

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Release Date:

December 27, 2023

### **Fernando Pullum Honored with Artist For Action Humanitarian Award**

South Los Angeles, CA - On December 7, 2023, Fernando Pullum was honored with the first *Artist for Action (AFA) Chapin/Kragen/Belafronte Humanitarian Award* in recognition of his advocacy work. Other honorees include Bill Lavin, Founder of Where Angels Play Foundation, and Bill Ayers, Co-Founder of Why Hunger.

Executive Director Fernando Pullum founded the Fernando Pullum Community Arts Center, a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide quality performing arts instruction to underserved youth ages 5 - 19 in South Los Angeles.

The award was presented at a one-of-a-kind docu-concert that tells a story through video and live performances. The concert celebrated the launch of *A Father's Promise*, directed by Rick Korn and produced by Sheryl Crow, the film tells the story of professional musician Mark Barden, whose son Daniel was murdered at Sandy Hook Elementary. The inspiring film follows Barden's journey from co-founding Sandy Hook Promise, a non-profit organization, to rediscovering his passion for music. With several interviews and music by John Lennon, Bruce Springsteen, Van Morrison, Steve Winwood, David Shaw and others, the film shares an inspiring story of a father's promise to end gun violence.

The film led to the formation of *Artist for Action to Prevent Gun Violence*, an artist-led effort to prevent gun violence. The docu-concert, which was held at NYU Skirball, celebrated the release of the film, *A Father's Promise*. The unique event featured Sheryl Crow, Kevin Bacon, Peter Frampton, Bernie Williams, Rozzi, The Dumes, The Alternate Routes, Jen Chapin, and Aztec Two Step 2.0.

The trailer of *A Father's Promise* is available at <https://youtu.be/OYYAM7H6dL0>.

### About Fernando Pullum Community Arts Center:

The Fernando Pullum Community Arts Center is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide quality performing arts instruction to underserved youth and help them build self-esteem, develop civic responsibility, and achieve academic success. The program empowers young people to create a new vision of who they are and what they have become. The Pullum Center is a member of the [Berklee City Music Network®](#) (BCMN), a network of over 40 community organizations in the United States, Canada, and Latin America that collectively benefit over 46,000 students each year. BCMN enables youth from underserved communities to develop musically, academically, socially, and emotionally, primarily through the study of contemporary music. For more information, visit [PullumCenter.org](http://PullumCenter.org).