



JIM STANFORD (Class OF 1966)

Jim Stanford is a native of Las Vegas. Both of his parents, Bernice and Harvey Stanford, were teachers at Las Vegas High School. He is best known for his work with vintage and historical Las Vegas marquees and signage and for his leadership in the development of the Las Vegas Arts community. Stanford is a Buddhist and his practice draws heavily on the principles and philosophies of Zen Buddhism.

In 1971, Stanford earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Painting from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He later attended the University of Washington, Seattle, earning a 1973 Master of Fine Arts in Painting. In 1978, he returned to the UNLV campus as an instructor in the Fine Arts Department. In 1985, Stanford received his Fresco Painting Apprenticeship under the instruction of Lucienne Bloch and Stephen Pope Dimitroff, College of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Stanford is a recognized leader and pioneer of the Las Vegas arts community. He served the City of Las Vegas as Chairman of its Arts Commission from 1999 to 2001, at which time he developed the Downtown Las Vegas "Lightscapes" installation, cited by Art in America as one of the top 20 public art projects of the era. Stanford also served as President of the Las Vegas Contemporary Arts Collective (popularly known as The CAC; later renamed as Las Vegas Contemporary Arts Center). His Presidency ran from 1996 to 1999. In his time with the CAC, Stanford curated numerous exhibits and organized the collective's day-to-day operations.

In 2007, Stanford—with Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman, among others—was part of an important round-table event to discuss the future of the Las Vegas Arts District and the First Friday venue. In 2017, Stanford exhibited Shimmering Zen curated by Elizabeth Herridge Limited during Asian Art in London in conjunction with a book of the same title at the London Library.

In 2019, Stanford designed a monumental site-specific mural to commemorate the iconic Blue Angel statue that watched over Downtown Las Vegas for 61 years from its mid-century perch at the Blue Angel Motel. Stanford's A Phalanx of Angels Ascending was commissioned by Alison Chambers, the owner of the 705 building, an arts incubator located at 705 North Las Vegas Boulevard. The original 16-foot statue was designed by Betty Willis, who also created the famed 'Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas' sign, and was taken down for restoration in 2017.

More information on Stanford can be found at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Stanford