

Hunt History Room Exhibit Proposal

Title: *Florence Arnold and Fullerton: A Love Story*

Premise: Florence Arnold loved her adopted hometown of Fullerton, and the feeling was mutual. Almost as soon as Flossie moved to Fullerton in 1924, she began a mission to bring the arts to north Orange County. She describes organizing the Orange County Art Association in the early 1950s: “We didn’t have any art in this end of the county. Laguna always had some art going on at their museum, but the northern part of Orange County really had no viable outlet for artists.”

In addition to the Orange County Art Association, Flossie was a founding member and past president of the CLE (Continuing Learning Experience) and Art Alliance, both at CSUF, a member of the Fullerton Fine Arts Commission, a member of the Alpha Gamma Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Teachers’ Society, and a member of the American-European Cultural Exchange. She also served on the Board of the Muckenthaler Cultural Center, helping define its mission early on.

One of Flossie’s favorite roles in life was founder and guiding force behind Night In Fullerton. She spearheaded the event in 1964 (it ran through 2009), to help promote and showcase local art and culture. Flossie created a committee to organize and promote the event, and even went door to door to raise money for it.

For the rest of her life, Flossie worked hard to help build a real arts community in Fullerton. Because she was such a magnetic and well-loved figure, her birthdays were huge community events, with city officials and organizations getting involved. Commemorative T shirts and posters were made. Proclamations were proclaimed. For her 85th birthday, the City of Fullerton presented her with the “Key to Our Hearts.”

When Florence Arnold passed away in March of 1994, the following Night In Fullerton was dedicated in her honor: Florence Arnold – an American original, and forever our “Queen of the Night.”

Objects: Two original paintings, three framed Night In Fullerton Posters, 1948 FUHS Annual, photographic reproductions, video slideshow, and section text

Lenders: Fullerton Public Library Local History Collection, Smithsonian Institution Archives of American Art

Time: Mid-May through August, 2025, installation week of May 12

Costs: This will be an in-house exhibit. Cost estimated at \$2,500 for display hardware, text panels, and photo reproductions.