

STAGEBRIDGE

UNITING THE GENERATIONS SINCE 1978

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Stagebridge honored with two Luminary Awards from the Masonic Homes of California

OAKLAND, CA (July 30, 2019) —

Stagebridge has been honored with the Masonic Homes of California's **John A. Charland Innovation Luminary Award** for using creativity in helping older adults battle memory loss. The awards were presented at the 3rd Annual Luminary Caregivers Awards Gala Dinner on Saturday, July 27 at the Masonic Home in Union City.

"We're so grateful that (Masonic Homes) recognizes the importance of art in sustaining and enriching the lives of older adults," says Stagebridge Executive Director Shannon McDonnell, "and I'm proud to be part of an organization that is helping people lead happy and creative lives in all stages of aging and health."

Additionally, Stagebridge's Director of the Performing Arts Institute and Seniors Reaching Out program Lily Nguyen was chosen for the **Millennial Luminary Award** for her work as a young person dedicated to serving the aging community.

"I feel deep gratitude for the Masonic Homes of California's initiative to recognize individuals and organizations dedicated to serving the aging community," she says, adding that Stagebridge plays a major part in her commitment "to empower and engage older adults through the performing arts regardless of their age, abilities, orientation, or culture."

She feels that Stagebridge's teaching artists are "the true heroes" when it comes to providing a safe, non-judgmental, artistic space for students to thrive, mentally and creatively. "I am so proud to contribute to Stagebridge's legacy," she says, "and I look forward to seeing what more we'll do to expand our Stagebridge community."

*Founded in 1978, the company's mission is to transform the lives of older adults and their communities through the performing arts. Stagebridge offers professionally-taught classes for seniors in its **Performing Arts Institute**, as well as storytelling programs in Bay Area public schools in its **Storybridge** program, sharing the rich and varied experiences of older adults to help local students increase literacy and confidence. And through **Seniors Reaching Out** events, the company brings high-quality entertainment and hands-on creativity to community venues serving active and frail elders and multigenerational audiences.*

Stagebridge is the winner of the 2013 MetLife Creative Aging Award and the 2009 American Society on Aging MetLife MindAlert Award. The company's work has been featured on ABC-TV, CNN, National Public Radio, in The Huffington Post, the Washington Post, Modern Maturity, Oakland Magazine, Storytelling Magazine, California Health Report, Kiplinger's, The Orlando Sentinel, The Mercury News, Nikkei BP Online, The Wall Street Journal, Vision Hispana, and at national and regional conferences.

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