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CREATIVE ARTS CENTER OF DALLAS

## **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Facts**

Followers of re-known regional artist Frank Reaugh were able to lure CAC's founder away from his teaching post the Dallas Museum of Art where he had taught for 21 years to start the Octavio Medellin School of Sculpture (now called the Creative Arts Center of Dallas) in Reaugh's Oak Cliff studio known as "El Sibil". The Frank Reaugh Art Club still meets in Oak Cliff to this day.

CAC is now located in the old Bayles Elementary, which is the oldest elementary school operating under the same name in Dallas County. It opened in 1856 as a one room school house near Buckner International with the current Bayles Elementary about a mile away from CAC. The current CAC location was built during the Depression as a project of the Works Progress Administration.

Medellin participated in the war effort in WWII by fabricating and casting airplane parts in his studio.

A woman named Betty Nesmith Graham who served on the CAC board of directors during the 1970s made a verbal pledge to donate and build a new facility for CAC in downtown Dallas and what is now the Dallas Arts District. She passed away suddenly in 1980 and the pledge was never fulfilled. She is also the mother of famed Monkee musician Michael Nesmith.

Medellin was asked to create a commission for City Hall and towards the end of completion, the City decided to move the piece at which Medellin abruptly pulled the installation and was not paid as he felt he had created it for a specific area and the new location did not suffice for him.

Spearhead by Public Art Manager Kay Kallos in 2013, the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs, the City rescued and restored gigantic fused glass windows from a church in East Dallas that were about to be demolished. They are now located in the City Performance Hall and Love Field.

CAC has had many notable artists as instructors over the years, including Deborah Ballard, Tomás Bustos, David Hickman, Sonia King and David Newton, among others.

Medellin developed a special way of fusing 24 karat gold and platinum to mosaic tiles that can be seen in the Millard Sheet's mosaics that were rescued from the Mercantile Bank Building before it was demolished and are now located throughout the Joule Hotel in downtown Dallas, thanks to the owner of the hotel Tim Headington.

CAC has been in its current location for more than 25 years and has helped established the Little Forest Hills area of East Dallas as an arts community. The Center has served on the White Rock Artists Studio Tour since its inception more than 20 years ago.

Medellin brought on a teenager who was hanging around the Oak Cliff studio named Tomás Bustos to serve as an apprentice (and lawn mower) for many years. Bustos has become a notable artist doing



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many public art pieces, including *The Vaquerro*, a monument located in the Fort Worth Stockyards completed with David Newton in 2012.

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