Gene and Mindy Stein are passionate advocates for the arts.

They support the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and helped to establish the Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program through the Los Angeles Opera Company. Through the California Community Foundation (CCF), they support the Fellowship for Visual Artists and directly impacted the career of emerging local artist Sherin Guirguis.

Now in its 26th year, the California Community Foundation Fellowship for Visual Artists supports local emerging and mid-career artists in advancing to the next level of their professional development and ensuring a long-term, sustainable career in the arts in Los Angeles. The fellowship brings together artists, art patrons and the community, creating a mutually beneficial program that has supported more than 215 artists to date.

While the 2012 Fellowship allowed Guirguis to afford more studio time, raise her visibility, produce more sculpture and receive a new commission from the University of Southern California, it is the connection with the Steins that Guirguis treasures.

“The CCF Fellowship is an historic grant, and I was proud to win it. But more important to me was the fact that I got to meet the people who were supportive of my work. To be able to have a relationship with your patrons is what sets the CCF Fellowship apart from all other grants,” said Sherin Guirguis.

The Steins and Guirguis spent time getting to know one another and stay in touch. “It is gratifying to see a young artist make strides in her profession, because it is so challenging. To help raise Sherin’s visibility and to watch her move forward has been most rewarding,” shared Gene Stein.

Mindy is equally enthusiastic about her role, adding, “I encourage others to become patrons and get to know the artist they are supporting. With this opportunity, one gets to learn about their artistic journey.”
Giving Art and Strengthening the Art Community

By Don Gottesman, JD, LLM

If you wish to make a gift of art – whether an entire collection or a single work – you could face many tax and practical issues. From a tax perspective, the amount of your deduction would depend upon the answers to several key questions shown in the box below. In addition, you might explore other practical questions, also listed below, to help guide your decision.

Key Tax Questions
• Did you create the art?
• Are you an art dealer?
• Have you held the art for more than one year?
• Are you giving only a percentage of the work to charity?
• When would you like to make the gift – during your lifetime or as part of your estate?
• Are you giving to a private foundation or a public charity?
• Will the charity use the art in a way related to its mission?
• Does the charity intend to sell the art within three years?
• What is the value of the art?

Practical Questions
• Should you enter into a gift agreement, clearly stating goals and expectations, particularly in the event the charity faces economic hardship?
• Should you write a “statement of intent” about how you would like the art stewarded?
• If you are donating a collection, does the charity have experts who can care for it?
• Should you make an additional gift to manage the art or collection?
• Should you include other family members in conversations about whether to donate the gift?
• Will the charity consider signing a certified statement defining how it intends to use the art?

As you can see, the issues surrounding making gifts of art can be complex. By contrast, those who love art can take a simpler path, become eligible for deductions made to a public charity and ensure that there will be art for us all to enjoy. Gifts of property to the California Community Foundation’s Fellowship for Visual Artists are an easy way to both maximize tax benefits and make the lives of artists working in Los Angeles more stable and secure by:

• Allowing an artist to pay for materials or workspace
• Providing essential career skills such as:
  • Financial literacy
  • Marketing and Business planning
• Accounting and legal issues
• Assisting an artist to become independent and self-sustaining

While many value art in Los Angeles, only two percent of arts funding actually goes directly to artists. As 2011 Arts Fellow Alexandra Grant said, “What I didn’t anticipate was how the idea of receiving a gift was going to impact my career and my thinking.” More information about the Fellowship program, the rigorous selection process and the selected fellows can be found at my.calfund.org/artist-gallery

If you are interested in ensuring that Angelinos continue to have art to enjoy, sponsorships are available at the $15,000 and $20,000 levels, and a gift of $300,000 can create a permanent fellowship. Gifts of any amount can support the Fellowship program, and 100% of your contribution will go directly to support an artist. For any questions about gifts of art, charitable support of the arts or for additional information about the Fellowship program, please contact Don Gottesman at 213.452.6265 or dgottesman@calfund.org.

Legacy Spotlight: George Manet

George Manet likes to give credit to a then-unknown actress/comedienne named Carol Burnett for giving him the idea of establishing a grant for artists.

“That was really the impetus,” Manet recalled. “When I was at UCLA in the early 1950s, I knew Carol and her then-husband Don Saroyan. He played the guitar.”

As the now-famous story goes, after one of their performances, Carol was approached by a man who praised her work and asked about her future plans. When she said she wanted to try her luck in New York but couldn’t afford it, the man offered her and Saroyan $1,000 each on the conditions they never tell who gave them the money, and that, if they were successful, they would help someone else.

“So, they went to New York and got a show together. They invited agents, who came to see them, and that’s where it all started.”

George hopes to be able to provide that same type of opportunity to tomorrow’s great artists. Working with the California Community Foundation, he has designated part of his estate to open a field of interest fund called the Edie and George Manet Fund. The fund is designed to support artists in Los Angeles County by providing fellowships that give grants for education and/or relocation expenses to develop and advance their careers.

The fund also honors George’s late wife, Edie, and her love for education and/or relocation expenses to develop and expose underserved communities to the transformative experience of live theater performances.

“I hope the experience will expand some people’s minds,” Manet explained. “One of the problems that we have today is that we have a lot of empty calories in our entertainment. I think that you can learn something and be informed while being entertained.”

George is a member of CCF’s Centennial Legacy Campaign, which celebrates individuals who will leave a gift for Los Angeles area causes or nonprofits as part of their legacy plans. To learn more, please visit www.MyLAlegacy.org.

By the Numbers: Fellowship for Visual Artists

- 26 years of arts support.
- 215 fellowships awarded.
- $2.1 million in total grants.
- 100% of donations go directly to artists.

Sponsor the Fellowship for Visual Artists: Support Great Artists in Los Angeles.

Emerging Artist Supporter
$15,000 Full Sponsorship of an Emerging Artist
• Private Tour of Fellowship Recipient Studio
• Select Emerging Artist to Sponsor from Top Candidates

Mid-Career Artist Supporter
$20,000 Full Sponsorship of a Mid-Career Artist
• Private Tour of Fellowship Recipient Studio
• Select Mid-Career Artist to Sponsor from Top Candidates

Legacy Benefactor
$300,000 Create a Permanent Fellowship with an annual disbursement to support a Fellowship
• Private Tour of Fellowship Recipient Studio
• Select Mid-Career Artist to Sponsor from Top Candidates

This information is general and educational in nature. It is not intended to be, and should not be construed as, legal or tax advice. California Community Foundation (CCF) does not provide legal or tax advice. Your personal circumstances may alter the general information provided above, resulting in a different outcome for you. Consequently, you should consult your tax advisor to properly determine the implications of any gifts of art on you.
Endow the future of Los Angeles County through the Centennial Legacy Campaign.

Celebrate the first 100 years of L.A. philanthropy.
Create the next 100.
Join the Centennial Legacy Society.

Visit MyLALegacy.org or call 213.413.4130.