

## SAM HUANG



Dr. Huang received his Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts/Art Education from the State University of New York at New Paltz. After four years of teaching art in a New York high school, he returned to college to major in Biology. He obtained his Masters and Ph.D. degrees in Biology from St. John's University in New York. He taught Biology at Fordham University and the City University of New York before relocating to California to teach Biology at Riverside Community College. He retired in 1998 and now devotes his time to integrating Art and Science and performing as a tap dancer. Sam currently has his own art and tap studio in the Life Arts Building that is part of the Riverside Arts Walk on First Thursdays.

Sam is a renowned muralist with many art works throughout the United States and one mural in Moscow, Russia. His community murals depict scenes of Riverside and science and are displayed at local schools, the Riverside DMV, the March Air Field Museum, and other locations. Sam is committed to providing art that all of the Riverside community can have access to.

His most recent work, "Know the Past, Live the Present, Dream the Future," on the Magnolia Elementary School auditorium, tells the story of Riverside's rich multicultural history. The mural honors eleven founders who helped shape the Riverside community, including Frank Miller, Ahn Chang-Ho, Ismael "Smiley" Villegas, Robert Levi and Eliza Tibbets, among others. A longtime Riverside resident, Sam wanted to highlight Riverside's motto, "Diverse, Inclusive, Committed." In conjunction with the mural, students at the school wrote essays on all eleven founders and placed them in a time capsule to be opened in twenty years.

Always an educator at heart, Sam's other murals are often used as learning tools. Many focus on the arts of science and technology. RCC professors and students often refer to the "Ecology" mural on the Riverside Community College campus, which features one-hundred and five endangered organisms. In addition, many of Sam's mural projects are completed with an arts education component. While an artist-in-residence with the Riverside Arts Council in the mid-80's, Sam worked with children at Grant Elementary School on "Grant's Centennial" mural. More recently, he worked with students at Terrace View School on "Joy of Reading." Many of Sam's community murals are made possible by the Riverside Arts Council's Community Arts Partnership grants and the Uptown Kiwanis.

In addition to his commitment to science, Riverside's history, and public art, Sam has been a passionate devotee of tap dancing since age 50. Sam's right leg was removed during World War II in China. But that hasn't stopped him from performing throughout Southern California and winning awards in dancing competitions. He just returned from visiting and dancing for wounded U.S. troops at Walter Reed Army Hospital and Bethesda Naval Hospitals in Washington, DC.

Sam is both a lifelong educator and lifelong learner. His indomitable spirit inspires us and demonstrates that there is nothing we can't accomplish.