The College of the Arts’ (COTA) School of Art is the nation’s largest public, university-based art department and the first in the western United States to receive accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Art and Design. COTA is one of the first to offer a museum studies program on the west coast, and the first in the CSU system to offer the MFA degree.

The Department of Theatre Arts in collaboration with CSULB’s College of Business Administration offers one of the nation’s few MFA/MBA degree programs in Theatre Management.

CSULB’s Design Department students win regional, national and international competitions annually. Additionally, students form valuable industry connections through the faculty-organized internships that offer multiple opportunities for student travel.

The CSULB Dance Department has some of the best dance facilities in the western United States, with seven spacious dance studios, a dedicated media and computer lab, a fully outfitted conditioning room, a student lounge and a 230-seat theater designed specifically for dance.

The Bob Cole Conservatory of Music, the first music conservatory in the CSU system, features 23 ensembles that perform nationally and internationally. Student groups regularly win and place in national competitions, including the Internationaler Chorwettbewerb in Austria and the 2016 Choir of the World Competition.

College of the Arts alumni working in the film industry include Steven Spielberg, Wendi McLendon-Covey (Bridesmaids, The goldbergs), Steven Martin (Parenthood, Father of Bride), Mark Steven Johnson (Daredevil, Ghost Rider, Grumpy Old Men), Oscar-winning sound editor Karen Baker Landers (Bourne Ultimatum, Skyfall) and screenwriter Linda Woolverton (Tim Burton’s Alice in Wonderland, The Lion King, Beauty and the Beast).

School of Art faculty and alumni are recognized throughout the world as leaders and innovators. CSULB Ceramics Professor Tony Marsh was chosen as a 2018 United States Artists Fellow. The fellowship comes with an unrestricted $50,000 grant.

The Carpenter Center brings over 100,000 patrons and guests to CSULB annually with its eclectic roster of featured artists. The “B-Word Project,” an 18-month project about censorship and the arts, garnered national recognition and prestigious grants from the Association of Performing Arts Presenters and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

CSULB’s University Art Museum’s exhibit Perpetual Motion: Michael Goldberg was recognized for “Best Show in a University Gallery” by the American chapter of the International Association of Art Critics (AICA) at its annual AICA Awards.

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