

Remembering Sandra Shannonhouse (1947-2025)



Artists' Legacy Foundation mourns the loss of Sandra Shannonhouse on October 30th, 2025. Sandra served on our board for nearly 20 years. She was a steady guide for our staff, a valuable resource on legacy and the art world, and friend to us all. Her presence will be greatly missed, but her impact felt in perpetuity.

Sandra Shannonhouse was a masterful artist whose legacy of sculptures ranges from sinfully delicious-looking porcelain candies in heart-shaped boxes to large-scale figural pieces found in private and permanent museum collections across the globe, including the Oakland Museum of California, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, University of Iowa Art Museum, Mint Museum of Art, Rene and Veronica di Rosa Foundation grounds, and the Henry Art Gallery at the University of Washington.

Her sculpture *Cnawan Stone* is the focal point of the Sensory Garden at the entrance to the UC Davis Manetti Shrem Museum of Art. Cnawan is an Old English word meaning “to know.” The large basalt column holds a circle of bronze dancing women and features images referencing transformation myths.

Sandra and the Arneson Archives will be recognized as the Manetti Shrem Museum 2026 Margrit Mondavi Arts Medal honorees for their extraordinary commitment to preserving the legacy of UC Davis artists.

Sandra will be remembered as a devoted mother, a loyal friend, a generous, outspoken, thoughtful and tenacious advocate for public art, for artists' ownership rights, and for her unselfish contributions to the quality of life both in her own community and beyond.

Sandra is survived by her husband Art Schade and her daughter Tenaya Arneson (Colin Peck). Sandra was married to Robert Arneson from 1973 until his death in 1992, and loved his sons Derek and Kirk Arneson as her own. Another son, Kreg Arneson predeceased her.



Sandra Shannonhouse
Cnawan Stone, 1995
basalt and bronze

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