

*Press Release: The Junior League of San Francisco's 2024 Women's Leadership Gala*  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **The Junior League of San Francisco Celebrates 113 Years of Community Involvement and Women's Leadership at Annual Gala**

San Francisco, CA — On Friday October 18th, 2024, The Junior League of San Francisco (JLSF) hosted its annual Women's Leadership Gala. Held at The Palace Hotel, the elegant evening celebrated JLSF's 113 years of community involvement in San Francisco and recognized remarkable women who have passionately devoted their time, energy, and resources to enhance our community.

### **2024 Honorees**

JLSF acknowledges two exceptional individuals annually, one from within the League and one from the broader Bay Area, who have devoted their time, energy, and resources to give back to our community.

### **2024 League Honoree**

A native San Franciscan, Carol Benz has been a community leader and volunteer as long as she can remember. As a member of the Junior League of San Francisco, Carol served as Chair of Enabling Funds, Vice-Chair of the JLSF Fashion Show, Chair of the Nominating Committee and a member of many committees. Carol is a prominent figure in numerous local organizations and was recognized as one of the Forever Most Influential Women in Bay Area Business by the San Francisco Business Times. She has served on the Schwab Advisor Services Advisory Board and held leadership roles on the Stanford Cap and Gown Alumni Board and the Stanford Alumni Association Board of Directors. Carol is deeply involved in the arts community, serving in significant positions in the San Francisco Ballet Auxiliary, San Francisco Opera Guild, and the Merola Opera Program. Additionally, she is a sustaining member of the Junior League of San Francisco and the founder of San Francisco Ballet's ENCORE!, now known as the Young Patrons Circle. Her dedication to supporting and promoting both business and the arts has made her a vital contributor to the cultural and professional landscape of the Bay Area.

### **2024 Community Honoree**

Peggy Haas is a noted San Francisco philanthropist and great-great-grandniece of Levi Strauss. She graduated from Katherine Delmar Burke School, later serving as president of their alumnae board, and University of the Pacific. After college, she worked in Europe as a theatrical producer and director for several years. In 1990, she co-founded the world-renowned Lynx Racing in the Toyota Atlantic Series, trained Indy car drivers for fifteen years, and was inducted into the Motorsports Press Hall of Fame in 2007. In the offseason, she remains active in theater and has been a member of Children's Theatre Association (CTA) for thirty years as well as a past president. In 1992 she and two other artists founded Marin Open Studios. In 2012, while looking for a new home for CTA, she walked past the long-abandoned Presidio Theatre. She recognized the deep need for affordable, modern performance spaces in San Francisco and brought CTA to the Presidio Theatre.

### **2024 Gala Emcee**

The gala was hosted by Thuy Vu Thuy who is a journalist, entrepreneur, board member, and advisor focused on creating educational and economic opportunities for underserved communities. A seven-time Emmy Award-winning journalist, Thuy co-founded and served as CEO of the Global Mentor Network, a mission-driven company providing digital mentorship to democratize leadership development. As a refugee from Vietnam, she became the first Vietnamese American TV news broadcaster in a Top 10 U.S. market, covering everything from elections to natural disasters. She earned an Edward R. Murrow Award and was named one of Northern California's "Most Inspiring Women." Thuy was also the founding anchor of "KQED Newsroom," where she earned an Excellence in Journalism award from the California State Legislature. Thuy serves as the chairwoman of The RealReal Foundation and is a board member of The RealReal. She has also been an advisor to DocuSign and a longtime board member

of the Asian Pacific Fund. In 2019, she received the Community Leadership Award from the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, and her immigration story is featured at the Angel Island Immigration Museum.

**2024 Gala Chair & Speakers:**

Maddy Kuhn, 2024 Women’s Leadership Gala Chair  
Karen Yee, JLSF Director of Fund Development  
Kalla Vieaux, JLSF President  
Jane Inch, (presented to Carol Benz) Sustaining Member JLSF  
Alessandra Waste (presented to Peggy Haas) JLSF Member

**Quotes:**

“It is always a pleasure to bring together the community to honor women dedicated to making a difference. What struck me most about these two women is not just what they have accomplished themselves. What truly wowed me is the way they have championed spaces for others to grow as people, members of the community, and leaders.”

-Kalla Vieaux, JLSF President

**About The Junior League of San Francisco:**

The Junior League of San Francisco is a non-profit organization with a rich history of community engagement and a mission to empower women as leaders. For over a century, JLSF has remained steadfast in its dedication to creating a positive impact in San Francisco through philanthropic initiatives, volunteerism, and promoting women’s leadership.

**For media inquiries or further information, please contact:**

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**Photos and Additional Resources:**

High-resolution photographs from the gala are available for purchase through Drew Altizer Photography. Please contact the provided media contact for any additional resources.