



The brainchild of philanthropists Karl and Nelda Buckman, Nelda Studios is an Austin-based media company and philanthropic organization that lifts, nurtures, and expands opportunities for creativity and the arts. The Buckmans recognize the crucial role creativity plays in innovation and solving the world's problems. Nelda, a former art teacher, has witnessed the impact of diminishing support for the arts and has seen firsthand the power of bringing creativity programs to low-income communities. Inspired by the success of the media content they began producing in 2018 and compelled by the arts-funding crisis, the Buckmans launched Nelda Studios in 2022 with a broader mission to support art and creativity through original media productions, philanthropy, and community outreach.

In support of that mission, Nelda Studios serves three functions: a media company producing original content that showcases the innovation of the creative community; a philanthropic organization funding initiatives that further the arts and creativity; and an outreach organization facilitating community access to the arts and thought leadership by bringing together artists and innovators for collaboration and conversation.

More specifically, Nelda Studios focuses on:

## **Productions**

Nelda Studios produces thought-provoking content on multiple media platforms that cover creativity and the human experience. Performance projects include the Tony-nominated Broadway musical *The Prom* and the original musical *Half Time*. Documentaries currently in production include *Disbeliever*, an investigation on the impact of technology on children with filmmaker Laura Dunn and executive producers Robert Redford, Terrence Malick, and Nick Offerman and *Beauty Isn't Pretty*, an exploration of the global pursuit of beauty standards with Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Dori Berinstein.

Also in development: *Life Unscripted*, a television series that follows journalist Meredith Walker as she explores the stories of a richly diverse roster of women living life on their own terms; *Journey Through Art*, a visually immersive series showcasing impactful art that enriches our lives; *Conversations*, a quarterly interview series that shares the journeys of

thought-leaders and creatives as they explore the intersection of art, creativity, and innovation; and *The Artist Within*, a podcast that dives deep into the minds, mediums, and techniques of artists, musicians, and changemakers.

### **Philanthropy (The Buckman Fund)**

Nelda Studios' philanthropic endeavors are supported by The Karl and Nelda Buckman Fund. The fund sponsors programs with educational institutions, cultural organizations, and nonprofits, and encourages collaboration among artists, technologists, designers, and futurists. Founded by Texas-based philanthropists Karl and Nelda Buckman, The Buckman Fund creates accessible opportunities for participation in art and creativity in communities where those opportunities are dwindling.

As a core initiative to support the next generation of creatives, in April 2022, the Buckmans announced a gift to The School of Design & Creative Technologies in the College of Fine Arts College at The University of Texas at Austin. This gift establishes The Buckman Center, a collaboration space for students, educators, artists, and technologists to explore cutting-edge art, design, and technology. To support at-risk communities, the Buckman Fund recently initiated and sponsored A Chance to Rock, a collaboration with Austin Angels and Band-Aid School of Music, providing music lessons for children experiencing foster care. The Buckman Fund honors Karl and Nelda Buckman's deep and long-standing commitment to the arts.

### **Community and Thought Leadership**

Nelda Studios partners with organizations to promote hands-on events and thought-leadership initiatives to bring creativity and arts opportunities directly to communities. Nelda Studios has increased community access to the arts by collaborating with various creativity and innovation events in the Austin area including Austin Design Week kick-off, Buzzfest, and SoundQuest Fest.

In addition, Nelda Studios hosts panel discussions and conversations around the role of art and creativity in the world. Kicking off this series, Nelda Studios hosted a conversation between Grammy-nominated ambient music composer, Steve Roach, and President of The Joseph Campbell Foundation, Robert Walter, focusing on the role of art and mythology. Other thought-leadership initiatives and conversations are in development with educational and cultural event partners.

## About Nelda Studios

Nelda Studios, founded by Karl and Nelda Buckman, is a media company and philanthropic organization that lifts, nurtures, and expands opportunities for creativity and the arts. The Austin-based studio advances this mission through original media productions, philanthropic support of the arts, and community initiatives and events. Signature media productions include the Tony-nominated *The Prom*, original musical *Half Time*, and television series *Life Unscripted* and *Journey Through Art*. In addition, the philanthropic arm, The Buckman Fund, is partnering with The University of Texas at Austin to found The Buckman Center, a future collaboration space for creatives, designers, and technologists at The School of Design and Creative Technologies. Nelda Studios sparks creativity and provides inspiration and opportunity for current and future generations. For more information, please see [neldastudios.com](http://neldastudios.com).