

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-LA CROSSE SCHOOL OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS

creative
imperatives

A D A P T A T I O N

T R A N S F O R M A T I O N
R E S I L I E N C E
A N D
I M P A C T

MONDAY FEBRUARY 28 & TUESDAY MARCH 1, 2022

WITH FEATURED GUESTS

STEVEN BRYANT
LESLIE IWAI
THEATER MU

UW
UW-LA CROSSE

WELCOME

From the Festival Director, Joseph Anderson



"Adaptability is not imitation. It means the power of resistance and assimilation." – Mahatma Gandhi

"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain." – Vivien Greene

"The measure of intelligence is the ability to change." – Albert Einstein

Well...the world has had quite a go of it since we last saw each other! Welcome back to Creative Imperatives 2022! We've missed being able to bring you the festival but are deeply appreciative that we're here this year! This year's theme, Adaptation: Transformation, Resilience and Impact, really does have a special significance to the world today, but for the Arts, it has been a way of life forever. Our inclusive festival will feature the return of many contributors in Art, Music, and Theatre Arts, plus welcome events brought to us by colleagues in English, the School of Education, and Communication Studies. We are also delighted to welcome an exciting series of guests: artist and sculptor, Leslie Iwai, internationally prolific composer Steven Bryant and four artists from one of the largest Asian American theatre companies, Theatre Mu: Morgan Chang, Clay Man Soo, Wesley Mouri and Hope Nordquist. A preview event kicks off the festivities on Sunday February 27—a concert by the UWL Wind Ensemble featuring the music of Steven Bryant. Then join us for this year's series of presentations, discussions, workshops, and performances, on Monday February 28 and Tuesday March 1. Let us show you how resilient and impactful we are, particularly after the challenges we've recently and continue to face as a society. This year's festival promises to transform you!

THANKS

The Creative Imperatives Steering Committee extends a special thank you to the faculty, staff, and students of the departments of Art, Music, and Theatre Arts.

We would also like to especially thank the following individuals:

Dr. Karl Kunkel	Sharon Shugrue
Dr. Betsy Morgan	Krista Shulka
Deborah-Eve Lombard	Jacob Speer
Brant Mayer	Terry Wirkus
Janelle Nelson	Bobbi Webster

Creative Imperatives events are free and open to the public.

The Creative Imperatives festival is possible through the generous support of the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse.



To request disability accommodations, contact the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities Office at:

608.785.8113
138 Wimberly Hall
casshdeansoffice@uwlax.edu

WELCOME

From the Dean of the College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities,
Karl Kunkel

I personally want to welcome all participants and audience members to the 2022 Creative Imperatives event on the University of Wisconsin- La Crosse campus. This annual festival celebrates the arts by providing various performances, workshops, exhibits, open studios, and presentations reflecting excellence at UWL in visual and performing arts. We strive to use the arts as representation of human expression and an impactful means of communication, transmitting meaning, and producing culture.

The theme for the 2022 festival is Adaptation, Transformation, Resilience, and Impact, providing glimpses, impressions, and expressions of conditions and experiences where people must alter their life course due to various situations. Festival activities are designed to be insightful, emotional, educational, and thought-provoking.

Thank you for attending Creative Imperatives. The College of Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities, which includes the School of Visual and Performing Arts, takes tremendous pride when showcasing the quality of our artistic expression, performance, and communication, and this annual thematic festival is just one example of what we regularly do for the local and regional community through our School of Visual and Performing Arts.



THE TEAM

Festival Director

Joe Anderson, Theatre Arts

Festival Coordinator

Laurie Kincman, Theatre Arts

Steering Committee

Joe Anderson, Theatre Arts
Justin Davis, Music
Kate Hawkes, Art
Laurie Kincman, Theatre Arts
Sierra Rooney, Art

Student Coordinators

Cassie Davis
Lauren Dochnahl
Tracie Hodgdon
Ashley Nordby
Linnea Ryan

Graphic Design

Kate Hawkes
Laurie Kincman

Original CI Logo Design

Susan Schuyler

For more information about the Creative Imperatives festival, event information and updates, extended guest bios, and more follow us and visit:



www.uwlax.edu/creative-imperatives



UW-La Crosse Creative Imperatives



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[#UWLcreativeimperatives](https://www.instagram.com/uwlcreativeimperatives)

ALL DAY EVENTS

Art - Exhibition:

Winter's Spring: An Ältere Garten

Location: UWL Art Gallery, Center for the Arts

Festival Guest Leslie Iwai

Middleton, Wisconsin artist Leslie Iwai explores the connection between elders and children with vibrant colors, materials, and sculptural creations, which unfold a joyful metaphoric garden. While kindergarten recalls stories and images of burgeoning children, blossoming gardens and childhood adventures, the Ältere Garten contemplates the re-emergence of innocence and childhood wonder that comes in the later decades of life.

From 20' tulips to a cluster of rabbits, Iwai creates an exciting and reflective exhibition to be enjoyed by children of all ages and the young at heart. During Creative Imperatives 2022, Iwai will be creating a new installation for Winter's Spring with assistance from UWL students, faculty, and staff. Additional drawings and sculptural works enhance the exhibition showing her long-standing fascination with the intimate and her tender, caretaking perspective.

Creative Imperatives Gallery

Location: Third Floor Gallery, Center for the Arts

Moving painting from an easel or wall into three-dimensional space creates a transformative, interactive experience for the viewer. Experience this impactful installation featuring color and light. To explore the process of creating these works, be sure to put the open studio in Painting on your schedule. It takes place on Monday at 4:45 pm in Room 204 in the Center for the Arts



Creative Imperatives Installations

Location: Lobby, Center for the Arts

Transforming 2D Concepts into a 3D World

Mandy Kolbe

Three-dimensional printing has changed the way we think about creating and making ideas come to life. In theatre we often design environments and objects in them you cannot purchase from a local or online store. With a tool such as a 3D rendering software that can then translate to a 3D printer, we can make these theoretical spaces and ideas a reality. A working 3D printer will be on display creating transformative items, and there will be a sample to take with you.

Quiet Photography: Transforming Inspiration Inward

Adrienne Loh

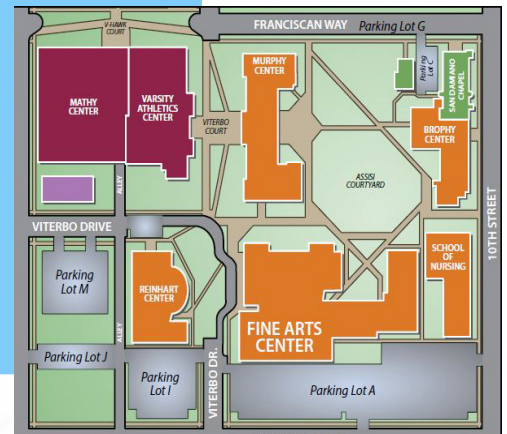
Photographs typically come to me with urgency. Often while traveling, in places that inspire and lift me, photos demand to be taken, to capture a feeling, an expansion of my soul, some beauty or curiosity or detail. During the pandemic, so much of what I normally found regenerative and restorative was unavailable, and I searched for ways to reinvent inspiration. These photos represent a quieter process, a reflection of an inner quest for gratitude and abundance when it sometimes seemed quite elusive.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

6:00 p.m.

UWL Wind Ensemble Concert
"Wake-Up: The Earth Is on Fire!"
Viterbo University Fine Arts Center
Festival Guest Steven Bryant

The concert is presented a short distance from campus at the Viterbo University Fine Arts Center located at 929 Jackson Street. This prelude to our festival features live music celebrating our planet and exploring the continued climate crisis.



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28

9:00-11:30 a.m.

ART - Ceramics Open Studio:
Try to Throw a Pot!

Location: Room 25, Center for the Arts
Jarred Pfeiffer

Join intermediate and advanced ceramics students as they demonstrate their techniques and describe the process of working with clay. Get answers to questions, take a tour of the studio, and try your hand at throwing a pot if you'd like!

9:55-10:50 a.m.

MUSIC - Discussion:
Musical Versatility and Advocacy

Location: Annett Recital Hall, Center for the Arts
Dylan Findley and
Festival Guest Steven Bryant

Composer Steven Bryant will join us for a conversation moderated by Dylan Findley of the Department of Music on how he has adapted his music to be more accessible for socially distant performances. Bryant will also discuss his shift towards addressing issues including social justice and climate change in his compositions.

11:00-11:55 a.m.

THEATRE ARTS - Presentation:
Guerilla Costuming

Location: Costume Shop (SB 11), Center for the Arts
Joe Anderson

The path from preliminary sketch to finalized costume is ripe for change- due to tight budgets, unrelenting schedules, and even last-minute inspirations. Join designer Joe Anderson for a demonstration of how to create or adapt existing costumes or clothing, and how to create pieces from easily obtained found objects into dynamic looks which help tell the stories of the characters onstage, staying true to the original vision amidst other changing variables.



12:00-1:00 p.m.

THEATRE ARTS - Performance:

It's All Adapted...Musicals Reborn and Reused

Location: Annett Recital Hall, Center for the Arts

Kathryn Moran

UWL Musical Theatre Students

Many musicals today seem to be adapted from movies, books, or borrow numbers from other productions! "Jukebox musicals" adapt songs from popular culture or from a specific artist and weave them into a plot to create a full production. We'll explore the possibilities with musical performances of different pieces in this recital featuring students from the Department of Theatre Arts.

1:00-3:00 p.m.

ART - Gallery Installation

Location: UWL Art Gallery, Center for the Arts

Festival Guest Leslie Iwai

Come visit the UWL Art Gallery to witness the installation of the Cloud Mobile, created by Leslie Iwai and art students in Print Media and Sculpture during the first part of this semester. This is the final component of the *Winter's Spring: An Ältere Garten* exhibition.

1:10-2:05 p.m.

ART - Workshop:

Correspondence Through Collage

Location: Room 203, Center for the Arts

Lisa Lenarz

In this session participants will become familiar with a brief history of Dada Collage and engage in collage-making to explore self-reflective narratives related to experiencing the pandemic. The goal of this session is for participants to consider their own transformation and resilience while being able to express the impact of the pandemic on their lives.

2:15-3:10 p.m.

THEATRE ARTS - Film and Discussion:

Creating Documentary Drama

Location: Annett Recital Hall, Center for the Arts

Laurie Kincman and Greg Parmeter

Attend the screening of the behind-the-scenes documentary chronicling the world premiere of *Severe Clear: September 11 from Memory to History*, and hear from the co-creators about the nearly three-year process of adapting true stories for the stage. What began as an idea grew into a course with a team of eager student writers and then into a fully-mounted production to honor the 20th anniversary of the attack. The play highlights the personal stories and sensory experiences of a collection of witnesses, survivors, and first responders in New York, Pennsylvania, Washington D.C., at the Pentagon, and aboard Air Force One, drawing on media reports, radio communications, and hundreds of interviews and testimonials.

2:15-3:10 p.m.

COMMUNICATION STUDIES - Discussion:

Adapting to Loss and Grief with Music and Writing

Location: Room 116, Center for the Arts

Beth Boser, Dena Huisman, and Ken Shonk

"Life is what happens when you're busy making other plans" (Lennon, 1980). John Lennon's lyrics speak to what happens when our plans are proven all for naught, and we have to adapt to what we see before us. The panelists in this session will discuss how music has been a focal point for adapting to changes in their lives and the cultural shifts that we live through.

Focus will include adapting to grief and loss with music, what music teaches and how it guides us within gender scripts and social constructions of power, and the role of music in ongoing identity development and transitions.



3:30-5:00 p.m.

**THEATRE ARTS - Workshop:
Actor, Audience, Agency: An Interactive
Workshop**

Location: Frederick Theatre, Morris Hall

Festival Guest Theatre Mu

Explore techniques from interactive, devised, and improvised theater alongside artists from Theater Mu. How do we bring our full and complex lives into theatrical creation and performance? What transformations happen in both the actor and the audience at the moment of encounter? This workshop asks you to examine your own histories and observe our impact on others, both on and off the stage. Spots will be available both for those who wish to participate and those who wish to observe the process in action.

5:00 p.m.

**MUSIC - Discussion:
Arts Study as Social Action**

Location: Room 56, Center for the Arts

Justin Davis and

Festival Guest Steven Bryant

The biggest obstacle towards solving many of our humanity issues is the lack of ability to put ourselves truly in another person's shoes. In this session, we will examine how in the arts, and music especially, we can help our students, performers and audience transport themselves to the experiences and grow awareness of persons different from themselves. Through this awareness, we can begin the actionable work of equity.

4:25-6:25 p.m.

**ART - Open Studio:
Transformative Color and Space**

Location: Room 204, Center for the Arts

Jennifer Williams

Moving painting from an easel or wall into three-dimensional space creates a transformative, interactive experience for the viewer. UWL Painting students invite you to both observe and participate in the process of creating an immersive, painterly installation featuring shaped light, fiber, color and wax. After visiting the painting studio to see the process, you can experience this impactful installation featuring color and light in the Creative Imperatives Gallery on the third floor of the Center for the Arts.

7:30 p.m.

**THEATRE ARTS - Performance and
Discussion:**

**The Importance of "Seeing Ourselves":
Performances and Reflections from Theater Mu**

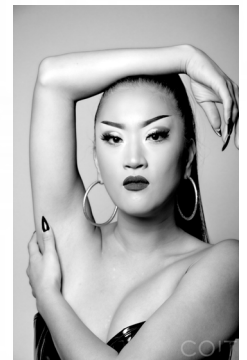
Location: Toland Theatre, Center for the Arts

Festival Guest Theater Mu

Join Theater Mu as they offer insight into what it means to be an artist of color in the modern theater landscape. Learn how Mu became known as "the premiere Asian American performing arts company in the Midwest" and established themselves as one of the largest Asian American institutions in the country. Enjoy live performances from the artists, followed by a Q&A session centered around the themes of representation and resilience.



*Theater Mu participating
artists (left to right):
Morgen Chang, Clay Man
Soo, Wesley Mouri, and
Hope Nordquist*



TUESDAY, MARCH 1

9:25-11:25 a.m.

ART - Open Studio:

Metalsmithing and Blacksmithing

Location: Rooms 20 & 23, Center for the Arts

Brad Nichols

A practicing metalsmith needs to explore the boundaries of their craft to forge new techniques and processes. This blending of traditions and new approaches allows the craft to evolve rather than remaining static. Art majors will demonstrate both non-ferrous metalworking skills and traditional blacksmithing techniques. Students will be available to answer technical questions, discuss creative influences, and guide visitors through the two studios.

11:00-11:55 a.m.

THEATRE ARTS - Presentation:

This Isn't Your Grandma's Leotard

Location: Costume Shop (SB 11), Center for the Arts

Michelle Collyar

Leotards are not just for ballerinas! Utilizing her background in designing sportswear and team apparel, costume designer Michelle Collyar will demonstrate and discuss how to create dancewear that meets the needs of actors constantly in motion onstage in a theatrical production.

11:00-11:55 a.m.

MUSIC - Presentation:

The High Art of Adaptation in Jazz and African American Music

Location: Room 56, Center for the Arts

Jeff Erickson

Enslaved Africans and their ancestors in America learned and transformed Western musical traditions to create new, vibrant, and wholly American musical genres such as the blues, jazz, rhythm and blues, and hip hop. After a brief 5-10 minute overview of African American music, the session will concentrate on how the essence of jazz is found in adaptation and dialogue between musical cultures. Musical examples such as George Gershwin's "I Got Rhythm" will show how jazz musicians were inspired by the rich tradition of musical theater in America to adapt its songs to create a new art form. The presentation will use both recorded music and live music demonstrations with UWL students.

12:00-1:00 p.m.

ART - Artist Talk

Location: Annett Recital Hall, Center for the Arts

Festival Guest Leslie Iwai

Growing up in the Midwest, Leslie Iwai's family garden was the setting for some of her earliest and most meaningful memories. A frigid winter melting into spring is an experience embedded in her work as she explores themes of growth, decay, death, and new life. Using processes such as sewing, layering, folding, and welding, coupled with an inward and personal form of artistic caretaking, she tends her own interior garden while creating each new work. The interplay of her architectural, mathematic, and science education is essential in the outworking of complex design processes and concepts coalescing in the joy of finding an elegant expression. These expressions can appear familiar—even ordinary—but through materials, scale, and design, she hopes to reveal a sacred and sometimes even whimsical dimension.



1:00-2:30 p.m.

PUBLIC RECEPTION

Location: Lobby, Center for the Arts

Festival Guest Leslie Iwai

Enjoy a chance to meet Festival Guest Leslie Iwai and others while grabbing a drink or a bite to eat (free).

1:10-2:05 p.m.

THEATRE ARTS - Presentation:

Adapting Classics in a Pandemic

Location: Room 116, Center for the Arts

Greg Parmeter

How does a classic comedy of manners about the French aristocracy written in rhyming couplets become a modern satire about Gen-Z social media influencers told entirely through a series of Zoom meetings? *Influence* is Molière's *The Misanthrope* updated for COVID. Performed entirely live on Zoom, *Influence* incorporated Tik-Tok, Instagram, Facebook, and other social media to tell the story of Alexander, a 20s-something writer disgusted by the phoniness of modern society and his on-again, off-again girlfriend, Charlie Mae, a fickle, flirtatious, and fallacious internet influencer. Find out how the UWL Department of Theatre adapted to the pandemic by adapting Molière's masterwork to a play about the moment we're living in, from inception to closing.

2:15-3:10 p.m.

ENGLISH - Presentation:

The Catalyst - Student Art and Writing as Adaptation

Location: Annett Recital Hall, Center for the Arts
William Stobb and Students from *The Catalyst*

The 2019-2021 issues of *The Catalyst*, UWL's online magazine of student art and creative writing, feature many examples of adaptation--art and writing that work adaptively from many life sources, but especially to the conditions of life during the COVID-19 pandemic. In this session, student writers and artists read, show, and discuss their works.

2:15-3:40 p.m.

ART - Open Studio:

Adaptation and the Photogram

Location: Room 28, Wing Technology Center

Linda Levinson and Andrew Musil

Don't have a camera? Not a problem, you can still make photographs! Many artists work without a camera, creating images on photographic paper by manipulating light and casting shadows utilizing various objects: leaves, trinkets, notions, crystals, feathers, glasses, etc. It is only up to your imagination. In this workshop we will be making photograms with traditional black+white photographic paper in the darkroom. Come discover this photogram technique that requires only light to capture an image. We will provide objects for you to use, or you may bring your own. Participants will learn the tips and tricks and leave with a creation or two of their own.

3:30-4:30 p.m.

ENGLISH - Presentation:

Creative Conversations: Students Adapting Stories for New Purposes

Location: Room 116, Center for the Arts

Susan Crutchfield and Students

A panel of Gen Ed and upper-level English literature students will present and discuss the creative textual adaptations they produced for a course research project assignment. Creative work may include a Dungeons and Dragons campaign, a handwritten journal imagined from the perspective of a novel character, and repurposings of various texts: *The Hungry Caterpillar* used to educate older readers about binge eating disorder, a resetting of Jimi Hendrix's "Purple Haze" designed to encourage teens and young adults to abstain from drugs, and a historically accurate revision of *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*.



4:00 p.m. (CANCELLED)

**COMMUNICATION STUDIES - Presentation:
Public Speaking Showcase**

Due to unforeseen circumstances, this session has been cancelled.



7:30 p.m.

MUSIC - Lecture/Concert

Location: Annett Recital Hall, Center for the Arts
Festival Guest Steven Bryant


Join us for the final event of the 2022 festival, a celebration of the music of composer Steven Bryant. Conversation will be paired with highlights from his works, performed by students from the Department of Music. Topics discussed in this "informance" will be climate change and music's impact on this important subject. We will also explore the diverse influences on Bryant's music such as Nine Inch Nails and Trent Reznor.



For more information about the Creative Imperatives festival, event information and updates, extended guest bios, and more follow us and visit:

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STEVEN BRYANT



Steven Bryant's music is chiseled in its structure and intent, fusing lyricism, dissonance, silence, technology, and humor into lean, skillfully-crafted works that enthrall listeners and performers alike. Winner of the ABA Ostwald award and three-time winner of the NBA Revelli Award, Steven Bryant's music for wind ensemble has reshaped the genre. A prolific composer, his substantial catalogue of music is regularly performed throughout the world. Recently, his *Ecstatic Waters* was premiered by the Minnesota Orchestra to unanimous, rapturous acclaim. The son of a professional trumpeter and music educator, he strongly values music education, and his creative output includes a number of works for young and developing musicians. You can learn more about Steven at www.stevenbryant.com.

LESLIE IWAI

Leslie Iwai is an installation artist and sculptor whose studies in mathematics, chemistry, and architecture (March Virginia Tech) inform her passion to bring unusual connections found in her research and artistic process to the surface for others' ruminations and inspiration. As the first recipient of the Bemis Community Arts Fellowship (2005) and, most recently, as the first Artist-in-Residence for InterVarsity's Urbana 2018 and a 2021 finalist for the Forward Art Prize, Leslie has had many awards, solo exhibits, and residencies. Her work is in numerous private and public collections, including Duncan Aviation and the Omaha Public Art Commission. Leslie has taught in both academic and community settings in Nebraska, Wisconsin, Illinois and New Mexico. She has been a contributing writer and artist for Image Journal, SEEN (CIVA) and The Well (InterVarsity). She enjoys living in and exploring Wisconsin with her husband where she creates art and collaborates and connects with her community. When not in her studio, Leslie can often be found hunting for treasures at thrift stores or walking on trails near her home in Middleton, Wisconsin. You can view her artwork at www.leslieiwai.com.

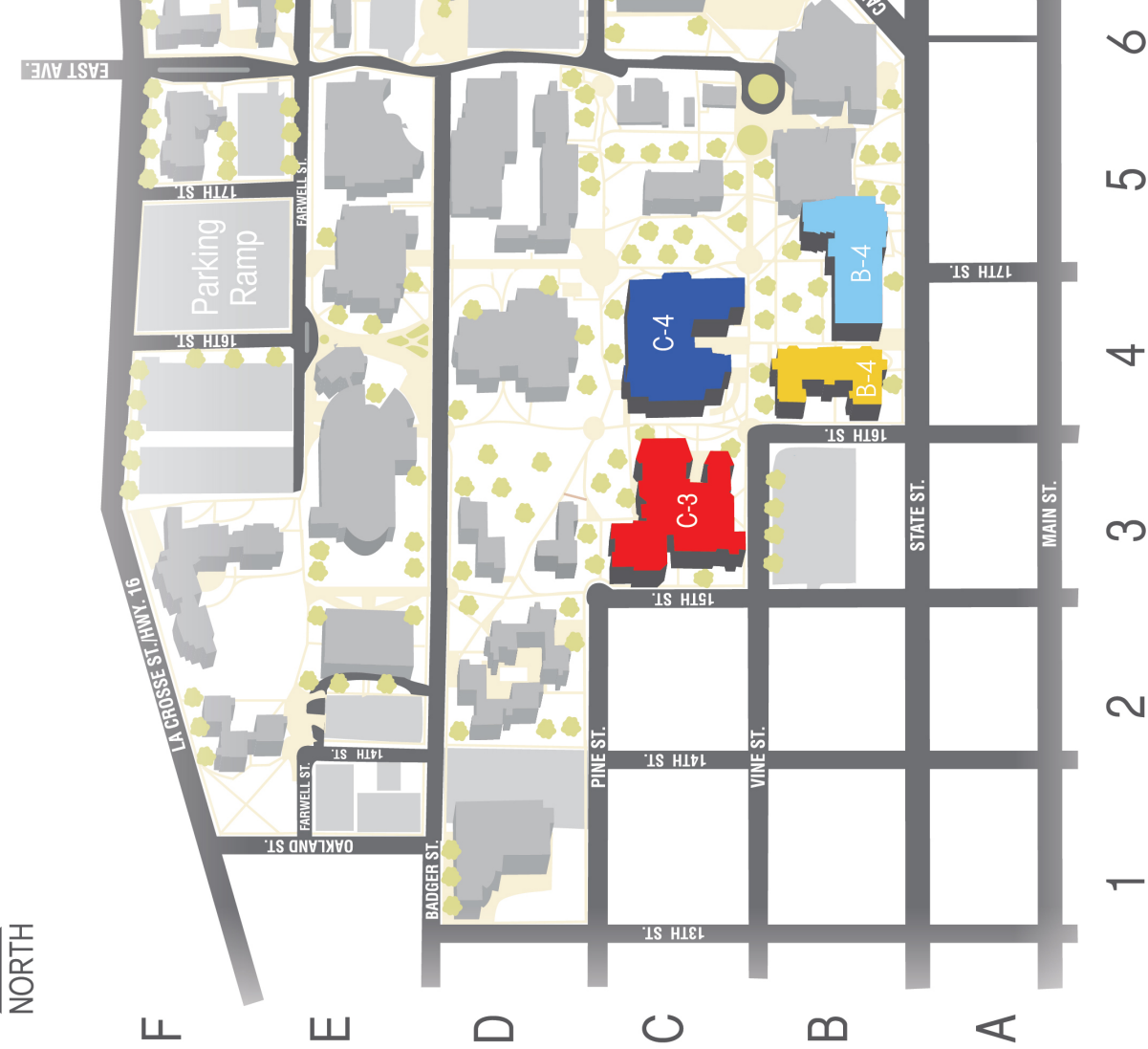


THEATER MU

As one of the largest Asian American theater companies in the nation, Theater Mu produces great performances born of arts, equity, and justice. Founded in 1992, Mu tells stories from the heart of the Asian American experience, presenting a fusion of traditional and contemporary artistic influences, which range from classics to up-and-coming voices in our community. Theater Mu's continuing goal to celebrate and empower the Asian American community through theater is achieved through mainstage productions, emerging artist support, and educational outreach programs. Theater Mu was named a Regional Cultural Treasure by the McKnight and Ford foundations through a national initiative which honors organizations that have made a significant impact on our cultural landscape over decades.



Theater Mu is a member of the Consortium of Asian American Theaters & Artists as well as a member of the Twin Cities Theatres of Color Coalition, proudly standing alongside New Native Theatre, Pangea World Theater, Penumbra Theatre, and Teatro Del Pueblo. Mu (pronounced MOO) is the Korean pronunciation of the Chinese character for the shaman/artist/warrior who connects the heavens and the earth through the tree of life. You can learn more about the company at www.theatermu.org. Individual artist biographies available on the Creative Imperatives website.



creative
imperatives

ADAPTATION

TRANSFORMATION
RESILIENCE
AND
IMPACT

UWL CAMPUS MAP

Centennial Hall, - C-4
Hall of Nations

Center for the Arts, C-3
Annett Recital Hall
Toland Theater
UWL Art Gallery
Third Floor Gallery

Morris Hall, B-4
Fredrick Theater

Wing Technology Center, B-4

All festival buildings and locations are handicapped accessible.

Limited free street parking is available 8am - 6pm.
UWL parking lots are available after 7pm at no charge

