



Fernando
Pullum
Community
Arts Center

GALA

2026



15
OCTOBER
2026
4 PM PACIFIC

Join the Pullum Center for the 2026 Virtual Gala, featuring Sy Smith, Keith David, and D Smoke performing alongside Pullum Center students.

PullumCenter.Org/2026Gala



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Sponsorship Opportunities



\$50,000 Matching Challenge!

Every dollar contributed by first-time and returning-after-a-lapse sponsors, donors, and ticket purchasers will be matched 1:1, up to \$50,000. Your gift will have twice the impact in supporting free performing arts education for South Los Angeles youth.

Presenting Sponsor (\$25,000)	Fund an entire class for a semester
Artistic Director (\$15,000)	Fund the salary of one of our part-time teachers, who is a local artist or a former student of the Pullum Center
Conductor (\$10,000)	Fund an out-of-state trip for performances or festivals, such as the Vail Jazz Festival, for up to 20 students
Concert Master (\$5,000)	Provide a field trip for 50 students in the summer program
Principal (\$2,500)	Support two students for a full year, including the summer program
Chorus (\$1,500)	Support a student for a full year, including the summer program
Tickets (\$250)	Individual Tickets

To sponsor, please contact Kavya Velagapudi, Development Director, at Kvelagapudi@pullumcenter.org.

SPONSOR OR BUY TICKETS

Note: The timing of the 2026 Gala is dependent on artist availability. Pullum Center may move the gala to a later date to ensure the best musical experience possible.



About the Pullum Center

Since 2011, the Fernando Pullum Community Arts Center ("Pullum Center" or "FPCAC") has provided high-quality, tuition-free performing arts instruction to underserved youth in South Los Angeles. Founded by professional musician and educator Fernando Pullum, the center is a beacon of opportunity, resilience, and artistic excellence.

Our Impact

- 1,400+ students served annually, ages 5–20
- 132 weekly classes during the school year; 130+ in the summer
- Programs offered at our Leimert Park campus and five neighborhood schools
- Performances at venues including the Vail Jazz Festival and the LA Philharmonic



Why Us

In a community facing systemic barriers to arts education and opportunity, the Pullum Center offers:

- Pullum Center has ZERO high-school dropouts. 100% of Pullum Center high school seniors graduate.
- More than 90% of Pullum Center students go on to college or pursue a career in the performing arts.
- Pullum Center provides free dinner and a snack for all students.
- Students have once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Students meet and perform with well-known artists. In the last five years, those artists have included Jackson Browne, Wayne Shorter, Quincy Jones, Yoko Ono, Dr. John, Aloe Blacc, John Mayer, and Kamasi Washington.

Your Support Fuels the Future

Pullum Center's programs are entirely free to students. We rely on the generosity of individuals and partners to:

- Fund 20+ teaching artists and staff
- Provide meals and supplies
- Expand programs into more schools and neighborhoods
- Invest in our students' long-term success

"I started this center to help the kids society had given up on—because I was one of them."
— Fernando Pullum, Founder



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Jackson Browne

Singer / Songwriter / Musician / Rock & Roll Hall of Fame / Gandhi Peace Award

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Actor / Director / Screenwriter / Heroes & Legends Foundation Lifetime Achievement Awardee

Christian McBride

Jazz Bassist / Composer / Arranger / GRAMMY Award Winner

Rickey Minor

Music Director / Producer / EMMY Award Winner / Author

Kirk Whalum

Saxophonist / Recording Artist / GRAMMY Award Winner

Recognition



Recognized by the
California State
Senate for
Community
Leadership



City of Los Angeles
recognized Fernando
Pullum as the
Educator of the Year



The Pullum Center is a member of the Berklee City Music Network®, a network of over 40 community organizations in the United States, Canada, and Latin America that collectively benefit over 46,000 underserved students each year.



A Four-Star Charity Navigator rating is the organization's highest distinction, demonstrating strong financial health, accountability, transparency, and responsible stewardship of donor contributions.



100% of your donation goes towards supporting our programs. Fernando Pullum Community Arts Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, EIN#: 45-2800295.

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