



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Third Annual President's Party Celebrates Commitment to Arts and Education** *Event Raises Funds for Carpenter Center's Education Program Arts for Life*

**LONG BEACH, California** — The Richard and Karen Carpenter Performing Arts Center, located on the campus of California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), will celebrate the third annual President's Party on Saturday, April 28, 2018. The benefit honors CSULB President Jane Close Conoley's continuous commitment to arts education and celebrates the Carpenter Center's achievements in engaging the community through artistic, educational, and cultural experiences by making the arts accessible to a wide audience.

Party-goers will attend a celebratory pre-show reception followed by a performance by Grammy® Award-winner and Kennedy Center Honoree Mavis Staples. The reception will take place on the Carpenter Center stage starting at 6 pm where guests can enjoy appetizers, desserts, champagne, and photo-opportunities with President Conoley and Ms. Staples.

Following the reception, Mavis Staples will perform the inspiring and uplifting music that covers her 60-year legacy weaving together the sounds of soul, gospel, pop, R&B, folk, and blues. Staples has committed her life to music and activism. She began performing in the 1940s with the Staple Singers on the gospel circuit before joining Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. where her voice was among the anthems for the Civil Rights Movement. Now in her seventh decade, Ms. Staples released her latest album in collaboration with Wilco's Jeff Tweedy last November, titled *If All I Was Was Black*, to wide praise.

Proceeds from the evening benefit the Carpenter Center's arts education program *Arts for Life* which provides a wide-range of interactive and hands-on arts activities for all ages. From "Classroom Connections," where elementary school students work in-classroom with artists before attending a performance at the Carpenter Center, to "Campus Connections" for CSULB students and "Community Connections" for the greater Long Beach area, *Arts for Life* makes art a lifelong experience for citizens of all ages. Additionally, all

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of the *Arts for Life* programs are free to attend or are low-cost in order to reach as wide of a community as possible.

When asked her thoughts on the celebration and what it represents, President Conoley said, "The arts are fundamental to a comprehensive education. Our university is fortunate to have an acclaimed performing arts center that offers exceptional entertainment *and* arts education programming. Both draw our local community to campus, which enriches us greatly. I can't wait to experience the unparalleled Mavis Staples with university supporters and arts enthusiasts, and I'm especially pleased the evening benefits the vibrant *Arts for Life* program."

Tickets for the President's Party are \$125, which includes an exclusive pre-performance party with President Conoley and Ms. Staples, champagne, appetizers, dessert, and premium seating for the Mavis Staples performance. Patrons wishing to see Mavis Staples perform but not attend the party may purchase single tickets to the show for \$50-\$75. For tickets or more information, visit [CarpenterArts.org](http://CarpenterArts.org) or call the Carpenter Center Ticket Office at (562) 985-7000. Our season is made possible, in part, by season media partner KPCC 89.3-FM.

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**ABOUT THE CARPENTER CENTER** Founded in 1994, the Carpenter Performing Arts Center located on the CSULB campus gracefully accommodates large and small productions, seating 1,062 patrons. The Center is named after pop music duo Richard and Karen Carpenter, who both attended California State University, Long Beach. Their music still epitomizes the best of our culture; modern and traditional, wholesome and sage. The Carpenter Center continues to honor that elegant legacy each season by showcasing emerging and established musicians, dancers, actors, comedians and visual artists, as well as other culturally relevant presentations.

CALENDAR LISTING

Press Photos of Mavis Staples are available at <http://www.carpenterarts.org/press.html>

What: **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual President's Party**

When: **Saturday, April 28, 2018**

Party 6 pm – 7:30 pm

Performance 8 pm

Where: **Richard and Karen Carpenter Performing Arts Center**

6200 E Atherton St.

Long Beach, CA 90815

Tickets: **President's Party tickets start at \$125**

*(includes pre-performance party with champagne, appetizers, photo-opportunity, and premium seating for the performance)*

Mavis Staples tickets start at \$50 *(performance only)*

Parking is \$8

Ticket Office: **(562) 985-7000, [www.CarpenterArts.org](http://www.CarpenterArts.org)**

Box Office Hours are Monday-Friday 10am – 5pm and 1 hour before season performances.

**Additional Information and tickets available at the Carpenter Center's website: [www.CarpenterArts.org](http://www.CarpenterArts.org)**