



# NEWS *from* CAA

**We are Different.**  
**We are Able.**

## Mission

CAA provides an equitable collegiate experience to adults with special needs who historically have not had access to college education.

## Vision

Empowering the student body to creatively transform the way the world views individuals with disabilities. CAA creates successful contributing citizens through the arts.

## Motto

Showcase Ability!

## Founders

Pamela Lindsay, Dean  
DeAnna Pursai, Exec. Dir.

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*3D Art: Tactile and Textural Study*

## Highlights From College

*DeAnna Pursai—Co-Founder and Executive Director*

The first half of 2018 has brought more growth, opportunity, and a broadened network of community support for College of Adaptive Arts. We hit our 100<sup>th</sup> student enrollment benchmark in the Fall quarter 2017, and student enrollment continues to grow. CAA professors and staff are challenged to replicate popular classes, and to strategically offer more classes in our limited space—precious space that has allowed CAA to incubate and thrive, thanks to the support and visionary leadership of Case Swenson and Swenson Development.

February brought a very powerful second annual School of Communications *Voices* showcase where students demonstrated their uplifting and catalyzing stories at the Corinthian Ballroom.

March was welcomed with a wonderful charity benefit workout by lifeSport fitness under the helm of the philanthropic and community business leader Becky Williamson, raising almost \$1700 in one hour and exposing CAA to a new potential network of supporters. The month ended on a high note with an incredible 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Staff Showcase at the Historic Hoover Theatre, where the audience was dazzled by the artistic talents of the CAA Superstaff.

April brought more great energy as the

CAA Golf Team kicked off its seventh season of practice, gearing up for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic happening this coming September 20<sup>th</sup> at the Santa Teresa Golf Club. The CAA School of TV/Film students were nominated as finalists for Best Television Series at the CreaTV Creative Awards with their unique and engaging series entitled *Get Fit with Latizmo*.

May's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Giving Luncheon was by far the best yet. Thanks to the generosity and leadership of Marc and David Buhagiar of Scott's Seafood, more than 110 attendees heard powerful testimonial of School Underwriter investors, corporate sponsors, community partners, board members, professors, and students. The community heard CAA's vision to become financially sustainable by getting to a \$2 million operational budget in the next three years and by forging a collaborative partnership with an existing institution of higher education. Mindfully sharing space will allow this model to scale and grow, having the same nationwide impact on education as Special Olympics has had on athletics.



*The award-nominated CAA-TV crew at CreaTV San Jose's Creatives Awards Ceremony*

CAA continues to grow thanks to you, and the landscape of opportunity is expanding for adults with special needs to become successful contributing citizens. Thank you for doing your part in "Moving the Mountain" for these most deserving citizens of our society.

# It's Time to Grow

Joe Siecinski—Board Member

I've had the honor and privilege of working with the College of Adaptive Arts for many years. As a business consultant, coach and mentor, I know this organization is laying the foundation strategically and tactically to scale and replicate nationwide—no, *worldwide*.

I have seen CAA grow from a small venture at Randol school to a thriving college serving an ever-expanding student body, currently over 100 adult learners, and nine schools. We have grown 1000% since our inception. As a board member I witness and ensure CAA is very mindful of each penny to make sure that it is used wisely. We are innovative and responsive to our students' needs and wants.

I have seen lots of nonprofits and for-profits in my years of business consulting, and I can confirm that this is the real deal.

### Our vision:

- to get to the operating budget of \$2 million in the next three years
- to replicate this model nationwide

We need your help in finding a college campus on which to co-locate. If you know someone that can help, let us know. If you don't, your donations are greatly appreciated.

# Be a Part of History in the Making

In the spirit of Silicon Valley innovation, CAA has operated as a scrappy startup since 2009—and we've proven that this model is effective and impactful for students, families, and the broader community.

**It's now time to solidify our financial viability and to make CAA competitive, sustainable, and replicable.**

The vision of the College of Adaptive Arts is to go national, having the same impact on education as Special Olympics has had on athletics. In order to extend our reach, we need your help.

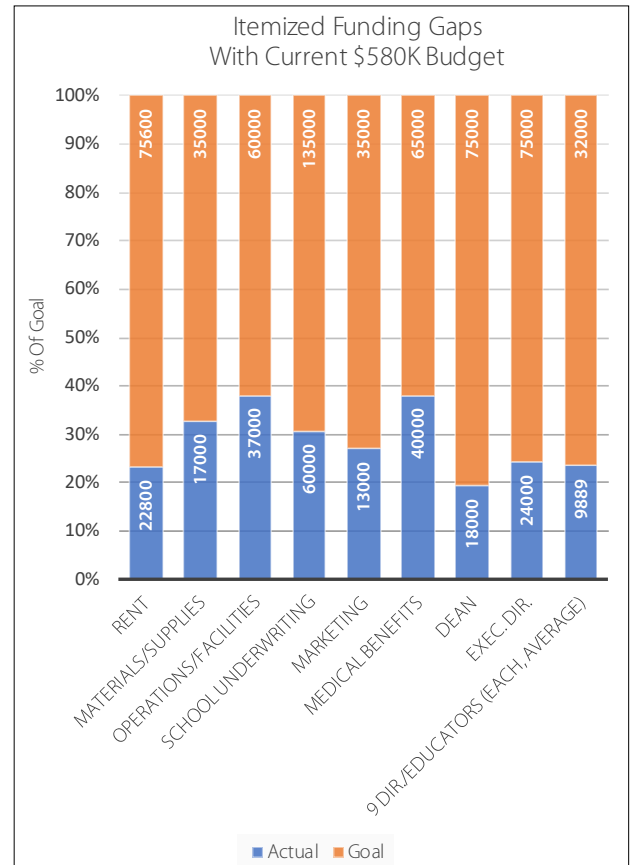
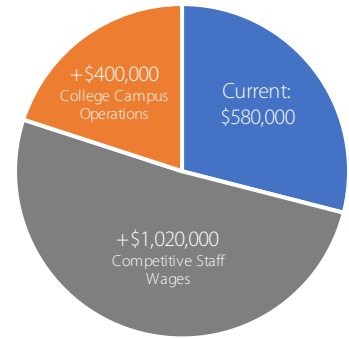
How you can get involved:

- Take a tour of our school
- Come to events and ask questions
- Share our message on social media
- Donate your time, treasure, and talent
- Get to know a student
- Ask about commissioned art
- Introduce CAA to your networks, to help build ours

We are 25% of the way to 100% operational effectiveness and need your support to advance our movement.

Be a part of history in the making.

ANNUAL BUDGET:  
EXISTING TO SUSTAINABLE  
\$580K to \$2 million



Latizmo community performance



Working on voiceovers

# Nathalie: A CAA Success Story

*Teresa Montes De Oca—Parent*

In the spring of 2012, Nathalie was attending the post senior program through the East Side Unified High School District. Here, she had experienced bullying and ridicule by fellow classmates. The mean comments by her peers were starting to take a toll on her self-esteem. This would all start to change in the summer of 2012 when she first enrolled at CAA.

On her first day of school, Nathalie was very nervous as she didn't know what to expect or how she would fit in. I assured her that everything would be okay, and that she would be treated like a princess. Needless to say, when DeAnna greeted Nathalie for the first time at Randol School, she introduced herself as "Princess Nathalie." From that day on, Nathalie decided she no longer needed to partake in the post senior program, as she was now a college student.

Once the post-senior program ended, Nathalie dedicated her days to attending CAA full time, and she has never been happier.

Nathalie has grown and blossomed into a confident young woman ever since she started taking classes at CAA. Long gone are the

scars left from her bullying experience, and every day she eagerly awaits going to school. If it were up to her, she would take all the classes CAA has to offer. If you ask her what her favorite class is she will answer differently



every time. This is not a result of her not knowing what to pick, but rather because every class she takes is her favorite.

In CAA, she has found a community of people who lift her spirits every day and help her to become a strong and independent woman. Nathalie has triumphed in the face of adversity, and that is largely due to the sense of empowerment she gets from her family at the college.

As she continues in life, Nathalie knows she will always have a place where she is loved and accepted for who she is—at CAA.

*Nathalie has blossomed at CAA*

# Superstaff Spotlight: Matt Lindsay

If you happen to have seen our award-nominated program *CAA-TV!* on television or caught our students in action behind the camera filming music videos on campus, you have witnessed the handiwork of CAA's amazing School of TV/Film Director Matthew Lindsay!

After several quarters without a director for this school of study, we were thrilled when Matt stepped up with enthusiasm to power the area with rocket fuel. He also works as professor for many classes in CAA's other eight schools of study.

Matt received his bachelor's degree in Animation and Visual Effects from SAE Institute in 2017 with much experience already behind him in nonprofit arts programs for special needs youth and adults. His professional experience within and beyond Hollywood already features credits on the Internet Movie Database (IMDb) for acting work on the web series *Hench*, technical work on the film *Eleven*, contributions to the film based on *The Last of Us* video game titled *Trust*, and a recent 2018 Creative Awards *Best Creative Television Series* nomination for him and his students for their show *CAA-TV: Get Fit With Latizmo!* However, he is perhaps most

beloved for his sense of humor, professional qualities, caring approach to instruction, generosity of spirit, and willingness to go the extra mile. If you ask him what he likes best about CAA, he will tell you he loves coming through the door every day to work with his

awesome students and fellow members of our Superstaff. Thank you, Matt, for all of your hard work and daily contributions toward changing perceptions and creating equitable collegiate education opportunities for all adults!



*Professor Matt Lindsay (center) brings a wealth of experience to CAA*



## College of Adaptive Arts

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## Together We Are Moving Mountains

### 2017-2018 School Underwriters

**Health & Wellness:** Cisco Systems

**Theatre:** Principe O'Farrell Family

**TV/Film:** Private Family Foundation

**Education Library:** Pursai Family Fund

**Open:** School of Science & Technology

**Open:** School of Music

**Open:** School of Dance

**Open:** School of Communications

**Open:** School of Art

### 2018 Corporate Donors

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\*Action Coach of Santa Clara

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\*Silicon Valley Creates

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\*Maira Brown

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\*Tony Buttigieg

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\*Steve & Danita Carlson

\*Gordon & CeCe Carlson

\*Robert Chapman

\*Charlene Chavez

Jaime Chavez

Guangjing Chen

Leann Cherkasky Makhni

\*Suchita & Alakesh Chetia

\*Kansen & Daisy Chu

\*Michael Clow

\*James Cochrane

\*Annette Coleman

\*Toni & Gary Cook

\*Jim & Janice Correa

Maureena Craig

Trami Cron

\*Jim & Hildye Cross

Kimiko Curtis

\*Jennifer Cutie

Elise Cutini

\*Sharon Dahnert

\*Minh Dao

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\*Heda & Kathryn Yamada

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### Community Partners

Amigos de las Americas

Autism Society SF Bay Area

Buddies in Action

Children of Casa di Mir Montessori

Chandler Tripp Preschool

Christmas in the Park

City Lights Theatre Co.

Community Health Partnership

CreatV

Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral

Sciences, Stanford University

Grace Art & Wellness Program

Hester Cluster SCCOE Program

Historic Hoover Theatre

Hope Services

Momentum Employment Services &

Momentum for Mental Health