

# PHOENIX CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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## **Ninth Annual Mayor's Arts Awards Winners**

**PHOENIX, AZ – (November 22, 2021)** Presented in partnership with City of Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego, Phoenix Center for the Arts is excited to announce the **Ninth Annual Mayor's Arts Awards Winners**.

Nominated by members of the community, award winners were selected by a panel of judges composed of arts and culture professionals, artists, and advocates. Winners were chosen based on the criteria of innovation, impact, and collaboration. The artists who were recognized as arts leaders in our community at this year's Mayor's Arts Awards include:

### **Lou & Evelyn Grubb Community Innovator Award Winner:**

Danielle Foushee

### **Jerry Lawson memorial Performing Artist Award Winner:**

Jorge Edson (House) Magana

### **Dr. Eugene Grisby Visual Artist Award Winner:**

Lucretia Torva

### **Young Artist Award Winner:**

Shaeleigh O'Brien

This community favorite event returned last Thursday, November 18 to Margaret T. Hance Park. The annual fundraiser for Phoenix Center for the Arts included live art by members of Cahokia Socialtech + Artspace, and multiple performances by past Mayor's Arts Awards winners, opening with Scotty Spenner & True Flavor Blues Band, and an ethereal dance performance choreographed by Liliana Gomez and Nicole Olson.

Visit [phoenixcenterforthearts.org/maa](http://phoenixcenterforthearts.org/maa) for a full list of Mayor's Arts Awards finalists.

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### ***About Phoenix Center for the Arts and Central Arts Alliance***

Phoenix Center for the Arts is a Central Arts Alliance facility located adjacent to Hance Park, at 1202 N Third Street in Downtown Phoenix. Central Arts Alliance is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, providing arts and culture opportunities for all through education, programming, and advocacy. Phoenix Center for the Arts is proud to be a facility of and supported by the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department. Phoenix Center for the Arts is supported in part by an award from the Arizona Commission on the Arts, an agency of the State of Arizona. Partial funding provided by the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture through appropriations from the Phoenix City Council.

Info: [phoenixcenterforthearts.org](http://phoenixcenterforthearts.org)

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### ***Winner Biographies:***

**Danielle Foushée** is writer, designer, public artist, and professor at Arizona State University. She works towards social and political change through hyper-local practices that prioritize people's wellbeing over profits. Her philosophy of Radical Public Service emerges through transdisciplinary collaboration with and within local communities. She is obsessed with the artistry of landscapes — any landscape. She's especially interested in human-generated mark-making in the environment: buildings, roads, tunnels, and signs... petroglyphs, graffiti, and initials carved in aspen bark... forests burned, rows of corn, and victory gardens. Babydolls tied to fences. Gnomes on front porches. Stamps in concrete, and words on paper.

Ms. Foushée founded and directs Phoenix Mural Project [PMP], which studies, documents, generates, and amplifies local artists' histories and grassroots visual expressions in the city. She created a publicly-accessible Google map featuring an archive of over 700 images ([PhoenixMurals.com](http://PhoenixMurals.com)). Produced by PMP, the inaugural Phoenix Mural Festival was embraced by the community in 2018. In partnership with local residents, community groups, and businesses, the second Festival in 2021 hosted more than 80 Arizona artists who mirrored the city's diverse population. They painted more than 60 new murals and revitalized the previously underappreciated outdoor public space along Phoenix's Grand Canal in Midtown.

As a teacher, Professor Foushée encourages students to use their creative skills to prioritize making artifacts that cultivate community connection over profit-driven commodities that exacerbate social inequities. Her own creative practice uses public art to evoke optimism and delight in passers-by, as well as deepen their sense of pride in the places they call home. Her work has been exhibited and/or installed in Seattle, Bellevue, Portland, Vancouver, Reno, and Tempe, among others. For more information please visit [DanielleFoushee.com](http://DanielleFoushee.com).

**Edson “Bboy House” Magana** is a Mexico City-born street artist representing the Boys and Writers (graffiti). He is a practitioner, student, and educator/lecturer of Hip Hop culture and its communities. Now residing in Arizona, Bboy House is on a mission to leave the universe better than he found it. He has traveled globally planting seeds of awareness to develop programs, events, and longevity for youth. He is co-founder of Furious Styles Crew, an organization that creates collaborations and networks of socially engaged work.

Due to his strong roots in Hip Hop culture, dance, and foundations, Bboy House has had the privilege of competing, judging, and hosting numerous dance battles around the world.

Presently he holds the position as Clinical Assistant Professor at Arizona State University.

Leading the Hip Hop program while creating space and collaborations within the university, while bridging the community. Co founder of the [www.LoveFightsBacks.info](http://www.LoveFightsBacks.info) art initiative launched during the pandemic and BLM movement he can be seen as an activist in his communities.

**Shaeleigh O'Brien** is a Junior at Pinnacle High School, loves being a part of the PHS Spirit Line (Varsity Pom), was recently inducted into the National Honors Society, is a PHS Mentor and a member of the PHS Crazies, which gives support to the various teams at Pinnacle. She trained with the Bolshoi Ballet in CT, various summer dance programs & dance studios, including with her mother, here in the valley, is an equestrian having the honor of placing 5th in the United States through the United States Eventing Association (USEA), demonstrates and choreographs for young adults with different abilities in dance, and sometimes for Pinnacle Pom and their halftime dances, and works hard at maintaining good grades. Her future interests lie in either an Athletic Trainer or Sports Medicine, continuing her dancing in some non-competitive way and still riding her horses, A Beautiful Promise and Winner's Comet.

**Lucretia Torva** grew up in Europe and traveled extensively with her family, a perfect beginning for an artist. She received her BFA and MFA from the U. of Illinois in the early 80's. Ms. Torva has taught college level art courses at Shepherd University in West Virginia, Yavapai College in Prescott, AZ and University of Advancing Technology in Tempe, AZ. She also worked for a couple years at Phoenix Art Group, an art production company where many local artists have worked and gained experience.

In 2000, Ms Torva decided to become a self-employed artist, building her business based on decorative painting and faux finishing, predominately working with interior designers.

The 2008 recession changed life for many people including Ms. Torva, offering an opportunity for reevaluation. Since then she has focused more on her fine art painting, using her art talent for her realistic paintings and murals. Ms. Torva also became more involved with the Phoenix art scene.

For Ms Torva, making art is not quite enough. She wants to be involved in the world at large. She has a strong desire to support marginalized groups, especially women. She facilitated

courses for the World Academy for the Future of Women in China and Nepal. Ms. Torva was able to arrange for painting a mural at the host institution in Nepal, Orchid International College.

Murals are an important vehicle for her to reach more people through art, whether sponsored by corporations such as NASCAR and Anheuser-Busch (who took her suggestion of Chef Silvana for their local hero series), non-profit organizations such as the FQStory neighborhood and the Phoenix Trolley Museum or private residences and small businesses.

Phoenix Sister Cities is a natural choice for Ms Torva's attention. She is Vice-Chair of the Grenoble Committee and currently arranging a version of a mural exchange. She and a local artist in Grenoble will each be painting a mural to honor the 30th Anniversary of the Sister City relationship.

Ms Torva has a strong desire to get more high quality art in front of more people. She has been the co-curator for the Scottsdale Dia De Los Muertos event since 2018 and she is the curator/scheduler for the Street Art stage at the Arizona State Fair.

Ms Torva's art has become more directly evocative of social justice issues in the last few years. She created a series of portraits of activist women from all parts of the globe, called the Compass Collection. The portraits were on display for several months at the Foundre Hotel in the show Portraits and Icons. She also jumped at the opportunity to paint murals for the Black History Month mural project earlier this year and was able to raise money in order to paint one of the largest for the project in a style similar to her portraits on canvas. She has since become the Art Director for the next version of the Black History Month Mural project, which will be taking place in several cities across the country.

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Media: Please call or email for additional images, captions, bios, interview requests and more.

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