

THE ANDREW J. KUEHN JR.
F o u n d a t i o n

Newsletter 2025

In 2025, as feared, we experienced an assault on democracy, rule of law, the provision of justice and a cascading failure of the institutional guardrails we believed would prevent or restrain authoritarian governance. Instead, a corrupt and cruel president, with the connivance of a caviling congress and the shameless partiality of a captured judiciary, has wrought enormous damage on our country, harming its residents and poisoning our relationships with other nations, peoples and the planet we share.

That assault and its concomitant economic pillage continues.

What has not succumbed to this fever of resentment and projection are the preponderance of cultural and educational institutions in our country, a few of whom it is our privilege to support, publicize and celebrate. The practice of art and education are—and have always had to be—resilient, resistant, engaged with lived reality and forward facing. Clearly, we need those qualities now more than ever.

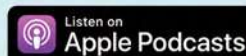
When we consider the powerful and defiant programming of the UCLA Archive's Legacy Series or the moving images selected by the American Cinematheque for presentation, we see profoundly democratic forces at play in the sandbox of the imagination, not just a repository of the American ideal but a redoubt of shared humanity and community. At the same time, in the Middle, High & Post-Secondary school programs we fund, critical thinking skills are taught and applied alongside technological training, empowering students to make and shape cultural discourse—and to understand its political and economic implications and ideology. Meanwhile, the AIDS Monument situated in the heart of West Hollywood reminds us how coming together in care and compassion not only defeated an epidemic but transformed the world.

The organizations that we support give us hope and offer a vision of the future far greater than the cynical fetishization of a racist, sexist, homophobic, classist and xenophobic past. We're not going back.

And now, before we plunge into the details of how AJK Grant recipients pursued their missions in 2025, a few special mentions and grace notes.

Friends of Andy's were gratified and delighted by the Trailer Geeks and Teaser Gods Podcast which dedicated 9 episodes to an exploration of the creative life and legacy of Andy Kuehn, the king of movie trailers. Host and producer Cory Nathan interviewed friends, colleagues, employees and mentees of Andy's, many of whom began their own storied careers at Kaleidoscope Films Group where they learned and collaborated with the man himself.

To hear the stories, learn about the business and enjoy tributes.



And, in 2025, we celebrated the completion and the inauguration of the eagerly anticipated, long awaited AIDS Monument in West Hollywood Park. Given the devastating impact of the AIDS Epidemic on Andy's life, friendship circle and professional community - in LA, NYC and around the world— we're proud to have contributed to this profoundly resonant place of memory, reflection and commemoration in his honor. Please visit and see for yourselves.

Read on and Resist!

- MISSION -

The American Cinematheque understands cinema as a communal experience that entertains, enlightens and inspires. It endeavors to build a diverse and engaged film community through curation, conversation and presentation. Connecting filmmakers to audiences and film history to its future are twin goals.

In 1984, after a visit to the Cinémathèque Française, Filmmaker Sydney Pollack joined with Gary Abrahams & Gary Essert, organizers of Filmex (The Los Angeles International Film Exposition) to develop a year-round film program for Los Angeles where cinephiles and filmmakers could discover, study and engage the seventh art. Since it began screening films for the public in 1985, the American Cinematheque has shown thousands of significant films and hosted informed conversation with a similar number of filmmakers and luminaries. Faithful to the vision of Pollack, the American Cinematheque is a place where the public and members of the film industry meet as a community speaking the common language of film.

In 2025, support from the Andrew J. Kuehn Jr. Foundation's was instrumental in developing a proper archive for the American Cinematheque. More than 40 years of moving image assets, including video and audio materials, photo collections and print ephemera have now been amassed. An in-house team of archivists collects, curates, restores and digitizes materials from new donations and recently produced events featuring historic and bold-faced names from global cinema. Recent Award ceremonies honoring Martin Scorsese, Sean Connery, Robin Williams, Steven Spielberg and Nicole Kidman will soon be added. All digitized assets are scheduled to be publicly accessible by the end of 2026.



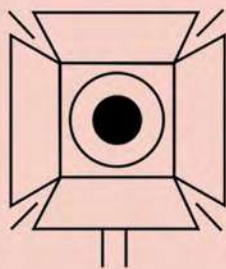
AC - WEBSITE

Early in 2025, the Foundation met with representatives of the American Cinematheque to discuss Andy's life, legacy and reputation, leading to the creation of a Best Trailer Award, named in his honor, to be presented annually at the AC's Tribute to the Crafts event. AJK then consulted with American Cinematheque on the composition of a jury drawn from leaders in movie marketing to review candidates and select a winner.

The Andy J.Kuehn Award for Best Trailer was presented on stage at the historic Egyptian Theater in January of 2026. Prior to presentation of that award, a special tribute to the life and career of Andy was screened for the audience. That short film cut by celebrated editor and Trailer Park founder, Benedict Coulter can be seen here.

At the event, mega producer Paula Wagner, presented the inaugural Unsung Hero Award to Andrew J. Kuehn, with the trophy accepted by Andy's partner and AJK Foundation Chair, Will Gorges.

FIFTH ANNUAL
AMERICAN
CINEMATHEQUE



CONTRIBUTE TO THE CRAFTS

FIFTH ANNUAL
AMERICAN CINEMATHEQUE

CONTRIBUTE TO THE
CRAFTS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026

EGYPTIAN
6712 HOLLYWOOD BLVD.

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT HONORING THE CREATIVES BEHIND THE YEAR'S BEST FILMS

CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

UNsung HERO AWARD


JACK FISK
PRODUCTION DESIGNER
MARTY
SUPREME


POSTHUMOUS HONOR TO
ANDREW J. KUEHN JR.
TRAILER & MOVIE
MARKETING PIONEER

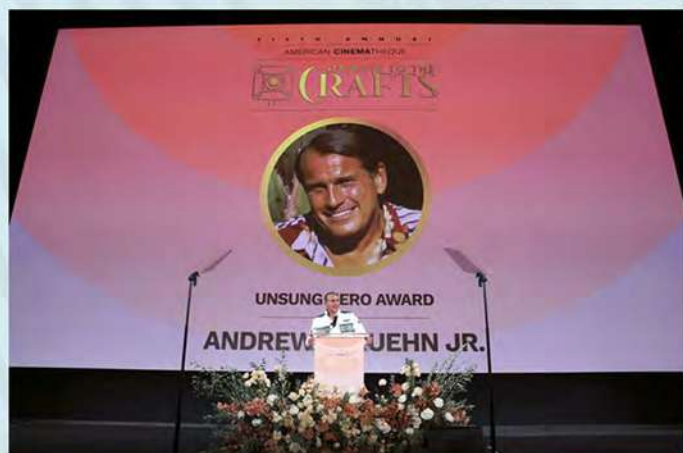
Special Invitation for the event prominently featuring Andy Kuehn.



1st place winners in their nominated craft including best Trailer!



Special lifetime achievement award presented to Fitch for his incredible career in Art Direction, presented by his wife of 50 years, the accomplished Actress Sissy Spacek!



A wonderful shot of the chairman Gorges during his acceptance speech with a full photo portrait of his late partner Andrew Kuehn

[Click photo to view Andy's Reel](#)



The chairman of the Andrew J. Kuehn Jr. Foundation, Will Gorges accepts the prestigious honor for the late Andy Kuehn.

[Click photo to view Speech.](#)

STORIES

THE AIDS MONUMENT

In stories and sculpture, the AIDS Monument seeks to memorialize the AIDS/HIV Crisis and honor the courage of activists, caregivers and community leaders. Nearly 1,000,000 Americans have died since 1981 and while the losses have slowed, the threat continues.

In recalling and retelling the stories of those who fought, those who died and those who endured, the AIDS Monument advances the work of raising awareness and money for research and treatment of persons living with AIDS/HIV.

The Aids Monument continues to collect diverse stories from around the region, country and world in order to educate current and future generations about the impact of HIV/AIDS and about the efforts, courage and leadership of caregivers, activists, community and governmental leaders and organizations.

Take a moment to view the emotional highlights by clicking any of the photos below.



The Monument is now open to the public! The Grand Opening event occurred on Sunday November 16, 2024. AJK Funds made that possible.

Initially scheduled for on-site unveiling, rain moved the event to the Silver Screen Theater at the Pacific Design Center. An overflow crowd was treated to musical performance, soaring speeches, moving stories, tearful remembrances of those lost to the epidemic and a celebration of its heroes. Presenters and performers included singer Jake Wesley Rogers, the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, and a host of gay rights advocates, activists, faith and community leaders and local politicians.

With the project complete, our funding commitment ends. We are, however, gratified to report that Friends of the Aids Monument [FAM] has transferred responsibility for programming, events and management of the Monument to the ONE Institute, working in partnership with the City of West Hollywood, effective January 1, 2026.

ONE Institute is the nation's oldest continuously operating LGBTQ+ organization. They are ideal stewards of the Monument's mission to remember, celebrate and educate, not only on behalf of the LGBTQ+ community but for all impacted by and at risk of getting Hiv/AIDS.



Orange County School of the Arts

Founded in 1987, the Orange County School of the Arts (OCSA) provides a creative, challenging and nurturing environment for bright and talented students as well as an unparalleled preparation for higher education and professional attainment in the arts. OCSA ranks among the top schools in the State of California.

The only specialized arts program of its kind in the region, OCSA offers tuition-free academic and arts instruction to students from Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties. A non-profit, OCSA relies on private and corporate donations to finance its many arts conservatories.

Serving 2,000 students in grades 7-12 from over 100 cities across Southern California, OCSA places personal growth and educational achievement first. Excellence, innovation, professionalism and integrity are expected of every student.

For more than two decades AJK funds have been used to support the Film & Television Conservatory at OCSA, primarily through the purchase of filmmaking equipment used by students to produce a great number and variety of projects.

ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS FOUNDATION

OCSA  CONNECTS

Community  ARTS  festival

FTV faculty and alums taught attendees how to create special effects using a green screen wall and Adobe After Effects as part of "OCSA Connects" Community Arts Festival. Participants were invited to command a pirate ship against an imaginary backdrop.

FTV students captured the activity on Blackmagic 6K cameras purchased with AJK grants.



Junior TV Production III

students produced and broadcast the third season of its comedy sketch show OCSA Unleashed in May. Nearly 40 students contributed to this massive undertaking, a collaboration among the Film & Television and Creative Writing Conservatories.

Students used Sony X70 cameras bought with AJK grants.



Go behind the scenes here.



2025 Student Film Sampler

As always, we delight in sharing clips from student work that screened at film festivals nationwide.

All Hail the Pumpkin Spice

A teenaged girl yearns to join the cool "Pumpkin Spice Girls" clique at school:



Unlock all the material by clicking the photos.

Power Play

A hockey player struggles to manage his sport and a personal relationship:



007 by Drexelz

A rapper has fun with friends in the desert:



Student and Alumni Achievement.

Diego Garcia's ('25) PSA Distracted Dueling won Orange County Regional Awards in the following categories in the Streets, Art, SAFE Competition last month:

- **Best Gold PSA**
- **Best Creativity and Originality**
- **Best Acting PSA**



You can access all of Diego's material by clicking the photo.

UCLA Department of Theater, Film & Television

The world renowned UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television is an interdisciplinary professional program that develops outstanding storytellers, industry leaders and scholars whose voices and vision enlighten, engage and inspire the world. For its diverse mix of undergraduate and graduate students, TFT offers courses in acting, directing, writing, producing, animation, cinematography, digital arts, lighting design, set design, costume design, sound design and Moving Image Archive Studies. The school confers BA, MA and Ph.D degrees in Theater and Performance Studies as well as in Cinema & Media Studies, educating creative and ambitious students in their pursuit of careers in theater, motion pictures, arts and digital media.



UCLA's world renowned department of Theater, Film & Television, manages a major gift from the AJK Foundation, using the proceeds to fund programs, host conferences, subsidize faculty salaries, award tuition support and prizes for graduate students specializing in movie marketing.

One of AJK's highest profile sponsorships is the Transforming Hollywood Conference, a one-day, multi-disciplinary gathering of entertainment industry leaders and visionaries in conversation with scholars, researchers and academics who observe and theorize about global entertainment. The conference was on hiatus in 2024 or 2025 so that UCLA faculty sponsor, Prof. Denise Mann, could complete two book length studies of topics explored at the 11 previous editions. We—along with academia and the industry—look forward to the return of Transformations in 2026.

In the interim, the AJK Jr. Fund for Producing and Media Marketing provided 2024-25 salary support for Thomas Nunan, a distinguished creative executive in Hollywood who makes time to share his knowledge, experience and insight with students pursuing masters degrees within UCLA's highly selective Producers Program.

Thomas Nunan, Lecturer

Thomas Nunan, a graduate of the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television, is a member of the School's steering committee and teaches in its Producers Program. Formerly president of the Hollywood Radio & TV Society, he is currently chairman of the Joyful Heart Foundation, founded by Emmy- and Golden Globe-award-winning actress Mariska Hargitay

Nunan is founder and partner of Bull's Eye Entertainment, a mid-sized independent production company in Los Angeles. At Bull's Eye, Nunan has generated more than 50 film & TV projects and created a strategic alliance with Sony Pictures TV. In 2006, Nunan and partners earned the Best Picture Oscar for Crash.

Other Bull's Eye features include The Illusionist, Thumbsucker and Employee of the Month. Before Bull's Eye, Nunan was president of the United Paramount Network (UPN) now known as The CW. He grew the network from two nights a week to its present six and oversaw development, programming, scheduling, marketing and business affairs, while managing affiliates and sales.

Prior to UPN, Nunan was president of NBC Studios where he guided production of some of NBC's most cherished programs, including Will & Grace, Profiler, The Pretender and the CBS hit The King of Queens, which was developed at NBC. Early in his career, Nunan helped expand The Fox Broadcasting Company from a two-night-a-week to a seven-night-a-week service. There, he ran the comedy department, supervising production of series like the The Ben Stiller Show, Martin, Living Single, In Living Color, Mad TV and Flying Blind. His success in that role led to oversight of Fox's primetime schedule.



UCLA Film & Television Archive

The UCLA FILM & TELEVISION ARCHIVE is the second largest moving image archive in the United States and the largest university-owned repository of media materials in the world. An unparalleled resource for UCLA's department of Theater, Film & TV, the Archive, located at the magnificent Packard Institute for the Humanities in Santa Clarita is a destination for visual storytellers, film historians, students of media and working professionals.



Combining gifts and acquisitions from all the major studios and television networks, leading producers and legendary figures from the history of broadcasting, the Archive prioritizes preservation and restoration. As the collection grows, iconic materials are continually returned to public view and made available for scholarly research. Screenings of rare and important art-house and historical works at the Archive's Billy Wilder Theater make this superb, Westwood venue a global destination for film lovers.

During the September 2024 through July 2025 grant period, the UCLA Film & Television Archive continued its commitment to regular screenings of LGBTQIA+ film and media drawn from the Legacy Project Collection and beyond. The continued support of the Andrew J. Kuehn Jr. Foundation was vital to the success of these programs.

Legacy Project Screening Series:

The Archive presented six programs under the Legacy Project Screening series banner beginning with a night in February 2025 where the Archive devoted a full-screening to the work of the pioneering independent, queer film collective the Gay Girls Riding Club (GGRC).



UCLA Film & Television Archive Report to The Andrew J. Kuehn Jr. Foundation September 2024 - July 2025

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This group's private screenings were an underground sensation in the pre-Stonewall Southern California gay rights movement. While the Archive has presented individual titles by the GGRC as a part of various shorts programs in the past, this was the first dedicated GGRC event which included recent archival restorations of such GGRC classics as *Always on Sunday* (1962), *The Roman Springs on Mrs. Stone* (1963), *The Spy On The Fly* (1967), and *What Really Happened To Baby Jane* (1963).

Just click the photo to check it out.

Gay Girls Riding Club

February 23, 2025 - 7:00 pm
Billy Wilder Theater



Lesbian Custody (2025), In the Best Interests of the Children (1977)

Left to right: Public Programmer Beandrea July; Julie Stevens, the daughter of filmmaker Elizabeth Stevens; filmmaker Molly Skonieczny; filmmaker Samuel Topiary and filmmaker Frances Reid.



Just click the photo to check it out.

Pink Narcissus (1971)

Left to right: Archive Motion Picture Curator Todd Wiener, Archive Head of Preservation Jillian Borders, Frameline Director Michael Lumpkin, author Kelly McKaig and Archive Director May Hong HaDuong.



Pink Narcissus (1971)

Left to right: Programmer and former Frameline Director Michael Lumpkin, author Kelly McKaig and Archive Director May Hong HaDuong.

Los Angeles Leadership Academy

Charter School

Located in downtown Los Angeles between Montecito & Lincoln Heights, the Los Angeles Leadership Academy prepares over 900 economically disadvantaged young people in grades K-12 for success as students and citizens. Dedicated to academic and personal development, LALA nurtures achievement, engagement and character.



LALA culture is defined by real and enduring relationships among students, teachers and staff. Attention to individual needs, abilities and interests supports a community of capable, self-directed learners. Integrated curriculum and performance-based assessment promote critical thinking and intellectual depth, breadth and agility. Opportunities to work with community leaders on the issues affecting student lives provide practical applications of classroom lessons and skills training. At LALA, every student is asked to embrace the principles of Community, Empowerment, Well-Being, Creation, Love, Integrity, Scholarship, Activism and Courage. Creating a just and humane world is an integral part of the educational mission.

As in 2023/24, AJK funding supported the creative and educational activities of the Middle School Media Club. By engaging students in formal training with the social media skills they are already using, the club increased community engagement, classroom participation and student retention. Applying what they learned, members of the Media Club produced the LALA Student Yearbook as their year-long project and energetically managed the school Instagram account, two different and meaningful challenges involving media communications, practical problem solving and content creation and curation.





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ajkfoundation.org

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR...

*Thank you for taking the time to read the foundations newsletter.
To receive our newsletter once a year click the AJK logo above.*

*The newsletter will give you a little insight into Andy's legacy,
and how it continues to support his passion for Film and the Arts.*

*On behalf of the board, Alan, Debbie and myself
take care, be kind to one another and go
see a movie at the theater!*

Will Gorges

CHAIRMAN
