

# *California Educational Theatre Association Awards Ceremony 2017*

*Welcoming Remarks*  
**Max Schafer**

*Introductions*  
**Michael Despars**

*Conference Scholarship*  
**Haley Guadarrama**  
*Presented by Amanda Swann*

*Carolyn Elder Theatrical  
Costume Design Scholarship*  
**Lauren Haskins**  
*Presented by Carolyn Elder*

*2017 Keynote Speaker*  
**Sandra Tsing Loh**

*2017 Administrator Award*  
**Curtis Marcel**  
*Presented by Elena Villa*

*2017 Theatre Leadership Award*  
**Drama Teachers Association of Southern California- DTASC**  
*Presented by Gai Jones*

*2017 Visionary Award*  
**Cornerstone Theater Company**  
*Presented by James Thomas Bailey*

*2017 CETA Medallion*  
**Dr. Ethel Pitts Walker**  
*Presented by Carol Hovey*



## 2017 CETA Medallion Recipient *Dr. Ethel Pitts Walker*

Presently retired and living in Southern California, Walker was tenured in the Department of Television, Radio, Film, and Theatre after 24 years. She also taught in the Departments of African American Studies and Creative Arts. San Jose State's Martin Luther King, Jr. Library featured an exhibition of Walker's life and work.

Throughout her career, she directed over 25 productions, has written two books, *The New/Lost Plays of Ed Bullins* and *The African American Scenebook*. Her writings have been published in numerous scholarly journals, magazines, books, and newspapers. Walker is the founding president of the Black Theatre Network, a national organization of theatricans, past president of the California Educational Theatre Association, and past president of the Legislative Action Coalition for Arts Education. She is a member of the College of Fellows of the American Theatre Association and received the Living Legend Award from the National Black Theatre Festival. She was also inducted into the Educational Theatre Hall of Fame. She was recognized as the 2007 San Jose State University Outstanding Professor, and received the 2008 University of Missouri-Columbia Distinguished Alumni Award. The California Arts Council recognized her as one of the 10 outstanding arts educators in the State in 2001 and was appointed by Mayor Willie Brown, Jr. to sit on the San Francisco Arts Commission. Walker is a member of the Consortium of Doctors, a national organization of women with doctorate degrees. She is also a member of Third Baptist Church of San Francisco.

Walker and her husband, Phillip own the African American Drama Company, a 38 year-old professional touring company that specializes in dramas. She is the mother of a son, Travis, who is married to Angela and has 1 daughter and 2 stepdaughters.

A native of Tulsa, Oklahoma, she is a graduate of Lincoln University in Missouri, the University of Colorado, and the University of Missouri-Columbia. Her teaching career includes positions at Southern University, Lincoln University, the University of Illinois-Urbana, Laney College, Wayne State University, and the University of California-Berkeley.



## 2017 CETA Keynote Speaker *Sandra Tsing Loh*

SANDRA TSING LOH is the author of the *The Madwoman in the Volvo: My Year of Raging Hormones* (2014, W.W. Norton), which was selected as one of the New York Times' 100 Most Notable Books. It is based on her Best American Essay 2012 on menopause, originally published in *The Atlantic Monthly*. Her previous book, *Mother on Fire*, was inspired by her hit solo show about Los Angeles public education. During that time, she was named one of the 50 most influential comedians by *Variety*. Her other solo shows include *Aliens in America* and *Bad*

*Sex With Bud Kemp* (both off-Broadway at Second Stage Theatre), *Sugar Plum Fairy* (Geffen Playhouse, Seattle Rep), and *I Worry* (Kennedy Center, Actor's Theatre of Louisville). Her short story, "My Father's Chinese Wives," won a Pushcart Prize in 1996, and is also featured in the Norton Anthology of Modern Literature. Loh's previous books include *A Year in Van Nuys*, *Aliens in America*, *Depth Takes a Holiday*, and a novel, *If You Lived Here, You'd Be Home By Now*, which was named by the Los Angeles Times as one of the 100 best fiction books of 1998. She has been a regular commentator on NPR's "Morning Edition," and on PRI's "This American Life" and "Marketplace"; currently, her weekly segment "The Loh Life" is heard on KPCC.

Loh's education includes a BS in physics from the California Institute of Technology, an institution which granted her a Distinguished Alumna Award, its highest honor, and for whom she was the first alumna to give a now-famous commencement speech. Loh's combining of her communication and science skills continue with her syndicated daily minute "The Loh Down on Science," which is heard weekly by 4 million people. Excerpts from her solo piano CD *Pianovision* has been heard on several NPR shows, and she also scored the music for the 1998 Oscar-winning documentary *Breathing Lessons*. A Pushcart Prize winner, MacDowell Fellow and three-time National Magazine Award nominee, she is a contributing editor for *The Atlantic Monthly* and adjunct professor of visual art and science communication at the University of California, Irvine.

Sandra's stand-up show, *The B\*\*\*\* Is Back: An All-Too Intimate Conversation*, ran at The Broad Stage in July, 2015. Her multi-character play based on *The Madwoman in the Volvo* premiered at South Coast Repertory Theatre (SCR) in January, 2016, and enjoyed subsequent runs at The Pasadena Playhouse and Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Loh workshopped a new piece, *Blue State*, at the Ojai Playwrights Conference in August, 2017. A new three-actor version of *Sugar Plum Fairy* will be produced by SCR in December, 2017.

Loh is an adjunct associate professor of Drama at UC Irvine, where she also teaches Science Communication.