



The logo for the California Institute of the Arts. It features a dark blue background with a collage of dancers in various poses. The text "CALIFORNIA" and "INSTITUTE" are in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters, separated by a thick yellow horizontal line. Below "INSTITUTE" is the phrase "of the" in a smaller, white, lowercase, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, the word "ARTS" is written in large, bold, yellow, sans-serif capital letters, tilted slightly upwards to the right.

Welcome!



Print and Media Lab

You are an artist.

At California Institute of the Arts, you'll join a community of artists that will help supercharge your practice more than you ever thought possible.

Whether you're refining your craft or discovering entirely new ways to create, CalArts is a place where curiosity is encouraged, experimentation is expected, and collaboration happens every day.

Founded more than 50 years ago by Walt Disney and his brother Roy, CalArts was built on a simple but groundbreaking idea: Bring artists from different disciplines together to learn from one another. This founding vision continues to define CalArts today. Our intimate, interdisciplinary environment allows the freedom to shape an artistic practice that is incomparably your own.

With a 7:1 student-to-faculty ratio, our faculty are able to provide personalized academic and creative guidance. And because CalArts faculty are practicing artists themselves, their mentorship is grounded in the realities of being a working artist today. You'll also learn from internationally recognized visiting artists as well, gaining firsthand insight into a wide range of artistic practices and professional pathways.



Next Words Reading Series

Photo: Angel Oraggi





A School of Art BFA4 studio



Experimental Pop Showcase 2024

TOP 5 REASONS YOU'LL **LOVE** CALARTS

Unparalle

Legacy

1.

For more than five decades, CalArtians have made an unprecedented impact across art and culture. The late Art faculty member John Baldessari's first classes included Jack Goldstein, Mike Kelley, Tony Oursler, and Barbara Bloom. Judy Chicago and Miriam Schapiro co-founded the Feminist Art Program in 1971. Jazz pianist and composer Mel Powell served as the Music School's first dean. That **A113** reference you see in nearly every Pixar film? It's a classroom at CalArts where many of the Pixar animators created their first films. (It's now a Graphic Design space.)



Saxophonist and CalArts alum
Ravi Coltrane, at left, was the
2025 Charlie Haden Artist in
Residence.



Graphic Design students pose in the famed A113 space.

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y

Gallery

Night

2.

Thursdays are a **vibe** at CalArts. While art can happen anywhere and anytime, each week, art openings and performances abound on Thursday nights. Students flood our spaces and galleries with painting, sculpture, graphic design, film, music, dance, and just about anything else you can imagine.



Character Animation Gallery Night

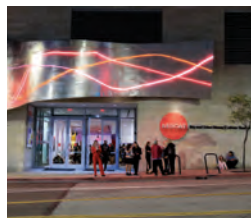


Gallery Night at CalArts

Linked to LA - a Creative Capital

Just beyond our Valencia, California, main campus, Los Angeles is an extension of CalArts. As one of the world's most vibrant, artistic, and cultural capitals, the city offers unparalleled opportunities to connect with artists, organizations, and industries shaping culture today. Institutions and venues including The Getty Museum, LACMA, The Broad, MOCA, Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Hollywood Bowl, the California African American Museum, the Huntington Library, Universal Studios, and Southern California beaches are all 20 to 60 minutes away from campus (depending on the LA traffic, naturally).

Located in the Walt Disney Concert Hall complex in downtown Los Angeles, the Roy and Edna Disney CalArts Theater (REDCAT) is CalArts' center for daring visual, media, and performing arts. In addition to staging CalArts performances, REDCAT programs dynamic and far-reaching work by an international roster of innovative artists each season.



REDCAT



The Reef: a creative habitat



Cold Call exhibition at The Reef

CalArts at The Reef

Located in downtown LA, The Reef offers a 20,000-square-foot cultural platform and arts venue that provides CalArts students and recent graduates dedicated gallery and performance space.



HHUMANN, choreographed by CalArts faculty Dimitri Chamblas, in front of Walt Disney Concert Hall



The CalArts contingent at LACMA's 2026 Art Parade

The CalArts Experience



Winter Session costume workshop
with visiting artist Gwen van den
Eijnde

Learning doesn't end when class does. From late-night rehearsals and impromptu performances to gallery exhibitions and conversations that spark unexpected ideas, the possibilities are limitless. Whether you're experimenting in the studio, developing new work with collaborators, or exploring a discipline outside your own, at CalArts you'll find a community that encourages curiosity, rewards risk-taking, and helps your artistic voice evolve in ways you didn't think were possible.

The heart of our campus is the Main Building, an expansive creative space where artists across disciplines work side by side. This creative hub brings together studios, theaters, galleries, rehearsal spaces, labs, workshops, and countless opportunities for creative exchange. And at CalArts, you'll have your own dedicated space to create, experiment, and build your practice.



KPop *Demon Hunters* directors Chris Appelhans and Maggie Kang,
front and center, at a Character Animation talk

CalArts

by the Numbers

Fall 2025
Enrollment

1,264

858 Undergraduate;
406 Graduate

#1 Animation School in the US

Animation Career
Review 2026

90%

receive some form of financial aid

#2 Best Art School in the US

Art & Objects 2026

7:1

student-to-faculty ratio

Top 10 for Costume Design in the World

The Hollywood
Reporter 2025

50

Since 2021, CalArts students have hailed
from all 50 states.

Housing & Dining



Coffee life at Tatum Lounge



Dorm life

Whether you're living on campus or gathering with friends over a meal, Steve's Cafe serves as a central gathering place with fresh, made-to-order meals throughout the day, while Tatum Lounge offers a relaxed space to grab lattes and matchas, enjoy a snack, meet with friends, attend a live reading, or discover a new exhibition.

Our on-campus housing options, Chouinard Hall and Ahmanson Hall, create a close-knit residential community where artists live, learn, play, and create together. The convenient proximity of the residential halls allows our artists to work as much as they want with home just steps away.



The pool outside of Chouinard Hall

Alumni

Network

3.

Our storied legacy continues today. Alumni Andrew Stanton and Kenna Harris wrote and directed ***Toy Story 5***; Carrie Mae Weems and Mark Bradford were commissioned to create major works for the Obama Presidential Center; Tuan Andrew Nguyen and Gala Porras-Kim were selected to participate in the 2026 Venice Biennale, to name a few recent examples. You'll find our **alumni** across the globe—often still collaborating with their fellow CalArtians.

TOP 5
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David Geffen Galleries at LACMA



CalArts Trustee (and alum) Lyndon Barrois Sr.
discussing his exhibition, *Fútbol Is Life*, at LACMA

Programs and Degrees

CalArts offers comprehensive undergraduate and graduate degree programs in the visual, performing, media, and literary arts. Programs are optimized for artists who go beyond aesthetics and expertise and think about the way their practice engages with the world at large.

This list is subject to change.
Visit calarts.edu/programs-and-degrees for the latest information.

Acting / BFA, MFA
Aesthetics and Politics / MA
Art / BFA, MFA
Art and Technology / MFA
Character Animation / BFA
Choreography / MFA
Composition and Experimental Sound Practices / BFA, MFA
Costume Design / MFA
Creative Computing / BFA, MDes
Creative Writing / MFA
Dance / BFA
Directing* / MFA
Experience Design and Production / BFA
Experimental Animation / BFA, MFA
Experimental Pop / BFA
Film Directing / MFA



Ceramics Lab



Digital Recording Studio

Film and Video / BFA, MFA
Graphic Design / BFA, MFA
Instrumental Arts / BFA, MFA
Interactive Media for Performance */ MFA
Jazz / BFA, MFA
Lighting Design / MFA
Performer-Composer / BFA, MFA
Photography and Media / BFA, MFA
Producing* / MFA
Scene Design / MFA
Sound Design / MFA
Stage Management / MFA
Technical Direction / MFA
Voice Arts / BFA, MFA
World Music / BFA

** School of Theater*

Integrated Media

Offered by many graduate programs, this supplemental concentration is designed for artists who wish to combine their core exploration of interdisciplinary practices, participatory media, and interactive technologies.

Minors

Arts Education

Digital Arts

Music Theory

Creative Writing

Humanities

Social Sciences

Cultural Studies

Science and Math



Walt Disney Modular Theater

TOP 5 REASONS YOU'LL **LOVE** CALARTS



Halloween

4.

The annual CalArts Halloween party is a long-standing and legendary campus tradition, dating back to 1972. But what makes the event truly special is that it's a labor of love created by students for their peers. In recent years, CalArts Halloween has evolved into a **themed experience**, brought to life by a dedicated team of students who learn live event production in a credited class.





The Sublevel



5.

Located on the lowest level of CalArts' Main Building, connecting classrooms and spaces for the schools of Film/Video and Art, The Sublevel is a graffiti-strewn hallway that exemplifies student self-expression. While the use of spray paint is **verboden** (only water-based paints are allowed), The Sublevel has been a space for creativity for decades, with layers of paint to prove it.



Where Your Practice Meets the Profession



Experimental Animation faculty
Stephen Chiodo with a 'friend'

Career services at CalArts means personalized guidance, hands-on experience, and unprecedented industry access that can help you turn your artistic practice into a sustainable career. Through **The Patty Disney Center for Life and Work (CLW)**, students receive individualized advising, portfolio and resume support, as well as guidance on building a professional presence.



CLW field trip

Bridge-to-industry programs and connections with alumni and other working professionals help you expand your network and gain insight into the many paths a creative career can take. Internships, field trips, campus employment, and a dedicated job board with industry-specific opportunities are all organized through The Patty Disney Center.



CalArts Character Animation Producers' Show 2025

Admissions and Financial Aid

Applying to CalArts is about more than submitting an application. It's about sharing your artistic voice. Because every program has its own creative requirements, our **Enrollment Management** team is here to guide you through each step, from preparing your portfolio or audition to answering questions about deadlines and application materials.

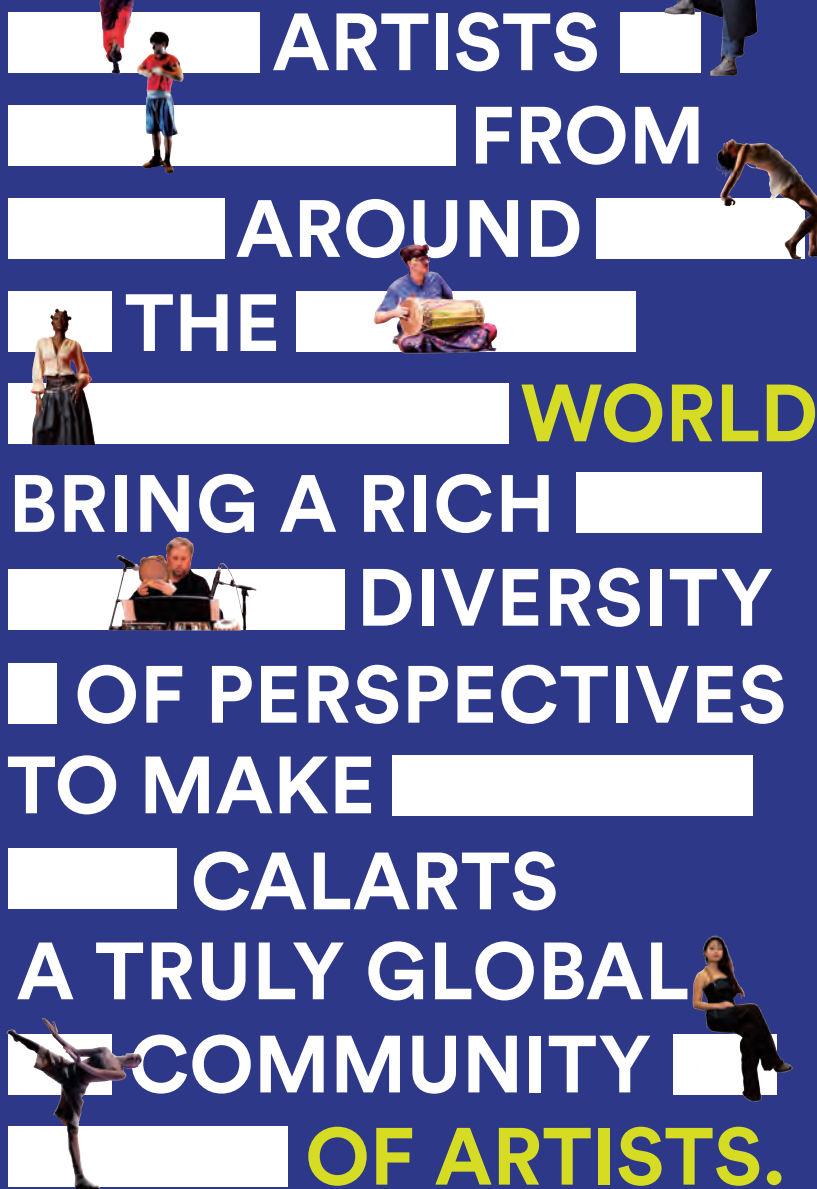
We're equally committed to ensuring that your CalArts education is as accessible as possible. **The Office of Financial Aid** works closely with students and families to explore scholarships, grants, loans, work-study, and other funding opportunities, providing personalized guidance throughout the financial aid process.



The famed CalArts Blue Wall



The Main Gallery



ARTISTS
FROM
AROUND
THE
WORLD
BRING A RICH
DIVERSITY
OF PERSPECTIVES
TO MAKE
CALARTS
A TRULY GLOBAL
COMMUNITY
OF ARTISTS.

Global Community



Our **Office of International Students** provides personalized support to help international students navigate every stage of their journey at CalArts. Through orientation, visa and immigration guidance, employment authorization assistance, tax workshops, and practical training sessions, we help international students feel confident, connected, and prepared to succeed both on campus and off.



Top: *Tsipekua: Día de Muertos* installation; at bottom left and right: Diwali, the festival of lights, and Balinese Gamelan

Your Next Steps

Plan a virtual appointment or campus visit.

Find out which program would be a good fit for you.

Review application requirements.

Prepare your audition, portfolio, or writing sample.

Review our financial aid guidance.

Send in your application!



TOP 5
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SoCal

Living

6.

Yes, we added a sixth entry to our Top 5 List. (We're CalArts, and rules are sometimes meant to be broken.) But with more than 280 days of **sunshine** a year, and mountains and beaches close by, there's plenty to do in Southern California when not working on your art.

Accreditation

CalArts is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC).

Credits

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Let's get social!

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YouTube

TikTok

Facebook

Scan here

To learn more
about **CalArts**



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