

Art Department

KAZUO HIGA SCHOLARSHIP

- Year Established:** March 14, 1994
- Purpose:** To support artistic and academic excellence
- Sponsoring Department:** Art
- Contact:** G. Bohanon & N. Schwab, Art Department
- Award Amount:** Variable
- Criteria for applying:** Granted to students who have maintained a 3.0 GPA in all classes at Los Angeles City College
- Semester Awarded:** Spring
- Criteria for applying:**
- 1) Must be a fulltime student who is an art major
 - 2) Must have 3.0 GPA overall
 - 3) Must have completed at least 24 units at Los Angeles City College
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The Kazuo Higa Story

Kazuo Higa was born in Los Angeles to Take and Hiroshi Higa. He and his family lived in Los Angeles until World War II, when he was incarcerated at an internment camp in Heart Mountain, Wyoming, for American citizens of Japanese descent. After the war, he attended King Junior High and Marshall High School where he graduated in 1953. In 1954, he was drafted into the U. S. Army. When he returned to Los Angeles, he attended Art Center School of Design, Chouinard Art Institute, and Los Angeles City College. He worked for Charles and Ray Eames as an independent graphic designer.

He transferred to UCLA, majored in the History of Art, and received his bachelor's degree with highest honors in 1964. In September of the same year, he began his graduate studies at East West Center of the University of Hawaii, and in December married Eileen Keiko Shigaki. He completed a master's degree in 1967. He also studied at International Christian University in Japan (1965-1966), traveled throughout Asia (1966), and had welcomed a daughter, Karin, in 1966.

In 1968, son Kevin was born, and Kaz joined the faculty of art at Los Angeles City College. It was important to him that he returned to the very school he attended. He devoted his life to teaching and was instrumental in supporting the artistic, intellectual, and emotional development of countless students. He also found time to travel independently; he was also awarded two Fulbright-Hayes Fellowships that allowed him to travel to India and Nigeria. Teaching was so important to him that he taught until less than two months before his death on February 14, 1994.