The Mandeville Art Gallery enjoys a singular legacy as a highly experimental, non-collecting venue for transformative contemporary art at UC San Diego. Over its nearly 60-year history, the gallery operated much like a groundbreaking and ambitious artist-run space, one that has been in deep dialogue with the School of Arts and Humanities’ curricular mission as implemented by the Department of Visual Arts.

The Mandeville Art Gallery serves as a "teaching gallery" and laboratory, promoting technologically innovative, democratic, accessible, equitable and socially engaged means of artistic production and presentation. The gallery hosts thematic group exhibitions and welcomes prominent invited artists who develop new projects in collaboration with the UC San Diego community. UC San Diego serves a vital societal function as our faculty and students generate new knowledge, create pathways for advancement, and imagine the circumstances for a better future. As a teaching gallery anchored in the intellectually daring and culturally vibrant context of the University of California system, the Mandeville Art Gallery positions art as a means for social impact while training the next generation of arts leadership.

WHERE LEGACY MEETS EXPERIMENTATION

UC San Diego’s space for fostering rising generations of artists and curators

INFORMED BY THE PAST, PREPARED FOR THE FUTURE

The Mandeville Art Gallery’s exhibits and activities offer students a comprehensive understanding of arts professions and opportunities elevated by the history of artistic innovation. Through the gallery’s professional development and enrichment opportunities, students gain valuable firsthand insight into museum and curatorial practice, spanning topics such as exhibition production, artist management, public engagement and arts administration.

Sustaining the Tradition of Innovation

The Mandeville Art Gallery emerges from an important historical tradition rooted in the mid-1960s culture of its founding. As art institutions in the wider world have generally become more risk-averse, it is important to sustain a space that welcomes experimental work engaging with current issues and priorities. The gallery is a site where scholarly endeavors in the production, critique and analysis of contemporary art intersect with forms of intellectual inquiry and creative production across the humanities, science and technology.

A Space for Next-generation Art and Artists

The newly renovated Mandeville Art Gallery creates a landmark destination for contemporary art that sparks creativity, innovation and collaborative research. Reopened in March 2023, the revitalized space includes a state-of-the-art 2,360-square-foot gallery; an inviting, flexible outdoor plaza; enhanced gathering spaces; a dedicated black-box video room; and a wrap-around, exterior LED media mesh façade optimized for the display of digital artwork. Recognizing its design excellence, good place-making and sustainability, the renovated Mandeville Art Gallery received an Orchid Award from the San Diego Architectural Foundation and a Design Award from the American Institute of Architects (AIA) San Diego.

As a teaching gallery embedded in the curriculum of undergraduate and graduate Visual Arts students, as well as a planned new master’s program in Museum and Curatorial Studies, the Mandeville Art Gallery directly involves students in the ideas and tactics of contemporary artists as they intersect with discovery of a top-tier research university. Shows take up topics of acute relevance to visual arts students and the wider campus community, considering a range of questions from the social implications of powerful scientific and technological research to identity and equity.
In the School of Arts and Humanities at UC San Diego, we take pride in helping our students develop transferable skills designed to meet rapidly changing professional environments. The Mandeville Art Gallery Support Fund empowers the school to nurture hands-on learning.

The Mandeville Art Gallery is distinct for its leadership in providing student experiential education. The gallery’s Undergraduate Professional Development Program offers undergraduate students hands-on learning, peer mentorship and exceptional preparation for careers in art institutions through paid part-time employment opportunities.

While students often gain working experience through a combination of campus arts venues, the structure of the Mandeville Art Gallery serves as a forum for applying the lessons from various experiences into a coherent understanding of arts professions and opportunities.

With your support, the Mandeville Art Gallery will continue to offer opportunities for students to advance their careers in the arts. The Mandeville Art Gallery funding allows emerging arts professionals to pursue excellence through gaining firsthand insight into museum and curatorial practice, exhibition production, artist management, public engagement, and arts administration.

Please visit giving.ucsd.edu/mandeville to support the next generation of artists, arts scholars and artistic experiences.

UC San Diego

For more information about philanthropic opportunities within the Mandeville Art Gallery, please contact:

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