



Gateway Gallery

Historical Overview

A State of Nevada 501(c) 3 Nonprofit Public Charity

dba

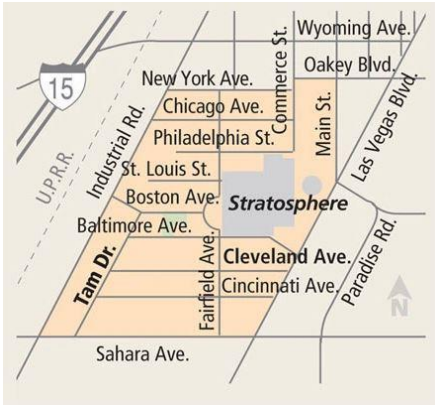
Gateway Arts Foundation





Overview

Gateway has been enhancing the Las Vegas area entertainment and arts communities since October 2007. **Gateway Gallery** was formed by Camille and Gerald Duskin to work with the City of Las Vegas on neighborhood beautification projects. Although they worked throughout the city limits of Las Vegas; their central focus was in the Gateway District neighborhood; therefore, it was fitting to name the nonprofit organization *Gateway Gallery*. The



Gateway District neighborhood is the northwest corner of Sahara Avenue and Las Vegas Boulevard (The Strip); behind and around the Stratosphere Resort. This area is known as the Gateway District because as you are traveling north on Las Vegas Boulevard and cross-over Sahara Avenue you enter the city limits of Las Vegas. North of Sahara Avenue is the proper city limits of Las Vegas, while south of Sahara Avenue is unincorporated Clark County; where *The Strip* resorts are located.

In March 2020, the City of Las Vegas began construction on the new 80 foot tall Gateway Arches across Las Vegas Boulevard, in front of the Stratosphere; welcoming people to the proper city limits. The 1.9 mile stretch of Las Vegas Boulevard from Sahara Avenue north to historic Downtown *Fremont Street* is where the majority of the original famous Las Vegas wedding chapels are located. Fremont Street in Downtown Las Vegas is the epicenter where the whole *Vegas Experience* began with the opening of the Golden Gate Casino in 1906. Fremont Street reigned as the gambling-mecca until 1946 when Bugsy Siegel built the Flamingo Casino Resort, 4.8 miles away in the middle of the desert, which began the mega-resort boom along *The Strip*.



Gateway Gallery: A Public Art Collection

In October 2007, Camille and Gerald Duskin began this project with their own rental apartment building located in the Gateway District Neighborhood. They personally paid the artists to use their property as a pilot to show what could happen within the neighborhood. The City of Las Vegas' Cultural Affairs Office and then Mayor Oscar Goodman were so impressed

Gateway Gallery



that they urged Camille and Gerald to set-up a nonprofit organization to expand this project within the surrounding neighborhood.



The goal was to paint murals on private properties to help combat tagging and assist with neighborhood beautification projects. Many locations were abandoned and needed debris and weed removal before any painting could begin; and so they cleared previously run-down and tagged buildings into a blank canvas for artistic murals. Being a newly formed

501(c) 3 recognized nonprofit organization; they could solicit volunteers, apply for local grants, and solicit donations from local businesses for painting supplies. Gerald assembled a rotating team of local painters, artists, and muralists who were always compensated for their talents. This public art collection had positive results which were evident in the form of neighborhood beautification and pride.





Wells Fargo Bank and local ABC Channel 13 News honored Gerald Duskin with the Jacqueline Kennedy Inspired Jefferson Award for Outstanding Neighborhood Volunteerism.

While Gerald was out in the field with the artists, Camille Duskin started teaching classes and seminars on various arts and entertainment programs at the Stupak Community Center; located in the Gateway District neighborhood. Her programs were geared to inspire and educate the community, especially youth, on different aspects of visual and performing arts and entertainment. Word spread quickly, and she received requests across the entire Las Vegas Valley area to conduct similar programs at various locations.

As a young girl, Camille was a student of ballet, art, and music. She recognized throughout her life how important music and dance was in helping herself and others enrich their lives. Camille vowed to help inspire youth on the importance of *the Arts*; not only on the healing properties of different modalities, but also on how *Arts* education leads to a well-round and enlightened soul. With so many educational systems cutting *the Arts* from their curriculum, she knew Gateway could be a vehicle to help preserve music, art, dance, and theater for the youth of Las Vegas.

Gerald continued working with the City of Las Vegas and local artists on his award winning neighborhood beautification program for six years. The program was retired in 2013 due to growing difficulties getting approvals to access properties.



Gateway Arts Foundation

Camille expanded the arts education program and in March 2009, filed a dba as Gateway Arts Foundation. The new mission was to provide affordable cultural programs for the



Las Vegas area community. A nominal donation for participants was typically \$5 - \$15 for a Gateway Arts Foundation program. The entertainer or presenter was always paid for their time and talent. Camille felt too many people don't value the dedication and expertise of a performer; and she always made sure they were compensated for their talents. There was a split of the program revenue: with 2/3 going to the entertainer/presenter, and 1/3 benefiting the Gateway Scholarship Fund.

Gateway has a substantial database of supportive, dedicated, and enlightened people who frequent many of the various Gateway Programs, whether being a concert, literary reading, or educational seminar. The end-goal for all events was not only to fulfill the program objectives, but also generate funding for the Gateway Scholarship Program.

Gateway Scholarship Program

The Gateway scholarship fund offers continued advanced private studies for outstanding Las Vegas students. This is a 'gifted-student' scholarship program and is based on exceptional talent and not on any family demographic or income levels. The awarded scholarship amounts have ranged from \$500-\$1500 per student; for talents in musical instrument, dance, and vocal studies. Through 2019, the Gateway Scholarship Program has had a positive effect on the lives of over 90 students:

- **2009** Malia Civetz (Voice), Andrew Curby (Violin), Javier Chacon Jr. (Violin), Lindsay Lamb (Violin), Stephanie Fry (Voice)
- **2010** Jae Ahn-Benton (Piano), Jillian Johnson (Violin), Anna-Marie Brim (Violin), Daniel Werth (Piano), Artem Alexanyan (Piano), Alex Christopher Prandecki (Voice), Lindsay Johnson (Cello)
- **2011** Sabriel Hobart (Voice), Joei Fulco (Voice), Rocco Marks (Piano), Jake Lee (Cello), Mama's Wranglers/Kid Fiddlers (Voice), Alex Christopher Prandecki [Second Win] (Voice), Justin Ayala Chavez (Cello), Tussah Heera (Piano)
- **2012** Eddie Yervinyan (Drums), Isabelle Mae Lopez (Piano), Christine Marie Sidell (Voice), Justin Ventura Remulla (Violin), Marcelino Red-Hawk Chavez (Guitar), Manami Sophie Shirahisa (Piano), Gail Guerrero (Violin), Philip Antony Kleutgens (Saxophone), Jae Ahn-Benton [Second Win] (Piano)
- **2013** Dakodah Hall (Voice), Philip Kleutgens [Second Win] (Alto Saxe), Jessica Vanek (Voice), Maria Kolesnyk (Piano), Rachel Zhang (Piano). Plus literary award winners Sabrina Wang & Brittany Reese
- **2014** Marcelino Red-Hawk Chavez [Second Win] (Guitar), Cindy Huang (Piano), Maria Kolesnik (Piano), Dakodah Hall [Second Win](Voice), Lillian Roberts (Voice), Emily Clements (Voice), Alexandra St. Pierre (Voice), Sarah Fihn (Voice)



- **2015** Grace Haeun Kim (Piano), Ethan French (Violin), Bella Zoila Smith (Voice), Emily Clements [Second Win] (Voice), Sara Rose Andreas (Voice), Katelyn Murphy (Voice), Palo Verde High School Saxophone Quartet (Saxophones), Taylor See (Voice), McKenna Roundy (Voice)
- **2016** Addie Wagner (Voice), Natalia Cates (Voice), Joshua Smithline (Voice), Joey Miceli (Voice), Naree Asherian (Voice), Aolani Nathalie Aguirre (Violin), Grace Riedy (Voice), Maya Itsuko Thorson (Voice), Piper Sher (Voice), Alessandra Lena Vivo (Flute), Isabella Baker (Voice), Cindy Huang [Second Win] (Piano), Sydney Lin (Voice), Jenny Han (Piano)
- **2017** Joeline Mountain (Voice), Ava Rogers (Voice), Sydney Elaine Lin (Cello), Lily Elaine Wolfe (Voice), William Everett Haley (Voice), Aoloni Nathalie Aguirre [Second Win] (Violin), Reese Ashley Carter (Voice), Sunjoo Choi (Piano), Naree Asherian [Second Win] (Voice)
- **2018** Jonathan Pantelas-Hemmers (Piano), Calla Kutch (Dance), Zoe Reddick (Dance), Sunjoo Choi [Second Win] (Piano), Abrielly Ayleen Aguirre (Violin), Danielle Aguon (Piano), Grace Parker (Voice), Kyle Khembunjong (Guitar) Elijah Wayne San Nicolas (Theatre/Acting), Sarah Phillips (Flute), Phillip Kim (Voice), Isabella Lohr (Voice), Irene Yoo (Piano)
- **2019** Connor Simpson (Voice), Sarah Phillips [Second Win] (Flute), Amadeus Luevanos (Dance), Parsa Sabet (Guitar), Payton McKinnis (Voice), Mia Johns (Dance), Brooklyn Badenhuisen (Voice), Elias Lee (Cello), Emma Phillips (Voice), Magen Gauthier (Voice)

Diverse Educational and Entertainment Programs

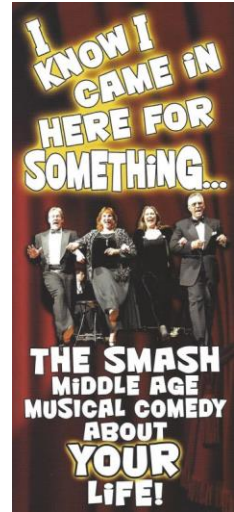
Gateway has produced numerous programs and events, with proceeds benefiting the scholarship program. Below is a sampling:

- **Helen Hearne Literary Competition** – In 2013, Gateway launched the Helen Hearne Literary Competition as a memorial tribute to one of its dedicated supporters. The program worked with the Clark County School District and solicited short story submissions from students 14-24 years of age in literary classes across the school district. The winning entries were then combined into a published book. It was prestigious for the winning students because they could graduate as a *published author*. Unfortunately, the program ceased after the first year due to the unwillingness and difficulties working with the Clark County School District.
- **Cold Readings** – Gateway supporters would often be invited for cold-reading run-throughs of draft theatrical, literary, and operatic scripts. The playwrights/authors knew they would receive constructive non-judgmental feedback on their works in progress.





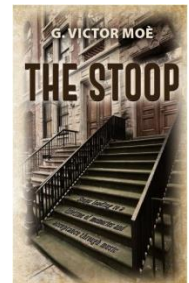
- ***I Know I Came In Here For Something*** – Camille Duskin was the co-producer for this hilarious musical satire review on the trials and tribulations of aging and reaching senior citizen status, remembering the forgotten joys of youth. A few of the musical numbers include: *The Kidney Stone Waltz*, *I Love My Gut*, *The Change*, and *Accidents Can Happen*. The cast of entertainers and musicians were all Gateway supporters; and a donation from every performance was given to the Scholarship Program.



- ***Starbright and Freedom Hall Theaters*** – For years, Gateway Arts Foundation produced numerous musical shows at these two theaters within the Del Webb and Sun City 55+ retirement communities. Most programs resulted in *sold out* audiences!

- ***Super Summer Theatre*** – In 2016, Gateway Arts Foundation partnered with the Super Summer Theatre to co-produce a show called Hooray for Hollywood: A Tribute to the Music of the Movies. This energetic music and dance show featured previous Gateway Scholarship Award winners.

- ***The Stoop*** – International selling author Victor Moea partnered with volunteer entertainers and musicians affiliated with Gateway to develop the musical theater version of his book *The Stoop*. The book and play has a positive message of acceptance for differing cultural traditions, showing how music transcends prejudices and bigotry. The musical includes 18 original songs and is perfect for high school drama departments or community theater companies.



- ***Clark County School District Drama Clubs:***

- ❖ Macy's partnered with Gateway and Paul Culley Empowerment School to produce a performance of *Yes Virginia the Musical*.
- ❖ A grant from the Nevada Arts Council allowed for another partnership with Gateway and Paul Culley Empowerment School's Drama Club to produce a performance of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.
- ❖ Gateway partnered with Clarence A. Piggott Academy of International Studies' Piggott Players Musical Theater Club to produce the Junior Version of *Into the Woods*.

- ***Summer Youth Multicultural Musical Performance Workshop*** – Gateway partnered with Cirque du Soleil and the Baobab Stage Theatre at Town Square to offer a four-



week summer intensive theatrical workshop for students, which ended with a performance of Stephen Sondheim's *Into The Woods-Junior Version*.

- **Musical, Theatrical, and Visual Programs** – Nine months out of a year, Gateway would sponsor one or two events per month. They would always be engaging, inspirational, and educational. Whether it was chamber music, a blues singer, a dance recital, or a quick-draw painting competition held at: Family Music Center, the Summerlin or East Flamingo Library Theaters, or in the courtyard of the Artisan Hotel; participants would always leave with a new piece of knowledge and a sense of camaraderie from socializing with other Gateway supporters.

Hattie's House

In 2010, after the passing of Camille Duskin's mother Hattie, Camille opened her mother's former house as a *sanctuary for the arts*. *Hattie's House* would host many of Gateway's smaller events. It housed a baby grand piano for recitals and teachers could use the facility free-of-charge for lessons or practice sessions. Camille was so grateful to her mother for supporting her music and dance education throughout her life, and *Hattie's House* paid homage to her loving mother's artistic encouragement.

2020 & 2021: Two Years Lost

The global Covid pandemic and required quarantine caused Gateway to cease all programs. This was the first year in ten consecutive years that no scholarships were awarded to students. The most devastating event occurred on November 10, 2021 when Camille Duskin, Gateway's Co-Founder and President suddenly passed-away. The entire Las Vegas *Arts and Entertainment* community mourned the loss of a dedicated and inspirational leader.

"We encourage you to find art in your life...and keep a song in your heart!"

~ Camille & Gerald Duskin