

The Karl and Nelda Buckman Story

Karl and Nelda Buckman recognize the critical role of creativity in innovation, design, problem solving, and the human experience. Their early grassroots efforts began with providing creative opportunities for the community, from funding arts programs for low-income school districts in Texas to supporting small-town theater. Based on that success, and to further opportunities in the arts, Karl and Nelda founded Nelda Studios in 2022, producing feature documentary films, Broadway theater, television series, and other impactful media content. They also created The Karl and Nelda Buckman Fund to lift, nurture, and expand opportunities for creativity and the arts. A marquee fund initiative is launching The Buckman Center at The School of Design and Creative Technologies at The University of Texas at Austin. The Center will be a collaboration and research space for educators, students, artists, designers, and technologists. Nelda Studios also partners with organizations to bring arts and creativity opportunities to communities.

Karl Buckman descends from a long line of impactful innovators and problem solvers. At the height of World War II, his grandfather, biochemist Dr. Stanley Buckman, founded Buckman Laboratories, creating innovative chemical biocides that controlled bacteria in paper manufacturing when daily newspaper war updates were critical. Since then, the company has grown exponentially, providing countless chemical solutions for industries, including industrial water treatment. Following those same footsteps, Karl Buckman is making a difference through innovation and opportunity in the arts and creative spheres. After a decade of working for the family company, Karl devotes his time to philanthropy, including the support of arts programs for children.

Nelda Buckman has a deep commitment to creativity and a strong belief in the value of creative self-expression. After graduating from Stephen F. Austin University with a Bachelor of Science in Speech Pathology, Nelda served as a speech pathologist and later as an elementary art teacher for the Goose Creek Independent School District, near Houston. She witnessed firsthand the positive impact and importance of self-expression for children. In her eight years as a public school art teacher, Nelda saw the long-lasting effects of arts education. "It never goes away and it's always there for them. We all need it. It burdens my heart to think that some people don't have access to the arts." Her love of the arts began

early in life and has continued through community engagement with live theater, an independent study of fine art, and practice through her encaustic home art studio.

Through Nelda Studios, Karl and Nelda Buckman are bringing creative experiences to the community, providing opportunities for creative innovation, and impacting the future of the arts, creative technologies, entertainment, and design.