

LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE'S 15TH ANNUAL INNOVATION NIGHT TO TAKE PLACE ON OCTOBER 3RD

Highly-Anticipated Event Featuring San Diego's Groundbreaking Tech Community Will Celebrate Honorary Chair Mary Walshok, Co-Founder of Connect

La Jolla, CA – La Jolla Playhouse's 15th annual **Innovation Night** will take place on **Monday, October 3** from 5:30pm to 8:30pm on the Playhouse's outdoor Taper Plaza. Co-chaired by Denise Bevers, President & CEO, Vetmab Biosciences, and Tim Scott, President & CEO, AustinPx, the 2022 event will celebrate **Honorary Chair Mary Walshok, Ph.D.**, longtime Playhouse Trustee and Co-Founder of Connect.

Innovation Night is San Diego's premiere networking event that brings together leaders from San Diego's biotech, life sciences, high tech, clean tech, defense, telecommunications and associated industries for an extraordinary evening at La Jolla Playhouse – a leader in creating the most cutting-edge and innovative theatre for San Diego and beyond. The event supports the Playhouse's New Play Development and Learning & Engagement programs. The San Diego region enjoys one of the largest innovation economies in the world, producing major medical, pharmaceutical, diagnostic, biologic and wireless products that have led to breakthroughs in healthcare, technology and more. In recognition of this vibrant culture of innovation, this annual Playhouse event has become one of the city's most highly-anticipated fundraisers, celebrating the ingenuity among the world's top tech companies.

Innovation Night guests will enjoy an evening of networking, along with a performance of ***Borderless***, created and performed by a team of multidisciplinary artists, including Hugo Crosthwaite, Theresa Magario, M A L U, Blake McCarty and Pita Zapot. The piece is a fusion of music, dance, and visual art that challenges conceptions of the boundaries that divide us – whether geographic or interpersonal. The performance mixes electronic music and classical violin solos with contemporary choreography and traditional dance forms, all set to digitally-deconstructed animations based on graphite drawings and murals. This exploration of love and identity in the border land is a celebration of the ways in which art and creativity can expand our borders.

“San Diego's dynamic innovation community, led by such visionaries as Mary Walshok, has made an enormous impact on the local and national tech and healthcare landscape,” said Playhouse Managing Director **Debby Buchholz**. “Over the last decade, Innovation Night has raised indispensable funds to enhance the Playhouse's own 'R&D' efforts, while cultivating vital creative collaborations between San Diego's high-tech/biotech industries and the arts.”

Innovation Night is supported by Presenting Sponsor **PNC Bank**; Lead Sponsors: **Cooley** and **UC San Diego**; Host Sponsors: **The Lodge at Torrey Pines, Maravai LifeSciences, Qualcomm, Stockdale Capital Partners, LLC**; Co-Host Sponsors **AustinPx, Bank of America, Connect, Dowling & Yahnke, Illumina, IQHQ, Scripps Research, SDSU Research and Innovation, UC San Diego Health** and **VETmAb BIO**; and In-Kind Sponsors: **Boochcraft, Bright Event Rentals, FloralFX, Doug Gifford Photography, La Cuisine Custom Catering, Show Imaging, Truluck's** and **Viewpoint Brewing Co.**

The event will also feature a special **Innovation Gallery**, hosted by Scripps Research, Stockdale Capital Partners, SDSU, IQHQ, UC San Diego, UC San Diego Health, The Impact Collective, among others.

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Mary Walshok, Ph.D. is a thought leader and subject-matter expert on aligning workforce development with regional economic growth. She has authored more than 100 articles, reports, and book chapters on regional innovation, workforce development and the role of research institutions in regional economies. As an industrial social scientist focused on the dynamics of regional economic development and transformation, Walshok has studied various communities across America. She has evaluated 13 WIRED regions funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, studied three innovative regions for a National Science Foundation-funded project and assessed one region's efforts to grow an industry for a Lilly Foundation-funded endeavor. Walshok led the continuing education and public programs arm of UC San Diego from 1981 to 2021. As Associate Vice Chancellor for Public Programs, Walshok played an active role in helping the university expand its local impact, national reputation and global reach. She led a campus-wide effort to establish a significant presence for the university in downtown San Diego on the trolley line which runs from the US-Mexico border all the way to the UC San Diego campus. UC San Diego Park & Market is a major effort to link the wide array of arts, culture, science, medicine, economic and civic programs of UC San Diego with the needs and aspirations of the region through collaborative research, timely education programs, informative public events, as well as the performing arts, special exhibitions and cinema programs. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the Kellogg Foundation's Leadership Fellowship and was inducted into Sweden's Royal Order of the Polar Star. She currently serves on the boards of San Diego Connect (which she helped found in 1985), La Jolla Playhouse, the United States-Mexico Foundation for Science (FUMEC), the Institute of the Americas (IOA), the San Diego Opera, the Smart Border Coalition and the Girard Foundation. A native of Palm Springs, California, Walshok received her bachelor's degree in sociology from Pomona College in 1964, her master's degree in sociology in 1966 and her Ph.D. in sociology in 1969 from Indiana University. She has been a visiting professor at the Stockholm School of Economics for many years and in 2004 held an international appointment in the Department of Continuing Education at Oxford University in England.

The **Innovation Night Host Committee** includes Chairs Denise Bevers, President & CEO, Vetmab Biosciences, and Tim Scott, President & CEO, AustinPx, along with Dan Bradbury, Managing Member, BioBrit LLC; Stephan Coleman, Market Managing Director, PNC Bank; Matthew D'Alessandro, SVP, Corporate Banking, PNC Bank; DeeDee Deman, Founder, Chairman & CEO, Bench International; Dr. Edward A. Dennis Ph.D., Chancellor I, Chair in Chemistry and Biochemistry, UC San Diego; Leo Divinsky, Managing Director, Asset Management, Stockdale Capital Partners; Susan Dubé, Board of Directors, Pimera, Inc.; Wendy Gillespie, CEO, Starhawk Productions; Kay Gurtin, Gurtin Ventures; Clark Guy, Managing Director, Market Executive, Bank of America; David F. Hale, Chairman & CEO, Hale BioPharma Ventures, LLC; Deb Hart, Head of Investor Relations, Maravai LifeSciences; Greg Horowitz, Co-Founder & Managing Director, T2 Venture Capital; Meredith Johnston, Vice President, Philanthropy, Scripps Research; Bryan Knox, General Manager, Catalent; Mike Krenn, President & CEO, Connect; Greg Lucier, Managing Director, RiverRoad Capital Partners, LLC; James Mackay, President & CEO, Aristeia Therapeutics; Stanley Maloy, Assoc. Vice President for Research, SDSU; Chris Montgomery, SVP, Business Development, Cooley LLP; Grant Oliphant, CEO, The Conrad Prebys Foundation; Joe Panetta, President & CEO, Biocom California; Bernard Parker, Managing Director, Caligen Bio; Robert Price, Partner, Loftis Capital Management; Paul Roben, Assoc. Vice Chancellor Innovation & Commercialization, UC San Diego; Scott Stanton, Member, Mintz Levin; Andy Thomas, SVP, Business Development, Evans Hotels; Kelly Thomson, Regional Managing Director, Ascent Private Capital Management; Susan Tousi, Chief Commercial Officer, Illumina; Michael White, Managing Director, Silicon Valley Bank.

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The title of Innovation Night Honorary Chair has been awarded to an individual who has contributed to San Diego's tech community in a profound way. Past honorees include: **Dr. Peter C. Farrell**, Founder and Chairman of the Board of ResMed; **Greg Lucier**, Chairman, NuVasive Inc.; **Dr. Paul E. Jacobs**, Former Executive Chairman, Qualcomm Incorporated; **Jay Flatley**, Executive Chairman, Illumina; **Dr. J. Craig Venter**, Founder, Chairman & CEO, J. Craig Venter Institute; **Alan Gold**, Co-Founder, BioMed Realty Trust, Inc.; **Duane Roth** (1949-2013), Chief Executive Officer, Connect; **Dr. Ivor Royston**, Former Managing Member, Forward Ventures and current President & CEO, Viracta Therapeutics; and **David F. Hale**, Chairman & CEO, Hale BioPharma Ventures, LLC.

For more information, please visit www.LaJollaPlayhouse.org/innovation-night. To secure tickets to the event or space in the Innovation Gallery, please contact James Skeet at jskeet@ljp.org.

Artist Bios

Hugo Crosthwaite is a visual artist whose work includes mural performances, drawings, and stop-motion drawing animations. He currently lives and works in Tijuana and San Diego. He was awarded First Prize at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC for the 2019 Fifth Triennial Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition and was chosen to represent Mexico in the California-Pacific Triennial. His work has been included in numerous museum exhibitions, including the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, DC; Wignall Museum of Contemporary Art; Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego; Chicago Cultural Center; The San Diego Museum of Art; and is included in museum collections at LACMA, Los Angeles, CA; MoCA, San Diego, CA; San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, CA; MAM, Miami, FL; and The Morgan Library Museum, New York City, NY. He received a BA from San Diego State University, San Diego, CA.

Theresa Magario is an artist whose work spans a range of mediums. Notably, as a butoh dancer, they have performed at Dixon Place and the Watermill Center with LEIMAY, at the Whitney Museum with Michael Alan, and have toured their own choreographic work internationally. As a film editor and sound designer, they have collaborated with Hugo Crosthwaite on stop motion drawing animation shorts that have been shown in the Morelia International Film Festival and the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. They are currently operating out of San Diego / Tijuana.

M A L U is a classical and electronic musician. M A L U focuses on orchestra conduction and electronic music performances touring the U.S., Mexico, Asia, and Europe. M A L U has performed in many festivals including Cyberpunk & Underground Festivals in Mexico; Raw Festivals in Canada and the U.S.; We Want Women (England); Das Vierte (Switzerland); Buddhagaya and SubStore Electric Fest (Japan); Facultad de Artes UABC Ensenada; La Mesa Music Festival; ART San Diego; ART Los Angeles; Latin American Art Fair; San Diego Film Festival; Collateral Collective SD; Nett Nett; Bread and Salt; Acid Varsity; Connect San Diego Fest; UC San Diego Blue Rail Fest; Cesar Chavez Celebration; SD Zine Fest; A Ship in the Woods Festival; Cine Tonala; House of Blues; and SOUTH TRAIN.

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Blake McCarty is a multidisciplinary artist whose original work includes large-scale immersive projects, new musicals, devised theatre, and documentary plays. His work has been developed or commissioned by La Jolla Playhouse, The Old Globe, California Center for the Arts, Cygnet Theatre, New Village Arts, New York Theatre Barn, and New York University. As a designer, he is a two-time recipient of Outstanding Projection Design from the San Diego Theatre Critics Circle. Blake is also the founder and Executive Artistic Director of Blindspot Collective, the theatre company in residency at La Jolla Playhouse in 2020-21. Previous collaborations with La Jolla Playhouse include *Hall Pass*, *Light Years Away*, *when the bubble bursts*, and *Black Séance*. Blake is a graduate of the Tisch School of the Arts and the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, both at New York University.

Pita Zapot focuses on classical, modern, and contemporary dance. She is a former dancer of Modulo Dance Contemporary Company, Contracuerpo Escénica Lab, and Assica Dance Company. Currently, Pita is a dancer at Péndulo Cero Dance Company and the artistic director of Escénica Ingravita Dance Company. Pita Has toured Mexico, the United States, and South America.

La Jolla Playhouse is a place where artists and audiences come together to create what's new and next in the American theatre, from Tony Award-winning productions, to imaginative programs for young audiences, to interactive experiences outside our theatre walls. Founded in 1947 by Gregory Peck, Dorothy McGuire and Mel Ferrer, the Playhouse is currently led by Tony Award winner Christopher Ashley, the Rich Family Artistic Director of La Jolla Playhouse, and Managing Director Debby Buchholz. The Playhouse is internationally renowned for the development of new plays and musicals, including mounting 108 world premieres, commissioning 60 new works, and sending 33 productions to Broadway – including the hit musical *Come From Away* – garnering a total of 38 Tony Awards, as well as the 1993 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre. LaJollaPlayhouse.org.

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