold to our fellow human beings.

Oct. 19 | 7:30 PM

Oct. 20 | 2 PM


Oct. 26 | 7:30 PM


Oct. 27 | 2 PM


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Shakespeare in Yosemite **As You Like It**

April 24 – 27, 2025 

UC Merced and Yosemite 

Free and Open to the Public 

In this musical retelling of a Shakespearean comedy, the forest of Arden is relocated to the Yosemite backwoods. As they fall in love with each other and the natural world, Rosalind and her friends learn that all the world may be a stage, but this is not a rehearsal!

Campus Performance

Wallace-Dutra Amphitheater

Apr. 24 | 6PM

Park Performances at Curry Village Amphitheater

Apr. 25 | 5 PM

Apr. 26 | 12 PM


Apr. 26 | 5 PM


Apr. 27 | 12 PM



UC Merced Children's Opera **Treble Trouble**

May 31, 2025 | 11 AM 

Art Kamangar Center at Merced Theatre 

Free and Open to the Public 

The Land of Melodia needs a heads up because Count Sticky Fingers is planning to steal all their notes and feed them into the Music Munching Machine! This operatic romp introduces night sky constellations and musical concepts such as the treble clef and how notes work. At its heart, it explores the ways music belongs to everyone, how we're braver than we think, and the fact that anyone can step up and do the right thing.

For more information, visit
arts.ucmerced.edu/season





Become a Friend of UC Merced Arts

Friends of UC Merced Arts support the Arts at UC Merced and stay informed on upcoming exhibitions, concerts, and programs. Your contributions help us achieve our goals of **fostering creativity**, **promoting arts education**, and **enhancing cultural experiences** for both our students and the broader community.

engage.ucmerced.edu/friends-of-ucm-arts



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