

MEDIA RELEASE



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Foundation Establishes New Fund to Support Young Performing Artists *Mangers birthday event raises substantial funding*

SACRAMENTO, CA — To celebrate Dennis Mangers' 75th birthday, the area's brightest talent took the stage at Wells Fargo Pavilion, and together with the 500 guests gathered for the event, raised over \$36,000 to support the [Sacramento Region Community Foundation's Dennis Mangers Fund for Young Performing Artists](#).

Named for Mangers, who is Chair of the Foundation's Board of Directors and whose career in public service has spanned five decades, the newly-launched Fund supports young performing artists from underserved backgrounds in the Sacramento region. The cause is a personal one for Mangers. At the concert, he recalled the barriers he encountered as a young man who loved the performing arts but whose family was unable to afford the costs of private arts instruction; even when his music teachers in school noted his talent—and passion—for singing, he was unable to pursue further training.

With the launch of the Fund, Mangers hopes to ensure that area youth who love the performing arts have opportunities to advance their talents and passions. Because of the Fund, local youth from underserved backgrounds will have increased access to performing arts education, training, apprenticeships, and internships at local arts and cultural organizations throughout the Sacramento region—the very opportunities Mangers could not access as a child.

The inauguration of the Fund and Mangers' birthday celebration also marked the official launch of the Foundation's arts initiative. That initiative, [Transforming the Creative Economy](#), aims to foster a thriving cultural community in the Sacramento region by supporting arts organizations as they innovate, diversify and build board capacity, and develop new audiences as the needs of the Sacramento region's communities evolve.

"Our first area of focus for the initiative will be to support those nonprofits that are preparing and nurturing our next generation of performers," Linda Beech Cutler, the Foundation's chief executive officer, announced at the celebration. "This aligns perfectly with Dennis' passion to ensure that young performers of promise have access to the specialized training they deserve regardless of their economic status."

Area organizations interested in applying for funds to support their youth performing arts programs in 2016 should look for a request for proposals from the Foundation before the end of this year. For more information about registering to receive notifications about granting opportunities from the Foundation, please visit the Grants section of its website at <http://www.sacregcf.org>.

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Sacramento Region Community Foundation has been the trusted steward of charitable assets, a community catalyst for meaningful change and the advocate for shaping vital impact through philanthropy since 1983. As the center of philanthropy in the Sacramento Region, the Foundation's mission is to transform our community through focused leadership and advocacy that inspire partnerships and expand giving. Learn more at www.sacregcf.org.