



City of Whittier

PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

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ARTISTS, ART SUPPORTERS RECOGNIZED AT WHITTIER HONORS NIGHT

Six people were honored for their contributions to enhance the arts in Whittier at the Honors Night, held September 9 at Parnell Park.

The annual Whittier Honors Night, attended by more than 100 people, is sponsored by the Whittier Cultural Arts Foundation and recognizes those who have made a significant contribution to the arts in Whittier.

Those honored were Jay and Nikomi Arroyo, Arts Advocates; Rudy and Maria Hernandez, Visual Arts 3D-Instructional Art; Luisa Macias, Visual Arts 3D-Instructional Arts; and George Rodriguez, Visual Arts 2D-Photography

Three of the honorees also performed at the event: the Hernandez's performed a waltz and Macias had a group of six dancers do a Folklorico demonstration.

The Arroyos dared to open their first restaurant on a formerly underdeveloped street in Uptown Whittier, with the goal to provide the art of service in an inviting atmosphere of delectable food and wine. They owned and operated Phlight Loft where they booked musical groups and comedy acts. Both are Whittier residents and Whittier College alumni.

Rudy and Maria Hernandez are the owners of RMH Dance & Productions, a full service entertainment company that provides DJ'ing, lighting, sound, private dance lessons and more. They are the choreographers and the professional dancers in the highly popular Dancing with the Whittier Stars, as well as participating for 14 years in the Reach for the Stars program at the Whittier Union High School District. Rudy Hernandez is also is the current Chamber of Commerce President.

Macias has 25 years in psychology with training in Dance Therapy Movement, and worked 20 years in the social services and the mental health fields. Macias opened the first Studio Danza in 2007 and a second studio in 2011. She currently operates a non-profit out of her studio that provides scholarships for families who cannot afford dance lessons.

The career of Los Angeles photographer George Rodriguez documents a visual history that spans over 45 years. Growing up in L.A., and studying photography in school led him to discover a passion for portraiture and photojournalism. He has experienced some of the most tumultuous episodes in L.A.'s history: the Sunset Strip riots of the 1960's, the Chicano Movement, and the Cesar Chavez United Farm Workers' movement. His photographs document events through gesture and expression, giving a better understanding of the paths of the times.

More information on Honors Night and the Whittier Cultural Arts Foundation and its other activities and programs may be found on www.whittier.caf or on Facebook.