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# BEVERLY PRESS

## INSIDE

- Candidates file for BHUSD election pg. 3
- El Mirador restored in WeHo pg. 6

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Serving Beverly Hills, West Hollywood, Hancock Park and Miracle Mile

July 25, 2024

## Los Angeles heads to Paris for start of Olympic Games

■ LA28 prepares for Games in the City of Angels

BY RANCE COLLINS

Los Angeles has a unique stake in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, since Paris will be passing the torch to L.A. to host the 2028 Olympics. The organization LA28 will be

attending the Paris events as part of the preparations.

“There is really nothing that compares to an Olympic and Paralympic Games and we couldn’t be more excited for Paris as they

See **Leaders** page 21



photo by Edwin Folven

Los Angeles will host the Olympics for the third time in 2028.

## Harris secures support of local leaders

■ California native could be first woman U.S. president

BY RANCE COLLINS

United States Vice President and Los Angeles resident Kamala Harris has received the support of local Democratic delegates in the race for the White House this November. After President Joe Biden dropped his campaign and endorsed Harris on July 21, the party quickly rallied around California’s former attorney general and senator.

“The California Democratic Party is proud to offer our endorsement to California’s own, Vice President Kamala Harris, who represents a new generation of leadership and has the ability to unite our party and beat Trump in November,” California Democratic Party chair Rusty Hicks said. “The California Delegation quickly coalesced behind Vice President Harris for president because she’s smart, she’s tough and no one is better prepared to prosecute the case against convicted felon, Donald Trump.”



Beverly Press/Park Labrea News file photo

In 2008, San Francisco Attorney General Kamala Harris traveled to Iowa to campaign for Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama, alongside L.A. City Council President Eric Garcetti and his father, former L.A. County District Attorney Gil Garcetti. (photo originally published in the Jan. 10, 2008, issue of Beverly Press and Park Labrea News)

Since marrying Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff in 2014, Harris has lived primarily in Brentwood – though Harris is an Oakland native who served as San Francisco’s attorney general from 2004-11.

Until Sunday, it appeared that

Biden would be the Democratic nominee, having secured 87.1% of the vote in the party primaries. The 424 delegates from California represent more than 3 million primary voters. At the party convention, delegates are typically bound

See **Delegates** page 21

## Beverly Hills project smooths out Burton Way

■ Street paving expected to be complete by early next week

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Resurfacing of Burton Way is underway in Beverly Hills. The project will re-pave and refurbish the 1.2-mile stretch of the thoroughfare between Crescent Drive and Robertson Boulevard. In addition to street resurfacing, the project installs ADA-compliant sidewalk

ramps and a new concrete bus pad east of Rexford Drive, and restripes the markers for vehicle and bicycle lanes.

Daren Grilley, assistant director of public works for the city of Beverly Hills, said the project will repair uneven road conditions after excavations disrupted the pavement.

“[Burton Way] was aging. There were areas where there were spot failures. There was a lot of patching from previous utility work over the years,” Grilley said. “We don’t real-

ly have a good record of when it was last paved. It was at least a couple of decades ago, so it had a number of patches along the length from when people would get services connected to their properties or upgrades to the utilities.”

He said the recent construction of the Burton Way green street and water efficient landscape project, a \$12-million water conservation and irrigation project that was completed earlier this year, contributed to the wear and tear. The green street project transformed the once-patchy Burton Way median between Rexford and Oakhurst drives into a lush oasis with native vegetation and abstract art, though inaccessible to pedestrians.

Project manager Christine Chung said the work by other city and local service providers – including SoCalGas – also hindered the road’s condition.

The resurfacing – which involves grinding the existing uneven asphalt surface and replacing it with a new, smooth layer – began on Monday, July 22, and will be completed by “early next week,” according to Chung. Nearby residents and drivers should expect lane closures and limited street

See **Paving project** page 21



photo by Tabor Brewster

Crews were grinding and paving Burton Way on Tuesday, July 23.



photo by Edwin Folven

Supervisors Holly Mitchell and Kathryn Barger called for a fiscal analysis to be conducted for the expanded board proposal.

## Plan to add supervisors moves closer to ballot

■ Board approves fiscal analysis of proposal

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a proposal on July 23 to place a measure on the November ballot

that will transform county government and expand the board from five to nine members. It was a first reading for the measure, which must come back before the board for a second vote on July 30.

The measure passed by a 3-2 vote, with Board Chair Lindsey Horvath and Supervisors Janice

See **County plan** page 22

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photo by Tabor Brewster

Crews began clearing the way to drill the Gregory well in La Cienega Park this week.

# Construction begins on second La Cienega Park water well

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Contractors are clearing the way for excavation of the Gregory well, the second in a two-well project that will increase potable water supply by up to 300 million gallons per year in Beverly Hills.

The Gregory well is located on the east corner of La Cienega Park near the intersection of Gregory Well and Gale Drive. According to Beverly Hills Utilities General Manager Robert Welch, nearby residents should expect some parking restrictions and a sidewalk closure on the south side of Gregory Way.

While crews are currently doing preliminary work and have not yet started drilling the Gregory well, the

LeDoux well – located at the southwest corner of La Cienega Park – is already being excavated.

The wells will pump water from the Central Basin – a massive series of natural aquifers deep underneath Los Angeles – and supply water to customers in Beverly Hills and parts of West Hollywood. The project is part of the city’s Water Enterprise Plan, created in 2015 with the goal of reducing the city’s dependence on imported water from the Metropolitan Water District. The wells are partially funded by a federal grant secured by Congressman Ted Lieu (D-Los Angeles County) and signed into law by President Joe Biden on March 9.

“As our community continues to feel the impact of the climate crisis, it is essential to guarantee safe drinking water for American families,” Lieu said in March. “I came to Congress to fight against climate change on both the local and federal levels. I’m pleased to secure nearly \$1 million in funding to mitigate drinking water shortages and address the long-term resiliency of our community.”

Lieu announced on June 5 that he submitted requests for similar funding for the 2025 fiscal year appropriations bill. For information, visit [beverlyhills.org/1359/la-cienega-wells-2-3](http://beverlyhills.org/1359/la-cienega-wells-2-3).

# Commission to consider Citrus Square historic nomination

The State Historic Resources Commission will consider a nomination on Friday, Aug. 2, at 9 a.m. to add the historic Citrus Square neighborhood to the National Register of Historic Places.

Through the efforts of local neighborhood advocate James Dastoli, the nomination of the historic Citrus Square neighborhood is finally up for consideration. Citrus Square is a residential neighborhood located between Highland and La Brea avenues and Third Street and Rosewood Avenue.

Emails of support or opposition can be sent to [calshpo.shrc@parks.ca.gov](mailto:calshpo.shrc@parks.ca.gov) and [amy.crain@parks.ca.gov](mailto:amy.crain@parks.ca.gov).

The commission meeting will be held on Zoom and there will be an opportunity to provide comments. For information, visit [ohp.parks.ca.gov](http://ohp.parks.ca.gov). To register for the Zoom meeting, visit [ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=24368](http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24368).

# New plays festival

Rogue Machine presents the first Playwrights Roundtable with six new plays by creative new voices from Thursday, July 25, through Sunday, July 28. The plays are written by Mando Alvarado, Joshua Conkel, Brian Otaño, A. Rey Pamatmat, David H. Parker and Lina Patel. The program offers a first look at the works-in-progress and an exploration of the development process. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Thursday through Sunday, with 1 p.m. matinees on Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free. Matrix Theatre, 7657 Melrose Ave. [roguemachine theatre.org/playwrights](http://roguemachine theatre.org/playwrights).

# ‘The Substance of Fire’

Ruskin Group Theatre presents “The Substance of Fire” from Friday, July 26, through Sunday, Sept. 1. Written by Jon Robin Baitz and starring Rob Morrow and Marcia Cross, the production follows Isaac, a Holocaust survivor who arrived in New York City as an orphan, reinvented himself and built a thriving publishing empire. Known for championing passionate authors, his life’s work faces upheaval after a personal tragedy. As his children push for a commercial hit to save the company, Isaac’s unwavering dedication to a controversial project tests family bonds and his legacy. Showtimes are at 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m., Sunday. Tickets start at \$25. 3000 Airport Ave., Santa Monica. (310)397-3244, [ruskingrouptheatre.com](http://ruskingrouptheatre.com).



# Wellness event

Dive into a weekend of panels and workshops, meditation ceremonies and immersive healing programs during “Heal The Field: A Bioenergetic Wellness Event” on Saturday, and Sunday, July 27-28, in Santa Monica. The event includes hypnagogic light journeys, vibroacoustic therapies, aura readings, live art painting, conscious media visual presentations, book signings, gourmet vegan cuisine and live music. The hours are 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m. on July 27, and 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m. on July 28. Single day tickets are \$44; \$66 for both days. 1210 Fourth St. [wholehumancollective.net/healthevent](http://wholehumancollective.net/healthevent).



# Art Deco Society

Enjoy a day at the lake with the Art Deco Society of Los Angeles during the Historic Echo Park Tour and Swan Boat Ride on Saturday, July 27, from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The family-friendly expedition includes a visit to the Art Deco Lady of the Lake statue. See geese, turtles, fish and wildlife. A guide from the Echo Park Historical Society will discuss the origins of the 1892 park, the adjacent Victorian Carroll Avenue neighborhood, its place in early silent comedy filmmaking and evangelism, and the history of the lake’s lotus blossoms. Boating sessions will be held at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Tickets are \$25 for members; \$30 for non-members. Echo Park Boathouse, 751 Echo Park Ave. [artdecola.org/events-calendar/echo-park-tour-swan-boats-2024](http://artdecola.org/events-calendar/echo-park-tour-swan-boats-2024).



# CALENDAR

## Writers workshop

Writers and Publishers Network is holding “Identity as an Act of Courage: A Writing and Storytelling Interview and Workshop” on Saturday, July 27, from 10 a.m.-noon, via Zoom. Robin Quinn hosts an interview with Terri Silverman, a writing coach, writer, solo performer, director, dramaturg and founder of Creative Rites Workshops and Coaching. The interview is followed by a workshop to inspire participants to explore their identities, spark ideas and generate stories. Admission is free for WPN and Independent Writers of Southern California members; \$15 for non-members. [iwosc.org](http://iwosc.org).

## Speak Japanese

People interested in learning to speak Japanese are invited to “Conversation Cafe Tea Time” presented by the Japan Foundation, Los Angeles on Saturday, July 27, from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Enjoy learning and talking with native Japanese speakers. All levels and ages are welcome; Japanese language experience is not necessary. 5700 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 100. [jflalc.org/event-details.php/114/tea-time-at-jfla](http://jflalc.org/event-details.php/114/tea-time-at-jfla).

## Music at 8000 Sunset Strip

8000 Sunset Strip invites the community to its Summer Music Series on Saturday, July 27, from 1-3 p.m. Pianist Michael Falcone performs music in a wide variety of styles from jazz, classical, blues rock and pop to swing and Latin music. 8000 Sunset Blvd. [8000sunset.shopkimco.com](http://8000sunset.shopkimco.com).

## ‘Barbie The Movie: In Concert’

Barbie fans won’t want to miss “Barbie The Movie: In Concert,” a musical experience featuring an all-women orchestra performing the award-winning score live-to-film, on Saturday, July 27, at 8 p.m. at the Hollywood Bowl. Dance the night away with the Barbie Land Sinfonietta, conducted by Tony Award-winner Macy Schmidt, as “Barbie The Movie” comes to life. Celebrate the music of the film in a one-of-a-kind immersive experience. Tickets start at \$31. 2301 N. Highland Ave. [hollywoodbowl.com](http://hollywoodbowl.com).

## Contracting webinar

L.A. County is holding “A Layman’s Guide to Contract Terms,” a virtual small business contracting workshop on Tuesday, July 30, from 3-4:30 p.m. The free webinar is a component of the L.A. Regional Contractor Development and Bonding Program. It will provide information on navigating the complex and complicated construction contracting system including bidding requirements, scope of work, scheduling, claims and disputes. Registration required. [us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Uk2uEWA2S7qCJ2m54TtkLw#/registration](http://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Uk2uEWA2S7qCJ2m54TtkLw#/registration).

## Classical music under the stars

The Los Angeles Philharmonic welcomes conductor Xian Zhang for a performance of “Schumann & Bruch” on Thursday, Aug. 1, at 8 p.m. at the Hollywood Bowl. Violinist Karen Gomyo joins the orchestra for Bruch’s seductive “First Violin Concerto,” showcasing the range of the instrument. Under the baton of Zhang, the LA Phil channels the optimism of Wagner’s “Meistersinger Overture” and closes with Schumann’s “First Symphony,” a buoyant farewell to spring. Upper section tickets start at \$1. 2301 N. Highland Ave. [hollywoodbowl.com](http://hollywoodbowl.com).



## Windsor Square-Hancock Park Historical Society

The Windsor Square-Hancock Park Historical Society is holding its Annual Meeting and Summer BBQ on Saturday, Aug. 3, at 5 p.m. at a private residence. New Executive Committee officers and trustees will be installed, and Los Angeles Conservancy president Adrian Scott Fine is the guest speaker. Santa Maria barbecue will be served as well as beer and wine. The event is an opportunity for new members and residents to meet historical society members. Tickets are \$68 for members, \$83.50 for non-members. 355 S. Windsor Blvd. [windsorsquare-hancockpark.com/2024/06/annual-meeting-and-barbecue](http://windsorsquare-hancockpark.com/2024/06/annual-meeting-and-barbecue).

## BEVERLY PRESS PARK LABREA NEWS

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## THE MUSIC MINUTE



The Chinese Acrobats of Hebei are a multi-talented troupe that features such unique acts as Chinese Poles, Foot Juggling, Towering Chair Balance, and more - All paired with unbelievable martial arts. A beautiful oriental soundtrack drives each jaw-dropping act. This sets an exotic tone for the production. With stunning costumes and props that create a kaleidoscope of color, the Chinese Acrobats of Hebei create a definite “wow” factor for the audience.

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# Three candidates file for BHUSD Board

■ Margo mulls run for county or state office

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Three candidates – attorney Dela Peykar Ronen, security professional Russell Stuart and current Board President Dr. Amanda Stern – have pulled paperwork for three open seats on the Beverly Hills Unified School District Board of Education.

The deadline to file paperwork for the race is Aug. 9. If no other candidates enter the race, Ronen, Stuart and Stern will run unopposed and begin their four-year terms on the school board in December.

Stern is the only candidate seek-



photo courtesy of BHUSD  
Incumbent candidate Dr. Amanda Stern filed for reelection following her first term.

ing reelection. While Stern’s current term expires this December, opening one seat, the two other seats were opened by Mary Wells – who left the board after being elected to the Beverly Hills City Council earlier this year – and Noah Margo – who is not seeking reelection.

“I feel that three terms is quite sufficient in public service at this level, and I have other goals in my life that I would like to spend more time tackling,” Margo said. “Some may be political. Some may be just professional.”

Margo added that he is considering running for public office, but ruled out a seat on the Beverly Hills City Council.

“It would be at probably county or state levels,” he said.

Margo said he remains committed to improving public education in his next venture.

“I’ve seen areas of improvement from my seat on the school board that kind of project up to a state level. So I’ve had thoughts about putting – I guess, my money where my mouth is – and seeing if I can be a catalyst for change for public education at a higher level,” Margo added. “There are issues – which I’ll keep under wraps at the moment – that I feel must be addressed in Sacramento.”

Margo said he hopes that in the remainder of his term, the district has a successful opening to the school year and the board continues to make “sound long-range financial decisions,” while ensuring that students get the best edu-

cation possible.

Ronen is an estate planning attorney, BHUSD parent and an alumna of Hawthorne Elementary and Beverly Hills High School.

“I grew up in Beverly Hills,” Ronen said. “I moved here when I was five, from Iran. It’s pretty much been my identity – Beverly Hills and the school district. I started my life here and I credit a lot of my personal success, my business success ... to my experiences from the schools, from the teachers that I had.”

Ronen added that her background as an attorney will give her a qualitative and analytical approach in carrying out board duties such as reviewing employment contracts and addressing the concerns of parents and community members.

“The ideal board member in my point of view is someone who takes [an issue] and analyzes it, does a deep dive into it and gives positive feedback, good feedback that can help everyone,” Ronen said.

Stuart is a security professional, owner of firearms store Beverly Hills Guns and BHUSD parent who ran for Beverly Hills City Council earlier this year. Stuart finished fifth in a 10-person race, receiving 1,754 votes, or 11.67% of the total. He said his previous campaign in Beverly Hills introduced him to “hundreds” of families who expressed concerns about the school district and encouraged him to run for school board.

“What’s different about me, sim-



photos courtesy of Russell Stuart and Dela Peykar Ronen  
Security professional Russell Stuart and estate planning attorney Dela Peykar Ronen join current board president Dr. Amanda Stern as candidates for three open seats on the BHUSD Board.

ilar to my council run, is that I do come from a different world. I’m not from the academic world. I’m not an attorney ... I come from the public and private security side,” Stuart said. “The safety of the schools is monumental ... When you’re talking about crime, homelessness, kids’ safety walking to school, parking, these subways that are coming – all of these factors are fresh on people’s minds and are something that they’re looking to me to address as a security professional.”

He added that he believes there needs to be a “refreshed focus” on academic excellence in the district as well as increased transparency between the school district and the community.

Stern is a school psychologist, BHUSD parent and current board president seeking reelection after

her first term.

“I want to continue to support the priorities and needs that my colleagues and I started. These include continuing to address needs stemming from the pandemic including any achievement deficits, and student mental wellness,” Stern said.

Stern also emphasized a commitment to supporting BHUSD’s youngest students.

“As universal transitional kindergarten comes on line nationally, I want to continue to support these efforts to welcome these very young students to our campus. So far this has been tremendously popular and we are seeing a large enrollment need for these so-called ‘TK-ers.’”

Beverly Hills residents will vote for the open school board seats in the Nov. 5 general election.

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photo by Tabor Brewster

The boxer allegedly damaged a hotel room and hallway at the Waldorf Astoria Beverly Hills.

# Boxer Ryan Garcia charged for vandalism at hotel

BY TABOR BREWSTER

Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascón announced on July 18 that boxer Ryan Garcia was charged with one misdemeanor count of vandalism. Garcia was arrested in Beverly Hills on June 8 for allegedly causing damage to the Waldorf Astoria hotel.

“While we are grateful no injuries were reported in this incident, reckless behavior that damages property shows a blatant and unacceptable disregard for the safety and peace of our community,” Gascón said in a press release. “Our office will work to ensure the responsible individual is held accountable.”

According to Gascón, Garcia is expected to be arraigned on Aug. 7 and faces a maximum sentence of one year in county jail.

Beverly Hills Police Department Lt. Andrew Myers said Garcia was arrested on June 8 while the department was investigating a call about an “intoxicated person” at the hotel.

“During the investigation, the intoxicated person was identified as Ryan Garcia. Upon obtaining statements from the hotel management, it was determined that Mr. Garcia was a registered guest of the hotel and had caused damage to a guest room and the hallway of the hotel. Hotel management requested the arrest of Mr. Garcia for property damage.”

According to Myers, Garcia was subsequently arrested and transported to a hospital for medical care by the Beverly Hills Fire

Department.

According to Gascón, a second person, Celeste Cardio, was also arrested but will not be charged “due to insufficient evidence.”

Myers said the hotel’s “initial estimate” for damages caused by Garcia was approximately \$15,000. According to BHPD, Garcia was arrested for felony vandalism, which applies when alleged damages are \$400 or more. However, Garcia is now being charged with a misdemeanor by the District Attorney’s Office, although it is still alleged that the damages were over \$400.

“Vandalism over \$400 is a ‘wobbler,’ i.e., [it] can be charged as either a felony or misdemeanor. To decide what level to charge at, we weigh several factors with a focus on consistency among cases with similar factors,” a spokesperson for the District Attorney’s Office said.

The Victorville native’s 24-1 boxing record has been marred by an extended period of controversy and widely-condemned behavior. On July 4, Garcia was expelled by the World Boxing Council after posting a racist rant against Black and Muslim people on social media.

Garcia was also suspended on June 20 by the New York State Athletic Commission for one year after he tested positive for a banned substance, ostarine, before a fight against Devin Haney on April 20. Garcia was fined \$10,000, and must forfeit his \$1.1. million prize. The fight will be ruled a no-contest.

# Suspects sought for hold up at Beverly Blvd. bakery

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Police are searching for two suspects who brazenly attempted to steal a watch from a victim on July 19 in front of a bakery and café at 7122 Beverly Blvd.

The suspects approached the victim, who police said is in his 70s, as he sat with a friend around 7:30 a.m. in front of Mensch Kitchen and Bakery. The suspects walked up and said “Rolex,” demanding the victim’s watch, said Lt. Mark Ro, with the Los Angeles Police Department’s Wilshire Division. The suspects and victim struggled over the watch, and the man’s friend briefly intervened. A bakery employee also threw a chair at the suspects as they ran away. The men were last seen heading south on Detroit Street, where they entered a vehicle and drove away. Ro said investigators recovered video that shows one of the suspects briefly pulling out a handgun during the robbery.

“Luckily, no one was shot and no one got hurt,” he added. “They spooked these guys and they ran



photo courtesy of YouTube

Security camera footage captured the suspects committing the robbery.

away. They did not steal the watch. I don’t think anybody knew at the time the suspect was armed.”

Ro said multiple crews of suspects are committing street robberies targeting people wearing expensive jewelry, and he cautioned people to be careful. The suspects knew exactly what they were after in the July 19 robbery, he added.

The victims described the suspects as Black men with light complexion, 18-20 years-old and approximately 5 feet 10 inches tall. They were wearing black jackets with hoods, Ro said. The men fled in an early 2000s black Mercedes Benz sedan. Ro said there was no front license plate on the vehicle. Detectives are searching for cameras that may have captured the rear license plate. Anyone with information is asked to call (213)922-8205 or (213)473-0476.

# Three arrested after Rolex robbery in Beverly Hills

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

Three male suspects were arrested on July 17 after they allegedly stole a watch from a victim in Beverly Hills and led police on pursuits through multiple neighboring cities.

The robbery occurred at approxi-

mately 2:55 p.m. near Charleville Avenue and Cañon Drive. The victim was sitting in a vehicle when he was approached by two men armed with handguns who demanded his wristwatch. The suspects stole a Rolex watch, ring and iPhone from the victim and fled in a vehicle driven by a third suspect, police said.

Officers in the Beverly Hills Police Department’s Real Time Watch Center located footage of the suspects’ vehicle, which drove out of the city, and broadcast it to law enforcement agencies in surrounding communities. Officers with the Hawthorne Police Department saw

See **BHPD** page 21



## SUMMARY NOTICE

### AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AUTHORIZING THE BEVERLY HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT’S MILITARY EQUIPMENT USE INVENTORY IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 7071.

The Beverly Hills Police Department (BHPD) has requested authorization to acquire new types of military equipment and larger quantities of previously-approved equipment pursuant to Government Code section 7071. The Ordinance contains the requisite findings to approve the designated military equipment identified in the Military Equipment Inventory.

The Beverly Hills Police Department’s renewed Military Equipment Use Policy (Policy 706), as well as the attached Inventory, are publicly available on the City’s website pursuant to Government Code section 7071.

A certified copy of the entirety of the text of the Ordinance is available for public review in the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, California 90210. The City Council of the City of Beverly Hills will consider adoption of the Ordinance during the regular City Council meeting on August 6, 2024. Further information may be obtained by contacting **Beverly Hills Police Department Sergeant Audra Alatorre at 310-288-2610.**

HUMA AHMED  
City Clerk



Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please call (310) 285-2400 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY). Providing at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice will help to ensure availability of services. City Hall, including the Council Chamber and Room 280A, is wheelchair accessible. The City Hall Council Chamber and Room 280A are also equipped with audio equipment for the hearing impaired.

# Man shot by deputies in WeHo

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A robbery suspect died in a deputy-involved shooting in West Hollywood on July 20 after he pulled a knife on deputies who tried to detain him.

The shooting occurred at approximately 7:20 p.m. in the 1100 block of North Gardner Street. Authorities said a citizen flagged down deputies and told them an attempted robbery occurred in a 7-Eleven store in the 7600 block of Santa Monica Boulevard. Deputies located the suspect on Gardner Street and attempted to arrest him. The man produced a knife and was shot by the deputies. The suspect was taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead, authorities said.

The Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner said the suspect’s name is being withheld pending notification of

next of kin. A spokesperson described him as white male in his 30s.

No further information was available about the attempted robbery. Authorities said no one else was injured.

The deputy-involved shooting remains under investigation by multiple independent parties, which is standard protocol. They include investigations by the Sheriff’s Department’s Homicide Bureau and Internal Affairs Bureau. The Office of the Inspector General provides independent oversight and the Sheriff’s Executive Force Review Committee reviews the investigation.

The sheriff’s department has not released the names of deputies involved in the shooting. Anyone with information is urged to call the sheriff’s department’s Homicide Bureau at (323)890-5500.



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# ‘Lookout’ for the reopening of El Mirador

BY RANCE COLLINS

The El Mirador is now, after many years off the market, preparing to reopen.

The apartment complex is one of the oldest in West Hollywood, constructed almost a century ago in 1929. The building, named a local cultural resource in 1992, once boasted tenants like Jean Harlow and Betty Grable.

The El Mirador remains very much alive – at least as a structure. For the last 13 years, it has been vacant.

The building was the center of a protracted battle between the city of West Hollywood and owner Jerome Nash. After purchasing the seven-story, 27-unit El Mirador, more than 15 years ago Nash said he intended to renovate the decaying property, but arguments between residents, preservationists, tenants, city officials and Nash himself brought the project to a standstill. One of the primary sticking points was the windows – Nash wanted to double-glaze for insulation, but some preservationists objected to removing the existing windows.

“The El Mirador being vacant for years shows what happens when City Hall overreaches,” former Councilman John Duran said. “The property owner evicted [using the Ellis Act] all the tenants in anger when the city refused to be flexible on historic preservation standards. The refusal to allow the property owner to weatherproof the windows out of concerns for historic preservation standards led to the loss of housing for numerous long-term tenants in rent-controlled units. It was a tough lesson on inflexibility leading to unintended consequences.”

The building remained relatively dormant as the city, West Hollywood’s historical commission, preservation society and Nash struggled to come to an agreement. In 2012, a deal was struck that would allow Nash to use the building as a residential inn or condominium complex, though he now intends to use the units as rental apartments.

“I’m glad the building has been restored but it shouldn’t have been removed from the rental market,” Councilman John Heilman said. “Long term tenants were unnecessarily displaced.”

In the decade since, Nash said he has been slowly, carefully rehabilitating the building. He told the Beverly Press in 2019 that he looks at himself “as more of a steward of the building than anything else.”

“The building is rich with stories ... now, mostly lost stories,” said Allegra Allison, who is working with Nash on the building’s restoration. “Its former, long ago, inhabitants – illustrious or not – and their visitors are largely left to the imagination ... in the Golden Age, studios sometimes leased apartments for workers and stars, but records were not kept ... and what there was, disappeared long ago.”

The restoration process, Nash said, has been painstaking. Decades of neglect had nearly rotted pieces of the building, a crown jewel of Fountain Avenue designed by theater architect S. Charles Lee. Everything – from elevators to doorknobs to ornate moldings – had to be carefully restored.

The units themselves have what Nash dubs a “European-style” refurb, with a mix of modernized appliances, kitchens and bathrooms, and the vintage, historical elements native to the structure. Any element that could be saved has been saved, from mahogany base boards to cement stairsteps. Nash hired a construction artisan, Carlos Quintero, to carefully handle the intricate details.

“I’ve been here 12 years, working,” Quintero said.

For Allison, who previously served on the West Hollywood Historic Preservation Commission, the long effort is more than worth the while.

“I think it adds character, culture, beauty and a record of the rare and wonderful Hollywood history to West Hollywood. There is nothing else in the world that has that history. Most new construction to me is very bland,” she said. “So many cities like Washington, D.C. and New York have awe inspiring architecture. We have so little ... Europeans and other foreigners are drawn to historic buildings. They appreciate the culture, beauty and artistic detail and our history. We Californians once did, when these were built. How did we lose that? I don’t know ...”

“For over 90 years, the El Mirador has caught the eyes of both tourists and residents alike as they travel along Fountain Avenue,” West Hollywood Preservation Alliance board president Victor Omelczenko told the Beverly Press in 2019. “The building’s ornate ‘Churrigueresque’ Spanish Colonial Revival style is quite rare nowadays ... Learning that the interior building is being given the same respect as the exterior of the building is a nice thing too.”

The star attraction will likely be what was once three-time Oscar-

winning cinematographer Conrad Hall’s northern tower penthouse – replete with a ballroom-sized living space and two outdoor patios overlooking both the western and eastern ends of the city. It was at this unit, in the early 2000s when he first visited the property, that Nash met Marlon Brando.

“People say it’s haunted. I was alone in there for a couple of months before the work started. It never felt haunted ... and I’ve been in buildings that do,” Allison said. “People say it’s empty and neglected. It’s full of people working away... and has been for almost 14 years.”

Restoration is expected to be completed by the end of the year, though Allison notes that “it’ll be done when it’s done.” Getting it right, both she and Nash profess, is the most important thing.

After its completion, El Mirador will go into a historic trust, which Nash said will help preserve it in perpetuity. He paraphrased architect Louis Kahn, saying “without our architecture, we have no past.”



photo by Rance Collins

A penthouse at the El Mirador offers a large living room with far-reaching views of Los Angeles.



photo by Rance Collins

Detailed restoration work has been completed on El Mirador, including its vintage concrete steps.



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# City Council will decide dealership’s future

■ Wires Only appeals Planning Commission decision

BY TABOR BREWSTER

After years of operating without permits and months of chaotic Planning Commission hearings, the owner of a luxury car dealership at 9030 Wilshire Blvd. will head to the Beverly Hills City Council to appeal the commission’s decision to deny a conditional use permit.

“I don’t like what I’ve seen from this applicant. I don’t think we can approve something where there has been so much dysfunction and so little clarity,” Commission Chair Gary Ross said, shortly before voting to deny the CUP on June 26.

The showroom, Wires Only, features a collection of supercars, lowriders, racecars and motorcycles that are visible from the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Wetherly Drive. The owner, RD Whittington, is known for the Jamie Foxx-produced television series “Million Dollar Wheels,” in which he makes big-budget car sales to celebrities like Kim Kardashian and Tom Holland.

However, according to the city, Whittington had been operating Wires Only in Beverly Hills since at least 2022 without a business license, without paying business taxes, without a DMV license and without a conditional use permit. The business has also been the subject of many code violations, including car deliveries that blocked the public right of way and a rear fence that exceeded height restric-

tions. As a result, the city issued a cease and desist letter in October 2022 to Wires Only to either vacate the property or complete a conditional use permit application. Whittington hired Gabbay Architects, a Beverly Hills architecture firm, to complete the CUP application, which was submitted to the city on Dec. 27, 2022. The commission held the first of three hearings on the CUP application on March 28, 2024, in which Whittington stunned commission members with a clear lack of preparation and non-answers to their questions.

In the planning commission hearings, he argued that the location wasn’t a showroom at all, but a “home office” with a “personal collection” of cars that weren’t for sale. Commissioner Jeff Wolfe refuted his assertion through searching the Wires Only online inventory, which listed several vehicles visible from the street in the showroom as for sale. Whittington was not present at the second meeting due to a “family emergency” and his representative – former planning commissioner Hamid Gabbay – presented the project on his behalf. At some points, Gabbay seemed to grow frustrated with the commission, criticizing them for “punishing” Whittington, before ultimately acknowledging the application’s faults.

At the end of the third meeting on June 26 – in which Whittington disappeared halfway through – the commission voted to deny the conditional use permit.

Wires Only appealed the Planning Commission’s unanimous

decision, and the City Council will now vote to grant or deny the CUP.

According to deputy city manager Keith Sterling, the City Council will set the appeal hearing date at its next meeting on Aug. 6.

As of Wednesday, July 24, there were still various luxury vehicles on display in the Wires Only showroom.

The appeal comes shortly after former Los Angeles Laker Spencer Dinwiddie filed a lawsuit against Wires Only. Dinwiddie alleged that the dealership reneged on a promise to help sell Dinwiddie’s Ford Mustang after he purchased a \$1.05 million Ferrari from Wires Only.



photo by Tabor Brewster

The luxury showroom at 9030 Wilshire Blvd. is home to supercars from around the world.

# K Line Draft environmental impact report open for public review

The Draft EIR for the Metro K Line Northern Extension project is open for public comment and review until Sept. 5. The public can provide comments on the Draft EIR by mail, email, phone or at public hearings. After the 45-day review period, Metro will review public

comments and findings from the Draft EIR, technical analysis and stakeholder input to recommend a preferred alignment, known as the “Locally Preferred Alternative” to the Metro Board of Directors. For information, visit metro.net/projects/kline-northern-extension.

## Notable Quotes

“We must rekindle the fire of idealism in our society – for nothing suffocates the promise of America more than unbounded cynicism and indifference. We must reclaim the tradition of community in our society. Only by recognizing that we share a common obligation to one another and to our country can we ever hope to maximize our national or personal potential. We must reassert the oneness of America. America has been and must once again be the seamless web of caring and community.”

President Joe Biden (b. 1942), launching his first presidential campaign on June 9, 1987.

Biden chose to step down as the Democratic nominee on July 21. He will finish his term as president of the United States on January 21, 2025. Biden began his political career representing the state of Delaware in 1973 at age 29, the youngest senator in U.S. history.

\*source: blog.4president.us

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# Pro-Palestine demonstrators march near mayor’s house

■ Protesters gather at Wilshire and Irving

BY EDWIN FOLVEN

A group of 60 to 70 pro-Palestine demonstrators protested at the corner of Wilshire and Irving boulevards around 5 p.m. on July 22 and marched through the neighborhood around Getty House, the official residence of the mayor of Los Angeles.

Mayor Karen Bass was in Washington, D.C. at the time of the protest. Los Angeles Police Department officers surrounded Getty House as a precaution while demonstrators gathered in the Windsor Square neighborhood on July 22. The group was peaceful and no arrests were reported.

The protest was organized by

groups opposed to the Israel-Hamas War. It occurred two days before Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave a speech before Congress on July 24 at the U.S. Capitol. Netanyahu’s visit sparked large protests in Washington, D.C.

The group on Irving Boulevard included members of SoCal Uprising, the O.C. Justice Initiative, AUSIIME (Anti U.S Israeli Imperialism in the Middle East) and Palestinian Christians for Justice. The group was comprised of young people to seniors, with some coming from as far as South Pasadena and Orange County. The site near the Getty House was chosen to highlight their cause, organizers said.

“That’s why we’re here, to be in the public eye,” said Justice Crudup, president of the O.C. Justice Initiative and one of the

protest’s organizers. “There are a lot of organizations here supporting this cause.”

SoCal Uprising member Anthony Bryson called on Bass and other leaders to do more in support of the people of Gaza, as well as people of color living in Los Angeles.

“The suffering we’re facing every day, whether it’s in Los Angeles or Gaza, they’re all interconnected,” Bryson said. “The reality is marginalized people black and brown and indigenous here in Los Angeles, and across the world, experience over-policing and systematic oppression. This is all interconnected to the livelihood of the Palestinians in Gaza in the West Bank. We believe the dehumanization of one community means the dehumanization of many communities, and that’s the world we live in today.”

“We’ve got to mass and we’ve got to mobilize, we’ve got to organize,” said Alvaro Maldonado, of AUSIIME. “We’ve got to fight what’s happening in Palestine.”



photo by Edwin Folven

Demonstrators marched on Wilshire Boulevard and residential streets around Getty House.

Some motorists passing by on Wilshire Boulevard honked as the demonstrators held signs and waved Palestinian flags. After speeches and chanting near Wilshire and Irving boulevards, the demonstrators marched through the neighborhood before dispersing.

A spokesperson for the mayor’s office said there was no comment on the demonstration.

# Whoopi receives Key to the City

■ WeHo notes actress’ longtime commitment to LGBTQ+, cannabis communities

BY RANCE COLLINS

The city of West Hollywood gifted Emmy, Grammy, Oscar and Tony-award winner Whoopi Goldberg a Key to the City on July 20.

The ceremony was held at The Woods, a cannabis lounge where Goldberg was launching Emma & Clyde, part of a portfolio of marijuana products under the actress, producer and “The View” host’s WhoopFam umbrella.

Goldberg first entered the cannabis field in 2016 under the banner Whoopi & Maya, specifically tailoring the product line for women. For Goldberg, “cannabis was literally the only thing that gave me relief” from menstrual symptoms.

“If we do nothing else, we leave this world making women feel better,” Goldberg said.

Emma & Clyde is the recreational component of her company, which she said is all about “having a good time.”

On its website, WhoopFam notes that it is “dedicated to cultivating high-quality cannabis products and providing exceptional customer service.”

The Woods partner Michael Berman said he was “proud” to welcome Goldberg to the store.

“If it were not for activists like Whoopi Goldberg speaking out publicly in support of LGBTQ+ human and civil rights, including the right to plant-based medicine, there might be an even greater gap in the basic privileges that we enjoy today,” Berman said. “Her strong voice and no-nonsense attitude towards civil liberties has helped shape and educate the public, lawmakers and their constituents.”

Goldberg is a longtime supporter

of the LGBTQ+ community. She participated in the 1987 march on Washington, organized by HIV/AIDS activists, and in 2010 founded the Give a Damn campaign with Cyndi Lauper, which encourages straight people to support the LGBTQ+ community through allyship.

On hand to present the honor were West Hollywood Vice Mayor Chelsea Byers and Councilwomen Sepi Shyne and Lauren Meister.

“West Hollywood’s cannabis industry has long been a central part of our identity as an inclusive community,” Byers said. “Destigmatizing medicinal use during the height of the AIDS epidemic was critical to care for our community and Whoopi Goldberg has been at the forefront of that normalization work for decades. As we enter a new era for cannabis, with premier lounge experiences like The Woods transforming our understanding of the potential for this industry once again, I am so proud to recenter our history and our values as a community and celebrate Whoopi Goldberg with a Key to the City.”



photo by Rance Collins

Whoopi Goldberg also received a proclamation from Assembly Rick Chavez Zbur’s office on July 20.

# American Red Cross seeks donors during critical summer shortage

The American Red Cross is facing a critical blood shortage and is urging donors to give blood or platelets to reinforce the blood supply as much as possible before the end of summer. Type O blood donors and those giving platelets are especially needed to help keep hospitals stocked through August.

The Red Cross’ blood products are in demand around-the-clock as hos-

pitals work to save lives. When fewer people donate, the blood supply is quickly diminished. Those who donate from Aug. 1-31 will receive a \$20 amazon.com gift card via email.

Blood drives are being held throughout Los Angeles County in August. For information and to make an appointment, call (800)REDCROSS or visit redcross-blood.org.



## SUMMARY NOTICE

### AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS RENEWING ITS MILITARY EQUIPMENT USE ORDINANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 7071

The above-titled Ordinance of the City of Beverly Hills renews the City’s military equipment use ordinance, the Beverly Hills Police Department’s Military Equipment Use Policy (Policy 706), and the Military Equipment Inventory (Inventory) attached therein. The Ordinance renews authorization of the designated military equipment identified in the Inventory based on the annual military equipment report, and provides the City Council’s requisite findings.

The Beverly Hills Police Department’s Policy 706, as well as the attached Inventory, are publicly available on the City’s website pursuant to Government Code section 7071.

The Ordinance was unanimously approved and adopted on July 16, 2024. Those voting for or against adoption of Ordinance No. 24-O-2898 are as follows:

**AYES:** Mayor Lester Friedman, Vice Mayor Sharona Nazarian, Councilmember John Mirisch, Councilmember Craig Corman and Councilmember Mary Wells

**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None

A certified copy of the entirety of the text of the Ordinance is available for public review in the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, California 90210. Further information may be obtained by contacting **Beverly Hills Police Department Sergeant Audra Alatorre at 310-288-2610.**

HUMA AHMED  
City Clerk



Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please call (310) 285-2400 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY). Providing at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice will help to ensure availability of services. City Hall, including the Council Chamber and Room 280A, is wheelchair accessible. The City Hall Council Chamber and Room 280A are also equipped with audio equipment for the hearing impaired.



# Project Angel Food recognized for high nutritional standards

Project Angel Food, a Los Angeles nonprofit dedicated to providing medically tailored meals to people living with critical illnesses, is one of only four organizations in the country to earn accreditation from the Food is Medicine Coalition.

Project Angel Food offers meals that are medically tailored by registered dietitian nutritionists to meet the nutritional needs of clients with severe, complex and chronic illnesses. As part of the medically tailored meal intervention, clients receive nutrition education and coaching to support long-term management of overall health.

As the food is medicine movement

grows nationally and the White House’s National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition and Health includes a focus on medically tailored meals, the accreditation establishes reliable standards to ensure high quality and consistency for medically tailored meals nationwide.

Through the accreditation process, Project Angel Food went through a Food is Medicine Coalition audit process. The Food is Medicine Coalition Membership and Accreditation Committee verified Project Angel Food’s status as an agency delivering high-quality, medically tailored meal intervention. The Food is Medicine Coalition accreditation demon-

strates to clients, health care partners, donors, partner agencies and the community that Project Angel Food provides the highest standards in meals and services that significantly impact the health of individuals with critical illnesses.

“Through the rigorous Accreditation process, Project Angel Food has demonstrated high-quality MTM service provision and leadership in the field of food is medicine,” Food is Medicine Coalition executive director Alissa Wassung said. “By achieving accreditation, FIMC verified Project Angel Food’s fidelity to our FIMC MTM model and reliable MTM service to clients.”

The rigorous accreditation process examines numerous aspects of each agency’s operation and MTM service, including nutritional quality, meal packaging and labeling, delivery model, volunteer and client services and food safety practices. To meet the standards, meals must have no artificial food coloring, artificial sweeteners, high fructose corn syrup, preservatives, trans fats or ultra-processed ingredients, with minor exceptions.

Established in 1989, Project Angel Food started in a church kitchen as a volunteer response to the AIDS epidemic. It currently supports Los Angeles County residents living with various critical illnesses including HIV, severe diabetes, heart disease, cancer, chronic kidney disease, Alzheimer’s and end-stage renal disease, delivering nearly 1.5 million meals each year to 5,272 clients. The organization recently surpassed the 18 millionth meal mark.

For information, visit [angelfood.org](http://angelfood.org).



photo courtesy of Project Angel Food

Project Angel Food, which delivers medically tailored meals to people with severe illnesses, received accreditation from the Food is Medicine Coalition.



photo courtesy of St. Vincent Meals on Wheels

St. Vincent Meals on Wheels registered dietitian Kathy Sato, left, joined operations manager Kathy Gomez, a senior client, SVMOW CEO Veronica Dover and U.S. Congressman Jimmy Gomez at the event.

## St. Vincent Meals on Wheels highlights importance of senior hydration

U.S. Rep. Jimmy Gomez (D-Los Angeles) visited St. Vincent Meals on Wheels on July 16 to advocate for the organization’s Summer Instant Hydration Program, which combats dehydration among seniors and health-compromised individuals.

Gomez met with St. Vincent Meals on Wheels CEO Veronica Dover and registered dietitian Kathy Sato to discuss the importance of hydration for vulnerable populations. The discussion highlighted the pressing need to address the health risks associated with dehydration, especially during summer.

“The Summer Instant Hydration Program is critical in ensuring that our most vulnerable neighbors can stay healthy and hydrated,” Gomez said. “Access to clean, safe drinking water is a basic necessity that should be available to everyone, particularly our seniors who are at higher risk.”

The Summer Instant Hydration Program provides homebound clients with portable water filters and pitchers, such as those from Brita, to ensure they have access to clean drinking water. Many seniors, who often lack kitchen facilities, rely on bathroom faucets as their primary source of water.

Dover reinforced the importance of the program.

“Our mission goes beyond delivering meals. We are committed to the overall well-being of our clients, and hydration is a key component of that,” she added.

“Dehydration can lead to serious health complications, especially in seniors,” Sato said. “This program is a lifesaver for many.”

St. Vincent Meals on Wheels is seeking public support to fund the Summer Instant Hydration Program. Donations will help provide resources to ensure homebound clients stay hydrated and thrive. For information, visit [svmow.org](http://svmow.org).

# Celebrate the Paris Olympics!

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[www.pinkshollywood.com](http://www.pinkshollywood.com) [www.mrtrestaurants.com](http://www.mrtrestaurants.com)

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*Bon appétit!*





# Dad, there's a spider in the yard!

I like the way my son Smartacus accidentally walks through a spider web in the yard, swiping at the invisible threads, trying to rid his clothes and hair of the tickly things he cannot see.

The webs are everywhere these days, the spiders out to capture peak male specimens such as Smartacus, to take them hostage and turn them – with years of expert training – into their personal servants ... their mozos.

Trust me, Smartacus is the last thing these spiders really need. Won't pick up a dish, this kid, though he is quite reliable about feeding himself and the dog. So there's that.

For the record, he's my life's joy, this kid, a breeze through a bedroom window.

Each day, Smartacus enters the house wailing about some murderous brown spider he spied out there in the leafy yard. This big, he says, making a giant heart with his arms.

It's a battle of wills, really – Smartacus vs. all the spiders of the world.

Isn't late summer itself a battle of wills? Similarly, isn't that a description of a long, rewarding life – a battle of wills: You vs. the world?

FYI, when Smartacus walked through his first spider web, he turned one way, then the other, in hopes of unspooling himself, as you might unravel a burrito. Or your tipsy, overdressed bride.

With time, he has learned to spin,



tuck and shoulder-roll to the grass, as if on fire. I usually manage to catch just the end of it, alerted by all his high-pitched screaming. If you happen to see it, please forward a video.

Yet, Smartacus never completely sheds the web. Some parts of it he wears all day, in his hair, on his t-shirts, often while waiting tables at Bittner's burger place (delectable clumps of grilled cow best held with two hands, like a winning touchdown pass).

By not shedding the spider's silk, Smartacus is one with nature. I'd probably compare him to Davy Crockett or Charlemagne. It's almost a shared enchantment – him and the spiders. An improbable romance. A dark and sweaty summer fling.

I've been reading lots of books lately in hopes of understanding my college-age son. The latest: "The Graduate," the book on which the movie is based.

It's about a restive L.A. lad just home from college, who spends most days avoiding adults, till one of his mom's sexy friends ensnares

him, the way the spiders do Smartacus, with lusty and evil intent.

Coo-Coo-ca-choo, Mrs. Robinson. Jesus loves you more than you will know, whoa, whoa, whoa...

Who knew "The Graduate" was a parenting book?

Anyway, here are some factoids about "The Graduate" – the book and the movie.

- It's the best coming-of-age flick of all time, according to one critic (me).
  - The novel was written around the pool of what is now the Langham, a luxe Pasadena hotel, by the son of a wealthy L.A. cardiologist.
  - Robert Redford was very eager to play the anti-hero, Benjamin Braddock.
  - Director Mike Nichols thought better of using a golden boy for such a dark role. "Have you ever struck out with a girl?" Nichols asked Redford.
  - Dustin Hoffman was a nobody from a nowhere town (New York City) when he was cast as Braddock.
  - In real life, the incredible Anne Bancroft (Mrs. Robinson) was only five years older than Hoffman.
  - Nichols stepped out of the shower one morning while listening to a Simon & Garfunkel album and told himself, "That's your soundtrack!!!"
- Honestly, isn't it the best movie music of all time? As you know, all great movies are miracles. This one more than most.
- Our children are miracles too –



photo by Chris Erskine

Each day, another murderous spider shows up for Smartacus.

Smartacus maybe more than most. He was a late-in-life surprise who arrived when we already had our bonus baby (Rapunzel). In that sense, we got the double-bonus.

God said: "Take that, wise guy."

Honestly, when God smiles on you, it can be a really beautiful thing, even though it seems deceitful in the moment.

Obviously, some miracles are more fully formed than other miracles. Like I said, Smartacus can barely lift a dish – apparently, they are quite heavy – though he has no problem with a full set of golf clubs.

And only at gunpoint will he empty the dishwasher, though when he does, he does a magnificent job of putting most of the stuff where it

belongs, then hiding the other stuff under his bed.

At 21, the world is his hammock. Yet, he is – in the way of restive sons everywhere – turning from a butterfly into a fully realized young man of character and integrity.

How long does that usually take? Will he ever be finished? Ever? Spin. Tuck. Roll.

*Anyone want to host a mid-summer Gin & Tonic Society bash? We provide everything, the screwballs, the nuts, the gin, the tonic. All we need is a shady venue that'll accommodate 50 people, with plentiful parking. If you're game to host, please email me at Letters@ChrisErskineLA.com. Cheers!*

# Brew at the Zoo pours on the fun

Discover the magic of the Los Angeles Zoo in a whole new light with an electrifying lineup of adults-only and family-friendly summer evening events that are sure to delight animal lovers and partygoers alike.

Brew at the L.A. Zoo on Aug. 3 is an adults-only tasting adventure that allows guests the opportunity to wander through the lush grounds of the zoo while sampling craft beers, specialty cocktails, distilled spirits and creative mocktails from over 35 beverage partners. The

event will also feature food from L.A.'s top food trucks for an additional fee. The evening's musical lineup includes KCRW DJs Tyler Boudreaux and Raul Campos, and DJ Johnny Hawkes, renowned for his electrifying performances that are a popular mix of hip hop, dance and classic hits. For the first time ever performing at the zoo will be Arena, a tribute band dedicated to covering the career spanning hits of Duran Duran, in addition to other '80s hit makers like INXS. Amid the music and merriment, guests

can also partake in animal viewings until sundown and pop-up keeper talks, as well as explore the LAIR, the Zoo's reptile and amphibian house until 8 p.m. Limited VIP tickets are available. Guests must be 21+ to attend. The event lasts from 6:30 p.m.-10 p.m.

VIP ticket holders will have early entry into the event along with access to an exclusive lounge area with premium drinks and culinary delights included in the ticket price. Nosh on a variety of vegan and non-vegan options. Enjoy access to a full bar in addition to the two beverage partners. An exclusive giveaway, keeper talks and animal feedings will also be happening throughout the evening.

VIP and standard admission tickets are on sale now, with special



photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Zoo

Beer and animal lovers will enjoy Brew at the Zoo on Aug. 3.

pricing available for GLAZA members. For information and to purchase tickets, visit

lazoo.org/brew2024. The Los Angeles Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive.



photo courtesy of the Television Academy

The Emmy Awards are scheduled for Sept. 15.

# Bid for ticket to the Emmy Awards

As excitement builds for the upcoming 76th Emmy Awards, the Television Academy Foundation announced the launch of its annual Emmy season auction, a unique opportunity for television enthusiasts to win VIP experiences during the festivities while contributing to the nonprofit's educational programs.

The auction features exclusive access to star-studded events, such as orchestra seat tickets to the 76th Emmy Awards and tickets to the Governors Gala on Sept. 15 in Los Angeles, tickets to the Emmy's performer nominees celebration on Sept. 13, and tickets to the 76th Creative Arts Emmy Awards and Governors Gala on Sept. 7.

The auction is hosted online on Charitybuzz at [charitybuzz.com/support/televisionacademy](https://charitybuzz.com/support/televisionacademy), providing accessibility to bidders worldwide. Bidding concludes Tuesday, July 30, at 6 p.m.

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IN THE MTP FOOD COURT  
JULY 28, 2024  
INTERMISSION Yoga + Soundbath 11:00-11:30 am

  
ESTILO Y GRACIA  
12:30-2:15pm  
LILA FORDE  
2:30-4:15pm

AUGUST 4, 2024  
ECLECTICALS STORY TIME 11:00-11:30 am

  
MICHAEL PAIK  
12:30-2:15pm  
MEGAN UKOH  
2:30-4:15pm



# Metro gives details on D Line subway work

D Line subway construction continues in late July and early August along Wilshire Boulevard. Metro is advising about lane closures and potential impacts caused by construction.

Street restoration work is ongoing near the Wilshire/Western and Wilshire/La Brea stations. For the next four months, a K-rail work zone will be in place along the north side of Wilshire Boulevard near Western Avenue. Crews are repairing the street around the Wilshire/Western construction staging yard. Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction between Oxford Avenue and Saint Andrews Place.

Near the Wilshire/La Brea station, crews are repairing sidewalks, curbs and street surfaces. Detroit Street will be intermittently closed at Wilshire Boulevard through October to support ongoing street restoration work. The closures will be from 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday; and 6 a.m.-7 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Wilshire Boulevard is reduced to two lanes in each direction between Highland Avenue and Detroit Street through August. A K-rail is in place on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard between La Brea and Mansfield avenues to support the replacement of sidewalks, curbs, gutters and streetlights on the south side of Wilshire Boulevard.

For approximately three months, a K-rail work zone is implemented in the middle lanes of Wilshire Boulevard between Fairfax and Spaulding avenues. Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes in each direction in the area.

Through September 2024, Wilshire Boulevard will be reduced to two lanes in each direction at La Jolla Avenue. A K-rail enclosure is located on the west side of the Wilshire/La Jolla intersection to support underground cross passage work.

At the Wilshire/La Cienega station, eastbound Wilshire Boulevard will be intermittently closed between La Cienega and San

Vicente boulevards overnight from 8 p.m.-7 a.m. The closures will occur from July 28 through Aug. 2 for ongoing utility work along Wilshire Boulevard.

North Gale Drive will be closed at Wilshire Boulevard from 5 a.m. on Thursday, July 25, through 4 p.m. on Friday, July 26. Near the Wilshire/Rodeo station, ground improvement and cross passage work, geotechnical instrumentation and station construction are ongoing. Crews are working on Wilshire Boulevard between South Beverly and Cañon drives and on South Beverly Drive. Lanes on Wilshire Boulevard will be intermittently reduced between El Camino and Crescent drives. Lane reductions will also occur on South Beverly and Reeves drives near Wilshire Boulevard.

For questions and concerns about the D Line Extension project, call the 24-hour project hotline at (213)922-6934, email the project team at purplelineext@metro.net, or visit metro.net.

## Letters to the Editor

WeHo programs are good for public safety

Re “Drone pilot program flies over West Hollywood,” July 18 issue

Meister and Heilman are absolutely spot-on. The residents have spoken loudly in favor of giving LASD the technological tools that have been proven in other cities, including neighboring Beverly Hills.

Shyne and Byers engaged in disingenuous double-speak only because they did not hear from the few people who align with their intolerant and toxic ideological brain rot.

Alan Strasburg  
West Hollywood

New Metro Board leader’s commitment is a step in right direction

Re “Supervisor Hahn becomes chair of Metro Board,” July 25 issue

Congratulations to Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn on her election as chair of the Metro Board of Directors and kudos to her commitment to ride Metro more over the next 12 months so that she can talk about her personal experiences as a rider.

Many of us would like to use more public transit but always worry about safety and cleanliness and end up opting for our cars.

David Eichman  
West Hollywood



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

**DATE:** Thursday, August 8, 2024

**TIME:** 1:30 PM, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard

**LOCATION:** **Meeting will be held in person at:**

Commission Meeting Room 280A

Beverly Hills City Hall  
455 North Rexford Drive  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Members of the public may also participate via teleconference;  
Details provided below

**PROJECT ADDRESS:** Citywide

The Planning Commission of the City of Beverly Hills, at a **REGULAR** meeting on **August 8, 2024**, will hold a public hearing beginning at **1:30 PM**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard to consider:

**A DRAFT ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS AMENDING ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT (ADU) REGULATIONS TO UPDATE MULTI-FAMILY STANDARDS AND ALLOW ONE ADDITIONAL DEED-RESTRICTED RENTAL ADU ON SINGLE-FAMILY PROPERTIES WITH A LOT AREA OF 13,000 SQUARE FEET OR GREATER, AND MAKING A DETERMINATION OF EXEMPTION UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

Staff requests the Planning Commission’s feedback and direction on the following potential changes to ADU regulations consistent with Housing Element Implementation Program 10.4:

### Multi-Family ADU Discussion

The City recently updated its multi-family ADU regulations (Beverly Hills Municipal Code §10-3-5001) to comply with minimum state law standards. To further achieve Housing Element goals, the Planning Commission will discuss potential amendments to incentivize multi-family ADU development, including, but not limited to:

- Removing barriers to constructing ADUs above existing garages; and
- Increasing flexibility for development standards such as:  
Height;  
Floor area; and  
Setbacks.

### Single-Family ADU Discussion

The Housing Element requires the City to allow an additional ADU beyond state law requirements on single-family properties with a lot area of 13,000 square feet or greater, with at least one ADU deed-restricted as a rental unit. The purpose of this discussion item is to inform the Planning Commission of the required changes and initiate the necessary code amendments.

No new regulations will be adopted at this study session. If the Planning Commission wishes to move forward with the proposed changes to ADU regulations, staff will recommend that this item

be continued to a specified future Commission meeting. Following the Planning Commission’s review and recommendation, the draft ordinance will be considered for adoption by the City Council.

### ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This ordinance has been assessed in accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the environmental regulations of the City. Staff anticipates that the Planning Commission will find the ordinance to be within the scope of and consistent with the Addendum to the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Amendments to the Adopted 2021- 2029 City of Beverly Hills Housing Element (State Clearinghouse No. 2021090102), which was certified by the City Council on March 18, 2024. Furthermore, the ordinance is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to §15282(h) of the CEQA Guidelines and §21080.17 of the California Public Resources Code. These sections specify that the adoption of an ordinance regarding ADUs to implement the provisions of Government Code §65852.1 and §65852.2 is exempt from CEQA requirements.

### How to Participate

In the interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing, members of the public can participate in, watch, or listen to the commission meetings through the following methods:

- In Person:** Submit a speaker card to the Recording Secretary at the meeting.
- Oral Comment:** Call (310) 288-2288, select Option 1 when prompted. You will be placed on a brief hold, and called upon to make a comment at the appropriate time.
- Video Comment:** <https://beverlyhills-org.zoom.us/my/bevpublic>, enter passcode: 90210 when prompted.
- Written Comment:** Email [commentPC@beverlyhills.org](mailto:commentPC@beverlyhills.org)
- Audio Only:** Call (310) 288-2288, select Option 2 when prompted.
- Watch LIVE:** BHTV Channel 10 on Spectrum Cable or [www.beverlyhills.org/watchlive](http://www.beverlyhills.org/watchlive)

It is recommended that written public comments be submitted to the Planning Commission Recording Secretary by 11:30 AM on the meeting date. Public comments will also be taken during the meeting when the topic is being reviewed by the Planning Commission. Written comments should identify the Agenda Item number or topic in the subject line of the email.

In order to be read at the meeting, written comments will be allowed with a maximum of 350 words, which corresponds to approximately three (3) minutes of speaking time. If a comment is received after the agenda item is heard, it will not be a part of the record.

Any written comments received by end of the day on Wednesday, July 31 2024 will be attached to the agenda report regarding this item. Any comments received after Wednesday, July 31, 2024, but prior the public hearing, will be distributed to the Commission under separate cover.

According to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge the City’s action in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City, either at or prior to the public hearing. Please note that any comments received prior to or during the public hearing will be considered as part of the public record.

If there are any questions regarding this notice, please contact **Patrick Achis, Associate Planner** in the Planning Division at **(310) 285-1129**, or by email at [pachis@beverlyhills.org](mailto:pachis@beverlyhills.org). Copies of the project materials are on file in the Community Development Department, and can be reviewed by any interested person at 455 North Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210.

Patrick Achis,  
Associate Planner



Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please contact (310) 285-1126 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY) prior to the meeting for assistance. Providing at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice will help to ensure availability of services. City Hall, including the Council Chamber and Room 280A, is wheelchair accessible. The City Hall Council Chamber and Room 280A are also equipped with audio equipment for the hearing impaired.



RESTAURANT NEWS

‘Strong Words’ meet Socalo dishes

This Saturday, Susan Feniger and Mary Sue Milliken’s Socalo is hosting the “Strong Words: Spoken Word Event.” Socalo is the celeb chefs’ vibrant, beachy blend of Mexican and Californian flavors – where sustainability and delicious food meet to create one-of-a-kind dishes. The exclusive pop up spoken word event will be held on July 27 at 7:30 p.m. Attendees can expect to be delighted by stories from five uproarious, unabashed LGBTQ+ storytellers and delicious food and cocktails. Not only will this event be made truly unforgettable by the amazing performers, but Socalo’s locally sourced, Mexican inspired cuisine will serve as the perfect enhancement to the experience. Tickets can be purchased for \$10 by visiting [opentable.com/booking/experiences-availability?rid=1051909&restref=1051909&experienceId=323551](https://opentable.com/booking/experiences-availability?rid=1051909&restref=1051909&experienceId=323551). Socalo is located at 1920 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica.

Prosperity scavenger hunt readies for August

Prosperity Market – the mobile farmers market spotlighting

Black farmers, food producers, chefs and entrepreneurs in Los Angeles – will host its annual Black business scavenger hunt (Aug. 1-25) that takes participants on a journey across the city to discover local Black-owned shops and restaurants. In honor of Black Business Month, Prosperity Market founders Kara Still and Carmen Dianne created an interactive map with 100+ Black businesses across food, fashion, wellness and entertainment, encouraging Angelenos to visit and support as many locations as possible in order to earn points and win prizes. As Prosperity Market prepares to launch their long-awaited mobile trailer, which will debut at the Scavenger Hunt’s finale market and block party on Sept. 1, Kara and Carmen continue to build on their mission of raising awareness and making Black-owned businesses accessible to all parts of Los Angeles. For information and participating locations, visit [prosperitymarketla.com](https://prosperitymarketla.com).

TOGO’s launches BBQ beef sandwich

TOGO’s recently debuted its BBQ beef sandwich in time for summer, intended to be the perfect summer picnic meal for the family. In the couple of weeks since its debut, it’s already the fourth most popular TOGO’s sandwich, beating out the fan-favorite Italian

sandwich. The BBQ beef sandwich is made hot, with a quarter pound of tender roast beef that’s been sliced in-house daily, marinated in a tangy Cattlemen’s Memphis BBQ sauce and topped with dill pickles and red onions. Add crispy bacon or melted cheese for a “secret menu” experience. It’s the perfect time to give it a try as August is National Sandwich Month. Local TOGO’s locations include 10964 Ventura Blvd. and 1111 Wilshire Blvd. Ste. 102. For information, visit [togos.com](https://togos.com).

Mediterranean diet gives life to Prima Donna

A new study shows that those who follow a Mediterranean diet live much longer than those who do not. Prima Donna uses a huge wood-fired grill to char its mouth-watering branzino, octopus, swordfish and prawns – all served whole with tons of lemon and fresh herbs. For information, visit [what.aprimadonna.com](https://www.aprimadonna.com) or call (209)364-7543. Prima Donna is located at 8801 Washington Blvd., Culver City.

BOA juices up Watermelon Day

Nothing screams summertime more than watermelon. Get ready to quench your thirst and celebrate National Watermelon Day on Aug. 3 with sensational



photo courtesy of A.O.C.

Enjoy an all-American spread at Rib Fest.

A.O.C. brings Rib Fest back Aug. 18

Due to popular demand, Suzanne Goin and Caroline Styne’s popular restaurant in Brentwood will bring their Rib Fest to their Westside restaurant on Sunday, Aug. 18. A.O.C., located in the heart of Brentwood, will be suited up for the rib rodeo and Goin’s family-style feast of slow-cooked ribs, hot wings and sides which has become a Goin/Styne summer tradition since 2000. A week of preparation goes into smoking the beef brisket, pork and lamb ribs, spreading the lure of wood smoke throughout both neighborhoods and attracting a growing swell of Rib Fest groupies for this BBQ celebration. Guests are invited to wear their Stetsons, chaps and boots, and join the party. The menu features Suzanne’s Saint Louis-style pork ribs; braised Westholme beef brisket; spiced

lamb spareribs and too-hot-to-handle chicken wings. Mouth-watering sides include coleslaw and baked beans; long-cooked collard greens; buttered corn-on-the-cob; tomato and watermelon salad; and grilled cornbread and Wonder Bread. Finish with a summery dessert of warm peach cobbler with strawberries and buttermilk ice cream. Don’t miss some foot-stomping cowboy cocktails to enhance the menu. Rib Fest is priced at \$95 per guest, menu only. For information, contact A.O.C. at (310)806-6464. Guests may book online at OpenTable and securing reservations by credit card; cancellation without penalty accepted within 72 hour-notice. Rib Fest at A.O.C. Brentwood is served from 4-9 p.m. for one night only. A.O.C. Brentwood is located at 11648 San Vicente Blvd.



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watermelon-infused drinks at BOA Steakhouse. Kick back and relax with the perfect blend of Tito’s vodka, juicy fresh pineapple and watermelon, all topped off with a splash of cranberry. The vibrant mix is a tropical getaway in a glass, bringing you the ultimate refreshment for those hot summer days. BOA also offers a dynamic cocktail that combines the smooth taste of Patron Silver with the energy-boosting Red Bull Watermelon, a touch of sweet Licor 43 and a Tajin rim for that perfect spicy kick. It’s the perfect drink to keep energized and cool all day long. For information, visit [boatsteak.com/locations/westhollywood](http://boatsteak.com/locations/westhollywood) or call (310)278-2050. BOA Steakhouse West Hollywood is located at 9200 Sunset Blvd.

Meteora offers collaborative dining experience

Meteora, the holistic, live-fire and multi-sensory restaurant from award-winning chef Jordan Kahn is thrilled to welcome chef Mario Castrellón, of the celebrated restaurant Maito in Panama City, to Los Angeles on Wednesday, Aug. 7, for an extraordinary, one-night-only collaborative dinner as part of Meteora’s inaugural Ut Unum series. Translated to “as one” in Latin, Ut Unum is a new, annual series where Kahn and the Meteora team will host some of the most revered and masterful chefs from around the world to create a multi-sensory, ephemeral experience. The first chapter begins with Latin



photo courtesy of Norma  
Norma has something for everyone on the menu this summer.

Norma offers fresh summer menu

Norma has launched its new summer menu. Fresh items include fried corn ribs, Al Pastor King prawns, braised ox tail, pacific red snapper and caramelized onion agnolotti. Tuesdays and Wednesdays have happy hour from 6-9 p.m., with up to 50% off select bites, wine

and cocktails in the lounge. Sunday has brunch from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. with items like hot fried chicken, pork schnitzel, soba noodles and cavolo Nero salad. For information, visit [norma631.com](http://norma631.com) or call (323)471-1700. Norma is located at 631 N. La Cienega Blvd.

America. Maito centers around a tropical fusion of isthmian cultures from Asian and Creole to Afro-Antillean that express Panama’s multicultural culinary identity. Castrellón has become a forerunner for “new Panamanian cuisine” and is behind an impressive twelve culinary concepts in Panama under his Grupo Maito hospitality group. The six-course experience (\$195 a person) will feature signature dishes from both chefs as well as collaborative dishes created especially

for this dinner along with optional beverage pairings, reflecting the shared ethos of both Kahn and Castrellón. Presented by OpenTable, forthcoming dates and guest chefs for dinners in August and September will be announced shortly. For information and to make a reservation, visit [opentable.com/r/meteora-los-angeles-2](http://opentable.com/r/meteora-los-angeles-2) and click on “experiences,” then “Meteora x Maito Collaboration.” Meteora is located at 6703 Melrose Ave.

Cinespia adds more to summer lineup

Cinespia, L.A.’s favorite cinematic experience presented by Amazon MGM Studios, has announced an additional film screening for August along with their September lineup at Hollywood Forever Cemetery. The screening lineup includes “The Shining” (Aug. 31 - honoring the late Shelley Duvall), “Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince” (Sept. 1), “Chicago” (Sept. 7) and “Pee-Wee’s Big Adventure” (Sept. 14) which will be a tribute to the late actor Paul Reubens who famously starred in the film and whose final resting place is at Hollywood Forever Cemetery. “We’re thrilled to announce the

continuation of our 2024 summer season with some amazing films we know our fans will be excited about,” said John Wyatt, founder of Cinespia. “In addition to showing ‘The Shining’ which will pay tribute to the incredible Shelley Duvall, we are honored to host a special screening of ‘Pee-Wee’s Big Adventure’ at Hollywood Forever Cemetery in tribute to Paul Reubens. Celebrating his legacy here, where he now rests, is a heartfelt homage to an artist who brought joy to many.” For information, visit [cinespia.org](http://cinespia.org). Hollywood Forever Cemetery is located at 6000 Santa Monica Blvd.



photo courtesy of Cinespia  
Hollywood Forever Cemetery hosts Cinespia screenings every weekend through September.

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# FoLAR’s River Fest flows on

Friends of the L.A. River invites everyone to its third annual River Fest, a free, all-ages, open-air environmental arts and community festival at the scenic L.A. State Historic Park on Sunday, Aug. 11, from 3-9 p.m.

The event will showcase the nexus of nature, climate change, culture, history, people and the L.A. River. With heavy emphasis on the arts, River Fest will offer a variety of local artists with live music and dance performances, a visual art gallery and eco-activities for the whole family. The event will also feature top L.A. food trucks, and a marketplace with 50 booths from local environmental, arts, Indigenous and partner organizations like Water Replenishment District, REI Co-op and 100 Acre Partnership. While free, registration is required, and tickets will go fast. Registration is now open on FoLAR’s website.

Debuting this year is the Lewis Lounge, a tribute to FoLAR founder and poet, Lewis MacAdams, inspired by the flow of

both life and the river. It opens the multigenerational call for poetry, asking “How do you connect to the river?” All submissions will be displayed, some called to read live during a curated poetry jam, hosted by Los Angeles’ famed Mike the PoeT Sonksen.

“The L.A. River connects so many diverse communities across its 51 miles and River Fest 2024 is about bringing those communities together to celebrate the ways in which the river continues to inspire us,” FoLAR CEO Candice Dickens-Russell said. “With an incredible lineup of artists, advocates and community members, we hope River Fest will give all Angelenos the chance to experience the L.A. River’s unique ability to enhance our collective wellbeing... and to have some fun together along the way.”

The activities at River Fest will share stories of environmental justice, community leadership, challenges faced by the river and Indigenous perspectives on nature and the river. Highlights include Aztec dance company Xipe Totec,

pop-soul band Undecided Future, indie rock band Child Seat and Los Silverbacks, a world music group that combines Latin and African rhythms. In addition to the noted festivities, FoLAR’s River Rover, a 38-foot mobile visitor and education center will be on hand along with FoLAR’s education team.

All free general admission tickets for River Fest 2024 cover entrance into the festival, access to the exhibitor and artist village and performances, as well as a complimentary raffle ticket. Food, drinks, art and other items or services offered by River Fest vendors may be purchased at the event. A limited number of VIP tickets are available, providing an all new VIP area with shade, seating, optimal stage viewing, VIP parking, VIP check-in, a VIP gift bag, two drink tickets and five complimentary raffle tickets. All River Fest proceeds will contribute to FoLAR’s year-round K-12 environmental education programs, stewardship events and local advocacy work.

River Fest was created to reflect FoLAR’s values, offering a more equitable and accessible community celebration of both FoLAR and the river that runs through so many



photo courtesy of FoLAR

The annual River Fest will take place on Aug. 11 at L.A. State Historic Park.

of the region’s communities. This ultimately supports FoLAR’s mission to build capacity for communities, students and future leaders to advocate for nature, climate and equity on the L.A. River.

FoLAR will be celebrating its 34th annual Great L.A. River CleanUp this fall, featuring multiple locations throughout the entire river, with opportunities for every-

one to help support the river and make meaningful connections to it.

While the event is free, registration is required. To register, visit [folar.org/riverfest](http://folar.org/riverfest).

Ride-sharing and use of the Metro’s new regional connector project are encouraged. Limited paid parking will also be available at L.A. State Historic Park, located at 1245 N. Spring St.

# Getty awards endangered buildings designed by Black architects

The Getty Foundation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund announced on July 18 eight buildings will receive crucial funding from the Conserving Black Modernism initiative, a \$3.1 million grant program to preserve his-

toric modern architecture by Black architects and designers.

From a dormitory in Mississippi designed by one of the 20th century’s most influential Black architects, to a theater in Washington D.C. named after the first Black actor to play leading roles in Shakespeare plays, the grants

affirm the importance of African American architects to the history of modernism by preserving their work. Getty funding will support conservation planning and emergency repairs, expand the skills of the people who care for these buildings and promote broader public understanding of trailblazing Black professionals who contributed to the modern movement.

“With Conserving Black Modernism, we’ve taken actionable steps to save endangered sites that represent African American activism, creativity and resilience,” Getty Foundation Director Joan Weinstein said. “Our partnership with the National Trust has been critical to supporting cultural heritage that embodies Black excellence in modern architecture.”

Established in 2022, Conserving Black Modernism is the Getty-funded portion of a partnership program with African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, the largest preservation campaign to support the longevity of African American sites. The Action Fund also announced funding for a total of 30 sites representing Black history across the U.S., which includes the eight sites supported by Getty funding.

“Through this year’s grant announcement, we are thrilled to support eight historic sites celebrat-

ing Black Modernism – an architectural style that deserves to be recognized and celebrated,” said Brent Leggs, executive director of the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund. “As a nation, we must recognize and honor the profound contributions of these Black architects and designers, whose works serve as community landmarks, sources of cultural pride and often, symbols of justice and equity. We are excited to partner with Getty for the second year of the Conserving Black Modernism program, and we look forward to ensuring that these sites and their stories continue to inspire future generations.”

African American architects and designers played influential roles in the development of modernism in the United States, yet their contributions have been largely overlooked. While a handful of Black architects and designers gained notoriety, most worked in the shadow of larger offices under white architects of record, and thus remain relatively unknown. Getty created the Conserving Black Modernism initiative to address this oversight and help write a more complete story of the modern movement.

The first round of eight grantees for Conserving Black Modernism in 2022 included an award-winning

swimming pool and pool house in Wichita, Kansas, a vibrant cultural center in Watts, California, and some of the oldest Black Baptist churches in the country. This second round of grants adds the first building designed by a woman, Amaza Lee Meredith, who was never granted licensure as a registered architect but nevertheless completed important designs throughout Virginia and New York.

Conserving Black Modernism is an extension of the Getty Foundation’s Keeping It Modern initiative, which awarded 77 grants totaling \$11.8 million between 2014 and 2020 that supported conservation planning and research for modern buildings and sites from around the world.

The Getty Foundation’s grant program is one of several efforts by Getty to broaden awareness of and preserve Black architectural heritage, including the Getty Conservation Institute’s African American Historic Places Los Angeles initiative and the Getty Research Institute’s joint acquisition of the archive of Paul R. Williams, one of the best-known 20th-century Black architects in the United States.

For information, visit [getty.edu/projects/conserving-black-modernism](http://getty.edu/projects/conserving-black-modernism).



photo courtesy of Hannah Price/Getty

Azurest South was designed by Amaza Lee Meredith and built in 1934 in St. Petersburg, Va.

# Department of Arts and Culture awards over \$6.4 million to local arts organizations

To support local arts nonprofits and the communities they serve, the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture announced over \$6.4 million in grants to 318 nonprofit organizations through its 2024-2025 Organizational Grant Program and Community Arts Impact Grant awards.

Thanks to leadership from the Board of Supervisors, including motions from Supervisors Hilda Solis, Holly Mitchell and Lindsey Horvath, there was a larger allocation of funding this year, due to a \$1.2 million increase to the Organizational Grant Program, the first increase in over 15 years for L.A. County’s longest-running arts grant program. OGP grants will go to 238 organizations, 34 of which are first time applicants to the program. The total allocation for grantees this

year is \$5,668,000, and awards range from \$700 to \$122,300.

OGP strengthens the Los Angeles region’s cultural ecosystem with funding to organizations of every artistic discipline, budget size and geography. Grantees can use these funds to support critical needs, from staffing and organizational infrastructure to public arts programming in museums and visual arts, performing arts, film, arts education, arts service organizations and literary arts. Grantees can also access Arts and Culture’s slate of professional development opportunities – programs designed in-house, as well as scholarships for trainings and conferences. OGP addresses systemic inequity in arts funding: 94% of the organizations that were awarded have budgets under \$5 million and 50% of those

have budgets under \$200,000. These organizations are often underfunded and include those that reflect and serve communities of color, historically marginalized and rural communities. A complete list of OGP grantees, and the programs and events this funding will support, can be found at [lacountyarts.org/funding/community-impacts-arts-grants/about-ciag/about-ciag-grantees](http://lacountyarts.org/funding/community-impacts-arts-grants/about-ciag/about-ciag-grantees).

Different from Arts and Culture’s longstanding funding for nonprofits with a primary focus on the arts, the Community Impact Arts Grant supports arts-based programs of social justice and service organizations. CIAG was designed to address two priorities: making arts services available to L.A. County residents who might not experience them through traditional arts venues and outlets,



photo courtesy of Artlab21

Eighty organizations were awarded grants this year, including youth, health and wellness and community-focused programs.

and encouraging integration of the arts in cross-sector work at local nonprofits. Grantee programs span art forms and communities reached, from therapeutic visual arts, to social justice filmmaking, music education for youth, dance empowerment and memory programs for dementia.

“Los Angeles County is increasing its investment in the artists, cre-

ators and storytellers who enrich the lives of our diverse communities,” Horvath said. “We value the important work of arts organizations and are excited to support even more nonprofits this year. Congratulations to all of this year’s grant recipients.”

For information, visit [lacountyarts.org](http://lacountyarts.org).



# Bon appétit! Pink's and Mr. T Los Angeles team up for Paris Olympics

Pink's Hot Dogs is partnering with Mr. T Los Angeles, a French Restaurant at 953 N. Sycamore Ave., on a culinary celebration of the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

Mr. T Los Angeles, which also has a restaurant in Paris, is a favorite dining destination for Pink's Hot Dogs owners Richard and Gloria Pink. Guillaume Guedj, owner of Mr. T Los Angeles, approached the Pinks with the idea of collaborating and creating hot dogs with unique toppings for the Olympics. The partnership was inspired by the Parisian tradition of neighboring restaurants joining forces to create special culinary delights.

"I've eaten at Mr. T in the Sycamore District several times and always I thought it would be great to come together and team up with them, and the reason became the Olympics," Pink said. "We thought, why don't we serve Pink's hot dogs with French-inspired toppings."

On July 27-28 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Mr. T Los Angeles will elevate Pink's iconic hot dogs with accoutrements such as succulent beef bourguignon with crispy onion rings; velvety béarnaise sauce with tangy sweet pickles, melted raclette cheese, aioli and chives; and rich Gruyère cheese with caramelized sweet onions. Order crispy French

fries to enjoy with the gourmet hot dogs. Four French-inspired cocktails will also be available. The hot dogs will be served at Mr. T Los Angeles only, not Pink's Hot Dogs on La Brea Avenue, Pink stressed.

Guests can also watch the Paris Olympic Games on a 75-inch TV at Mr. T Los Angeles and enjoy a DJ spinning French tunes. The price of each French-inspired hot dog is \$10.95, with an additional charge for French fries and cocktails.

"It should be a lot of fun," Pink said. "It's a great way of coming together with another restaurant in the neighborhood and celebrating the Olympics. Maybe it will become a tradition."

Mr. T Los Angeles is located at 953 N. Sycamore Ave. For information, call (310)953-4934, or visit [mrtrestaurants.com](http://mrtrestaurants.com).



photo by Malachi Santana

Pink's owners Richard and Gloria Pink, left, collaborated with Mr. T Los Angeles executive chef Alisa Vannah and owner Guillaume Guedj on the special hot dogs.

# LACO announces first creative partner

Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and its Music Director Jaime Martín announced the appointment of Lara Downes as the orchestra's first creative partner. Downes is a decorated pianist, recording artist and media personality who is deeply committed to change and advocacy in the arts. Her three-year appointment, which began July 1, touches virtually every aspect of the organization, spanning LACO's artistic planning, performance,

community engagement, advocacy and education platforms. In addition to her new LACO responsibilities, Downes, who is based in Northern California, will continue her other independent performance, broadcasting and recording activities. Her upcoming album "THIS LAND" is a powerful, soulful and probing reflection, at a critical American moment, on the diversity of stories and journeys that have converged and collided throughout

history. With music ranging from traditional folk tunes to newly commissioned works, Downes celebrates the beauty of the American experiment while offering an unflinching acknowledgment of its flaws and failings, ultimately embracing the power of hope and humanity as a pathway to common ground and a brighter future.

Downes is a familiar voice on the radio in Southern California as the host of Evening Music on KUSC and is the creator and host of NPR's video series "Amplify with Lara Downes," as well as the nationally syndicated program "Classical Americana," produced by Classical California/KUSC.

"On behalf of everyone at LACO, I am thrilled to welcome Lara Downes as the orchestra's first creative partner," Martín said. "An iconoclastic artist and beloved radio host with millions of followers on air, online and in the concert hall, she is deeply passionate about classical music and ensuring its access to all communities. Her unique perspective and out-of-the-box thinking dovetails with LACO's own mission to advance the chamber music art form, building upon its remarkable foundation. I look forward to collaborating with

her both on stage and behind the scenes on LACO's artistic, education and community-building endeavors."

"I'm so delighted and excited to join LACO as the orchestra's creative partner, a unique role that harnesses all my interests and energies across a broad landscape of performance, curation, community engagement, education and advocacy," Downes said. "LACO's visionary programming travels the long road of our art form – wide-open territory for my own artistic explorations of the musical crossroads where past meets present, where traditions merge, journeys converge and new ideas take root. I can't wait to roll up my sleeves and work with Jaime Martín and LACO's brilliant musicians, staff and friends as we continue together to create innova-

tive, intimate and inspiring musical experiences that welcome the communities of Los Angeles and the world beyond."

Among the scope of Downes' responsibilities, she will serve in a creative advisory capacity to Martín, perform on and curate selected programs, help identify and mentor LACO's Sound Investment composer each year, participate in the advancement of the prestigious Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra Fellowship and represent LACO in the national arts and culture field.

During the 2024-25 season, Downes makes her LACO main-stage debut performing Florence Price's "Piano Concerto" under Martín's baton.

For information, visit [laco.org](http://laco.org) or call (213)221-3920.



photo courtesy of Ebru Yildiz

Lara Downes became the first ever LACO Creative Partner on July 1 and will serve in the new position for three years.

# HollyShorts returns to Chinese Theatre

Last year Los Angeles' premiere film festival HollyShorts became a quadruple Oscar-qualifying festival with the welcome addition of the Oscar-qualifying award for documentary shorts, alongside two for live action and one for animated shorts. Now in its 20th year, this well-loved festival will be back on Aug. 4 with a 20-foot red carpet at the foot of the steps of the Dolby Theatre, where the Academy Awards are held.

Oscar winners' Riz Ahmed, Aniel Karia, Guy Nattiv, Ben Proudfoot, Travon Free, Ross White, Tom Berkley, Chris Overton, Rachel Shenton and Kim Magnusson are just some of this prestigious festival's past winners. Previous jury

members include Academy Award nominee Chiwetel Ejiofor, Sam Worthington, Zoey Deutch, Bryan Cranston, Gemma Arterton and Blair Underwood.

HollyShorts brings together top creators, industry leaders and companies and has launched many filmmakers into the next stages of their careers.

HollyShorts Film Festival will take place in-person between August 4-18 at TCL Chinese 6 Theatres, with the annual Awards Gala set to take place on August 18. Tickets are available at [hollyshorts.com](http://hollyshorts.com). TCL Chinese Theatres is located at 6925 Hollywood Blvd.



photo courtesy of HollyShorts

The HollyShorts film festival returns Aug. 4-18.

# Autry Museum brings cowfolk together

Celebrate National Day of the Cowboy and Cowgirl on July 27 at the Autry Museum of the American West with extended museum hours until 7:30 p.m. and family-friendly activities for guests of all ages. Enjoy trick ropers on the plaza, cowboy poetry in gallery, live music on the plaza, country line dancing lessons, film screenings and docent led tours.

Autry members enjoy early access and a Member Cookout in the Corral.

Screenings during the day will include episodes of Gene Autry television episodes, "The Cowboys" (1972) and "Back to the Future Part III" (1990). To RSVP, visit [theautry.org/cowboy](http://theautry.org/cowboy). The Autry Museum is located at 4700 Western Heritage Way.



photo courtesy of the Autry Museum

Cowboys and cowgirls of all ages are welcome at the Autry Museum on July 27.

## Summer Salads

### Mango Peach Iced Tea Lemonade



#### Grilled Salmon Salad



#### Mango Waldorf Salad



#### Pineapple Boat Fruit Salad

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# POLICE BLOTTER

The following crimes occurred in West Hollywood, Beverly Hills and the areas patrolled by the LAPD's Wilshire and Hollywood divisions between July 13 and July 20. The information was compiled from crimemapping.com. To report a crime, call local law enforcement agencies: Los Angeles Police Department, Wilshire Division (213)473-0476, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department West Hollywood Station (310)855-8850, and the Beverly Hills Police Department (310)550-4951.

## Beverly Hills Police Department

### July 14

At 1:35 a.m., a vandalism incident was reported in the 300 block of S. Elm.

A suspect was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs near Wilshire and La Cienega at 10:32 p.m.

### July 15

At 3:24 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 700 block of N. Bedford.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon at 8:25 a.m.

At 5:14 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft near Olympic and La Cienega.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of S. Bedford at 10 p.m.

At 10 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 400 block of Palm.

### July 17

At 2:55 p.m., an unknown suspect robbed a victim near Cañon and Charleville.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft near Olympic and La Cienega at 9:34 p.m.

### July 18

At 12:51 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 300 block of N. Cañon.

### July 19

At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of Lasky.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 200 block of N. Rodeo at 3:43 a.m.

At 11:12 a.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 300 block of S. Rexford.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 300 block of S. La Cienega at 6:40 p.m.

At 9:11 p.m., an unknown suspect

committed a petty theft near Olympic and La Cienega.

## West Hollywood Sheriff's Station

### July 14

At midnight, an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8900 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of N. Robertson at 12:37 a.m.

At 2:15 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 1000 block of N. Ogden.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1200 block of N. Genesee at 3:20 a.m.

At 4 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8700 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of N. Vista at 5 a.m.

At 4 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8300 block of Willoughby.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8400 block of Santa Monica at 8:50 p.m.

At 11:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 8800 block of Santa Monica.

### July 15

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 500 block of N. La Cienega at 1:32 a.m.

At 12:30 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 1300 block of N. Laurel.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1200 block of N. Sweetzer at 7 p.m.

At 11 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 8700 block of Santa Monica.

### July 16

At 4 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of N. Detroit.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 8400 block of Sunset at 6:15 p.m.

### July 17

At 5:40 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1000 block of N. La Brea.

### July 18

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7100 block of Santa Monica at 12:20 a.m.

At 6:40 p.m., an unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 9200 block of Sunset.

An unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 9000 block of Harland at 6:40 p.m.

At 10:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 7700 block of Norton.

### July 19

At 4:27 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a burglary in the 7100 block of Santa Monica.

An unknown suspect assaulted a victim in the 8700 block of Sunset at 4:36 p.m.

## Los Angeles Police Department

### July 13

At 1:30 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 800 block of N. Genesee.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 1500 block of Gordon at 1:45 a.m.

At 12:45 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Spaulding and Genesee.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8500 block of Olympic at 12:52 p.m.

At 2:39 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of S. La Brea.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 6300 block of Romaine at 3:40 p.m.

At 4:24 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6000 block of Carlos.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 6200 block of Commodore Sloat at 8 p.m.

At 8 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle in the 5600 block of Eighth.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of N. Swall at 9:25 p.m.

At 9:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 700 block of S. Orange Grove.

### July 14

At 1:30 a.m., an unknown suspect

pickpocketed a victim in the 1500 block of N. Wilcox.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1500 block of N. Wilcox at 1:30 a.m.

At 2 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 800 block of N. Cahuenga.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 600 block of S. La Cienega at 3 a.m.

At 3:15 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 300 block of S. Swall.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 900 block of N. Hudson at 4:05 a.m.

At 4:30 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1000 block of S. Hudson.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6800 block of Hollywood at 2:22 p.m.

At 2:31 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of S. La Brea.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 800 block of S. La Brea at 3 p.m.

At 3:15 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 100 block of The Grove.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8400 block of Beverly at 4:50 p.m.

At 9:20 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1400 block of N. Martel.

An unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 6700 block of Selma at 11:25 p.m.

At 11:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 3200 block of Wilshire.

### July 15

At 7 a.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 100 block of S. Norton.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 300 block of S. Cloverdale at 7:55 a.m.

At 1 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1100 block of N. Gordon.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1000 block of S. Longwood at 3 p.m.

At 3:30 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8100 block of Third.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft near Olympic and La Cienega at 5:14 p.m.

At 6:10 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 6800 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1900 block of N. Highland at 10:45 p.m.

At 10:50 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 800 block of N. Spaulding.

### July 16

At 12:01 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 1500 block of N. Vine.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 5500 block of Edgewood at 12:30 a.m.

At 3:40 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 6200 block of Drexel.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 5200 block of Wilshire at 1:49 p.m.

At 3:09 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 8400 block of Beverly.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 400 block of N. Fairfax at 5 p.m.

At 6:40 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 6200 block of Hollywood.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1200 block of N. Bronson at 7 p.m.

At 11:30 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1500 block of N. Vista.

### July 17

At 12:01 a.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 8300 block of Third.

An unknown suspect committed a grand theft in the 700 block of N. Wilcox at 8 a.m.

At 9:34 a.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft near Olympic and La Cienega.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 7900 block of Beverly at 12:32 p.m.

### July 18

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Ivar and Franklin at 4:30 p.m.

At 4:50 p.m., an unknown suspect stole a vehicle parked in the 800 block of N. El Centro.

An unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 400 block of N. Curson at 6:50 p.m.

At 7 p.m., an unknown suspect committed a petty theft in the 1600 block of Vine.

An unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked near Gardner and De Longpre at 8 p.m.

At 8:20 p.m., an unknown suspect burglarized a vehicle parked in the 1700 block of N. Sycamore.

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# ‘Young Woman and the Sea’ stays on course

Disney hasn’t figured out how to consistently adapt its animated library, but the House of Mouse thrives at inspiring historical stories. “Miracle,” “Saving Mr. Banks,” “Togo” – these films tell fascinating stories in the most melodramatic ways. They might not always rely on cold, hard facts, but they sure are enjoyable, easily digested.

“Young Woman and the Sea” reminds us of that once and still enduring legacy. This time, Disney depicts the first woman to successfully swim across the English Channel. As expected, it’s fun, emotional and condensed for the viewing public. Formulaic it

may be, but delightful is the outcome.

From a young age, Trudy Ederle (Daisy Ridley) loved to swim. That obsession would become a point of frustration for her father Henry (Kim Bodnia), a butcher stuck in the old ways. He couldn’t control her, especially when others took interest in her exceptional skill. Alas, the Olympic Committee wanted her to win but wouldn’t help her succeed.

It’s the 1920s; men’s accomplishments matter most. Frustrated, Trudy devises a plan that demands respect. She wants to swim the English Channel. That’s a far cry from competitions in a pool. She

## ON SCREEN WITH TIM POSADA

must endure 21 miles of fierce waves, sea life, old mines and insanely cold temperatures. To reach this goal, she has a few in her corner, while others either doubt her abilities or directly attempt to undermine her.

Let’s get this out of the way. Jeff Nathanson and Glenn Stout’s screenplay takes some liberties with the timeline of events. Plenty of resources provide a full rundown. None of these historical revisions undermine Ederle’s story or accomplishments. The spirit of her story remains intact.

That’s likely because Stout pulled directly from his 2009 biography, “Young Woman and the Sea: How Trudy Ederle Conquered the English Channel and Inspired the World.” So plenty of the film’s interesting tidbits aren’t fictions but facts, like sister Meg’s (Tilda Cobham-Hervey) help revising the one-piece swimsuit to avoid drag. Certainly, that particular moment will be misinterpreted as a revision to suit some political goal, but it’s simply what occurred.



photo courtesy of Walt Disney Pictures

“Young Woman and the Sea” is a top contribution from Disney, conveying a true story in a remarkable way.

Until now, director Joachim Rønning’s track record with Disney films (the last “Pirates” and the “Maleficent” sequel) has been a touch off. “Young Woman and the Sea” serves as a needed course correction. Unlike his previous, CGI-heavy entries with enormous sets and casts, he has time to breathe and tell a singular, focused story. Good thing too considering he’s likely back to those big stories with another “Pirates” and “Tron” in the works. May he remember the joy and singular purpose he finds in this wonderful story.

But it all falls apart without Ridley’s performance. She’s an incredible talent, one who’s faced undue attacks for her role in another franchise. Pay that trash discourse no thought. She deserves more stel-

lar roles like this one.

“Young Woman and the Sea” is both a major win and source of frustration. Why didn’t it receive more than a limited theatrical run in Los Angeles? Compared to so many failed general releases, this would’ve enjoyed a solid box office performance. At least once upon a time. Now, who knows? It doesn’t matter if a film is good or not.

This is a gateway film. The inspiration gets everywhere, infects you, prompts a search for more films that keep that feeling going. Luckily, Disney+ is a treasure trove for (mostly) true stories of remarkable people or moments in history. Plenty come close to “Young Woman and the Sea,” but this one is special, a top-tier contribution to the Disney melodrama canon.



photo courtesy of Walt Disney Pictures

Trudy Ederle (Daisy Ridley) must prove she can succeed in “Young Woman and the Sea.”

# All aboard for fun on the rails at Descanso Gardens

Descanso Gardens is celebrating the grand opening of the Descanso Railroad, featuring a new miniature train experience.

The Descanso Railroad enhances the popularity of its beloved passenger train, a fixture since 1996. Visitors can watch model trains travel through a variety of unique and captivating landscapes and depots. A new train platform was also created where passengers with purchased tickets can board the electric train for a ride through the garden. The enchanting addition captivates visitors of all ages with its blend of natural beauty, artistic ingenuity and homage to history.

The new Descanso Railroad features meticulously crafted model trains that traverse stunning landscapes and depots made from natur-

al materials, many of which have been sourced directly from Descanso Gardens. Each depot uniquely represents a great American train station, including a nod to the historical Los Angeles station.

The innovative model train area is the creation of Applied Imagination, a company that designs botanical models and sculptures with G scale model trains. Known for whimsical yet sophisticated installations, Applied Imagination’s displays have delighted audiences across the nation for more than 30 years. Descanso Gardens is proud to be the first location on the West Coast to have the extraordinary rail project, adding a new dimension to the visitor experience.

“We are incredibly excited to

bring the magic of these beloved railway displays to Descanso Gardens,” Descanso Gardens CEO Juliann Rooke said. “This new addition offers a unique way for our visitors to connect with the beauty of nature and the history of rail travel, all within the serene setting of our gardens.”

The Descanso Railroad is open 8:30 a.m.– 6:30 p.m., daily. Train rides are available from 9:30 a.m.– 4 p.m. Train ride tickets are \$5 and may be purchased onsite at Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada Flintridge. The train route covers approximately one-quarter mile and the ride lasts approximately six minutes. Riders must be at least 30 inches tall and able to sit on their own. For information, call (818)949-4200, or visit descansogardens.org.



photo courtesy of Descanso Gardens

Descanso Gardens features a new miniature train as well as train rides in a new expanded area.

# Beverly Hills celebrates second multicultural festival

The second annual Festival Beverly Hills, a vibrant celebration of cultural arts and performances, captivated a crowd of nearly 3,000 attendees at Beverly Gardens Park this past Sunday, July 21. Festival-goers were treated to a diverse array of over 25 performances across three stages, showcasing a rich tapestry of cultures.

The event kicked off with an exhibi-

ting community drum circle led by Malick Sow, in partnership with the Senegalese Consulate, and joined by Mayor Lester Friedman and Councilmembers John Mirisch and Craig Corman. The atmosphere of the festival was further electrified by the enchanting Iranian musical journey of the Kooban Ensemble, presented in partnership with the Farhang

Foundation, engaging a large crowd of several hundred people dancing and singing along. Farhang Foundation also partnered to present an Iranian fairy-tale puppet show and a puppet-making workshop that delighted hundreds of families.

Special guest, CJ Emmons, known for his appearance on “Dancing with the Stars,” engaged a lively Q&A with Arts and Culture Commission Chair, Karla Gordy Bristol, before treating fans to a stirring rendition of “God Bless America.” The festival also featured dynamic Colombian dancers whose vibrant and glorious movement were a colorful vision.

The second annual Festival Beverly Hills was a resounding success, presented in partnership with the city of Beverly Hills’ Community Services Department and Arts and Culture Commission, the Farhang Foundation and the consulates of Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Senegal and Trinidad and Tobago.

For information, visit beverly-hills.org/csevents.



photo courtesy of the city of Beverly Hills

Many artists and local leaders were present at the festival, including Beverly Hills City Councilmembers, Arts and Culture Commissioners and Farhang Foundation leaders.



## UPCOMING “K-CULTURE” ACTIVITIES

### K-ART



#### “Minhwa” Fan Painting Workshop

- ✓ July 27, 11 am - 12 pm, 1 pm - 2 pm
- ✓ Descanso Garden
- ✓ WALK-IN with fee

Join the art workshop focused on Minhwa, the traditional Korean folk art and create your own unique fan.

### K-MOVIE



#### K-Movie <Scandal Makers> Screening

- ✓ July 31, 7 pm
- ✓ KCCLA Ari Hall(3F)
- ✓ KCCLA Website Free RSVP

KCCLA’s movie night comes to an end with all time best K-Movie <Scandal Makers>.  
\* This film is PG-13.

### K-POP



#### GRAMMY MUSEUM x KCCLA K-POP DANCE NIGHT

- ✓ August 3, 6pm
- ✓ GRAMMY Museum (Ray Charles Terrace)
- ✓ Grammy Museum Website Free RSVP

The KCCLA, in collaboration with the GRAMMY Museum®, hosts the “K-POP DANCE NIGHT.”



# Thrive Scholars expands Los Angeles education program

Evelin Jimenez, a high school junior from Compton, dreamed of attending University of Southern California through scholarships, but lacked access to advanced college preparation opportunities. But thanks to the new BMO Thrive Academy – Los Angeles at USC, her dream is now within reach.

Thrive Scholars, a national non-profit dedicated to supporting high-achieving, first-generation students, announced the expansion of its Thrive Academies program to Los Angeles. The initiative, supported by a significant \$3 million donation from BMO, is set to create a profound social impact, offering transformative educational opportunities and career pathways for local students.

“Coming from a small high school, I’ve never had these opportunities before, so being a part of Thrive’s program and being chosen to participate makes it special for me and my parents as a first-generation student,” Jimenez said. “This program helps me get the education

I need to succeed in life and pursue my dream of majoring in criminology or criminal justice to become an FBI agent. I know that Thrive can help me open the door to those connections.”

The Thrive Academies program is free to qualifying students and builds on the success of Summer Academy, Thrive Scholars’ flagship six-week program. It provides rigorous academic preparation in calculus, coding and writing, along with college admissions counseling and career development support. The BMO Thrive Academy will empower hundreds of students each year, equipping them with the tools and confidence needed to excel in higher education and beyond. This summer, it will host its inaugural cohort of over 170 students for an intensive six-week program. These students, boasting an impressive 3.9 average GPA, represent the next generation of leaders, innovators and changemakers. BMO Thrive Academy runs from June 24-Aug. 2 at USC.

“Our investment in BMO Thrive Academy – Los Angeles underscores BMO’s commitment to creating progress in underserved communities by breaking down barriers to higher education,” said Kimberley Goode, chief communications and social impact officer at BMO. “Through our work with Thrive Academy, we are creating pathways for our community’s future leaders, and we look forward to continue growing the program in Los Angeles.”

“The launch of BMO Thrive Academy – Los Angeles marks a significant step toward increasing economic mobility for our Scholars,” said Martha Sanchez, executive director of Thrive Scholars Los Angeles. “By providing top-college preparation and career pathways, we are not only helping students achieve their academic goals but also equipping them with the skills and networks necessary to thrive in their careers. This program is a vital part of our commitment to fostering long-term success for high-achieving youth from underserved communities.”

Thrive Scholars alumni have expressed strong support for the Thrive Academies initiative, actively giving back to the program that



photo courtesy of Thrive Scholars

Scholars and their parents participated in the orientation for the BMO Thrive Academy on June 15 at USC.

helped shape their futures. The collaborative effort aims to address the unique challenges faced by Los Angeles’ underserved communities and provide high-achieving, talented students with the resources they need to succeed.

“As a Thrive Scholar alum and now assistant site director for Thrive Academies here in L.A., I’m excited to give back to the program

that helped shape my future,” Izzy Harbor said. “Thrive Academy gave me the tools to succeed in college and beyond. Now, I have the privilege of mentoring and supporting the next generation of scholars. Seeing the impact of this program on our community is incredibly rewarding.”

For information, visit [thrivescholars.org](http://thrivescholars.org) or [bmo.com](http://bmo.com).

# UCLA Filipino alumnus presents seminar to national audience

On July 13, University of California, Los Angeles alumnus and California State University, Los Angeles Associate Professor Bobby Rimas presented the “Ethics and Compliance in Corporate America” seminar at the National Association of Legal Assistants’ Conference and Expo at the Downtown Louisville Kentucky Marriott to a live audience and individuals who attended the seminar virtually across the nation. The Ethics and Compliance in Corporate America seminar provided an overview of the core ele-

ments of ethics within corporate America and how legal teams often address and mitigate ethical and compliance issues that can help companies determine organizational culture and success. Rimas indicated that he was honored to present at the NALA Conference and Expo where he had previously presented seminars in prior years in Charleston, South Carolina and Orlando, Florida. After the seminar, NALA’s immediate past president Debbie Overstreet congratulated Rimas and said via the confer-

ence’s Facebook page, “a full house for Bobby Rimas’ session on Ethics and Compliance in Corporate America. Another fantastic [continuing legal education] session brought to you by NALA.”

Rimas is an Associate Professor at California State University, Los Angeles, an Adjunct Instructor at West Los Angeles College, an Adjunct Faculty Member at the University of La Verne, and a Board Member for the University of California, Los Angeles Lambda Alumni Association. He is also a paralegal at the Larson LLP law firm in Downtown Los Angeles and serves as a commissioner for the Palm Springs Human Rights Commission. In May 2024, he was elected vice president of diversity, equity and inclusion for the Stonewall Democratic Club, one of the largest Democratic clubs in California.

Rimas graduated with a bachelor’s degree in history from UCLA, a master of legal studies degree, cum laude, with a concentration in compliance and legal risk management from the University of Arizona James E. Rogers



photo courtesy of Bobby Rimas

Professor Bobby Rimas spoke to audience in Louisville, Kentucky, about corporate America on July 13.

College of Law and a master of arts in education with a concentration in diversity, equity and social justice in education from The University of Texas at El Paso. He

is the past chair and president of the UCLA Pilipino Alumni Association and past president of the Los Angeles Paralegal Association.

# AJU explores antisemitism on campuses

Kenneth Marcus joins American Jewish University on Tuesday, July 30, at noon to discuss how the legal system is used to fight antisemitism on campus.

Marcus, founder and chairman of the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law, will join a conversation with the American Jewish University president Dr. Jeffrey Herbst.

Marcus and Herbst will discuss the use of legal measures to combat antisemitism on college campuses, an effort in which the Brandeis Center has been heavily involved. With a focus on recent cases related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Marcus and Herbst will consider the effectiveness of Title VI in fighting antisemitism and the balance between free expression and student safety.

Marcus is an attorney, civil rights leader and scholar. He founded the Brandeis Center to advance the civil and human rights of the Jewish people on American college cam-



photo courtesy of AJU

American Jewish University welcomes Kenneth Marcus, founder of the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law.

puses, and authored “The Definition of Anti-Semitism.”

The program will be held virtually on American Jewish University’s Open Learning Platform. For information, visit [open.aju.edu/event/using-law-to-fight-antisemitism-on-college-campuses](http://open.aju.edu/event/using-law-to-fight-antisemitism-on-college-campuses).



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## 10 Reasons Why I Don’t Want An Estate Plan

1. I want large sums of my hard-earned money to go to a law firm.
2. I want the government to decide who gets my life savings.
3. What for? My house is only worth a half-million dollars.
4. I really don’t care who raises our children.
5. I want a total stranger to go through all of my personal papers and financial affairs.
6. I like family fights – especially unnecessary ones.
7. I don’t care who inherits my hard earned money.
8. I’ve been messy in life; I’ll be messy in death.
9. They say you can’t take it with you, but what if you can?
10. Probate. Must be fun.

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## LAUSD and EnCorps partner to train CTE teachers

Los Angeles-based nonprofit organization EnCorps and the nation's second-largest school district, Los Angeles Unified, on July 18 announced a significant partnership with funding from The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation. As part of a two-year pilot program that kicks off this summer, EnCorps and LAUSD will collaborate to train, retain and mentor new career and technical education teachers to address the growing need for skilled educators in CTE programs, which are essential for preparing students to succeed in today's job market. The program will benefit nearly 10,000 Los Angeles public school students in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, leading to improved academic performance and a more workforce-ready student population.

"Teacher retention and professional development are nationwide issues that directly impact students," Superintendent Alberto

Carvalho said. "Collaborating with outstanding partners to support CTE teachers – who use their professional experience to guide career exploration – is a great way to ensure our students are ready for the world."

CTE allows students to specialize in skilled trades, applied sciences, modern technologies and career preparation. In LAUSD, there are 58 CTE career pathways across 128 schools. These programs equip students with technical and academic competencies for post-secondary education and careers, integrating real-world experiences through interdisciplinary, project-based learning.

CTE teachers are often technical experts but may lack specific, education-based training. To address this, The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation is funding a two-year pilot program with the District and EnCorps for the 2024-26 school years. The program will support 25

new CTE teachers each year through EnCorps' training and pair them with 25 mentor teachers each year.

"CTE is about preparing students for success in today's world," EnCorps Executive Director Amy Kim said. "We are providing the next generation with real world skills, college and career readiness, and essential soft skills. However, to effectively deliver these courses, we need better-equipped teachers who are trained to integrate hands-on learning experiences, industry-relevant knowledge and modern pedagogy into their curriculum."

"Young people deserve access to opportunities that provide the skills, experiences and credentials essential for upward social and economic mobility," The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation President Gerun Riley said. "We are proud to support EnCorps and its data-driven, community-based approach to connecting Los Angeles Unified stu-



photo by Edwin Folven

The partnership will train career and technical education teachers across the district's many schools, like Los Angeles High School.

dents with CTE teachers trained to prepare students for family wage earning jobs."

Mentee teachers will be trained in classroom management, inclusive teaching, cognitive behavior training and leading project-based learning. The pilot aims to improve new CTE teacher retention, boost

teacher confidence, and foster school-community connections. The success of the CTE teachers involved will benefit nearly 10,000 students, leading to improved academic performance and a more workforce-ready student population in Los Angeles.

For information, visit [lausd.org](http://lausd.org).

## Students learn about animals and conservation at L.A. Zoo



photo by Jamie Pham/Courtesy of the L.A. Zoo

Students in the LAUSD Migrant Education Program studied species such as the Peninsular pronghorn, California condor, southern mountain yellow-legged frog and California desert tortoise.

The Los Angeles Zoo, in partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District, hosted its annual Migrant Education Program Family Day event on July 17, featuring artwork, displays and presentations by 45 students who are children of migratory workers.

"Every year, I am more and more in awe of how quickly and deeply these young children connect with the animals in our zoo and the wildlife around us," said Coral Barreiro, manager of community partnerships for the L.A. Zoo. "Our partnership with LAUSD brings a sense of community and stability to these kids who often move around frequently, and the zoo is a perfect place for a young mind to learn and grow."

This year, students attended the Migrant Education Program at the Zoo between June 24-July 17, focusing on the L.A. Zoo's conservation work with the Peninsular pronghorn, California condor, southern moun-

tain yellow-legged frog and California desert tortoise. Students met with animal care experts and learned about how the animals are cared for at the zoo and the conservation work to protect the species from extinction in the wild. The program culminated with the Family Day Event on July 17 – a presentation showcasing the exhibit design and artwork that inspired the students.

**"These are the types of experiences that can change a student's life trajectory."**

*Dr. Victor Gonzalez,  
coordinator of the Migrant  
Education Program for LAUSD*

"These are the types of experiences that can change a student's life trajectory," said Dr. Victor Gonzalez,

coordinator of the Migrant Education Program for LAUSD. "The students are excited about the animals and the vital conservation efforts of the L.A. Zoo. For the last two years, Migrant Education has had 100% of our students graduate."

The Migrant Education Program is a federally funded initiative administered by the LAUSD to provide enriching opportunities for children of migratory workers in Los Angeles. Migrant children need special services because many need assistance to meet state and district academic standards. On average, the children attend three different schools in one year. The Los Angeles Zoo is a longtime partner of the Migrant Education Program and offers educational experiences for eligible LAUSD students during eight visits during summer.

The Los Angeles Zoo is located at 5333 Zoo Drive. For information about the LAUSD's Migrant Education Program, visit [lausd.net](http://lausd.net). For information on the Los Angeles Zoo, visit [lazoo.org](http://lazoo.org).

## CatCon claws its way back to Pasadena

CatCon will return to the Pasadena Convention Center on Aug. 3-4. The two-day immersive experience – dubbed the Comic-Con for cat lovers – lives at the intersection of pop culture and cat culture, bringing together cat enthusiasts from around the globe and helping over 200 kittens find their forever homes at the Hill's Pet Nutrition Adoption Village.

The cat art show will have an all-new exhibit presented by Cat Art Show and Felix Cat Insurance titled "Whisker Wonderland" dedicated to "Alice in Wonderland." This whimsical display promises to enchant visitors with creative and feline-inspired original works of art based on the classic tale. The Mad Catter's Tea Room is where guests can dive into an immersive, totally cat-themed photo experience

inspired by the famous "Mad Hatter" tea party from "Alice in Wonderland." Live meet-and-greets will include the heroes of the Australian Firefighters Calendar along with a panel discussion hosted by musician and comedian, Shiadanni. These heroes have raised over \$3.45 million for various charities and will be at CatCon to raise funds for cat charities and support on-site adoptions.

Part expo, part symposium, CatCon engages, educates and entertains thousands of fans, featuring the latest in groundbreaking products and ideas for cats and their people, immersive experiences, celebri-cat meet-ups and interactive workshops. For information, visit [catconworldwide.com](http://catconworldwide.com)

The Pasadena Convention Center is located at 300 E. Green St.



photo courtesy of CatCon

Cats and kittens unite at CatCon Aug 3-4.

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## Academy previews fall exhibits

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures has announced details of its two marquee fall 2024 exhibitions, “Color in Motion: Chromatic Explorations of Cinema” and “Cyberpunk: Envisioning Possible Futures Through Cinema,” on view Oct. 6.

“Color in Motion” investigates the role of color in film, from the technological advancements that made its use possible, to the ways filmmakers use color as a story-telling tool, to its psychological impact on audiences. On view Oct. 6-July 13, 2025, this exhibition highlights the role color has played since the earliest days of film history – both as a tool for technological experimentation and artistic expression.

The exhibition features technologies from Technicolor and Eastman Color, objects such as the legendary ruby slippers designed by Gilbert Adrian from “The Wizard of Oz” (1939), the green dress designed by Edith Head and worn by Kim Novak in “Vertigo” (1958), a

Wonka chocolate bar from “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory” (1971), a blue ensemble worn by Jaime Foxx as Django in “Django Unchained” (2012), many animations and films, and a recreation of the stargate corridor from Stanley Kubrick’s “2001: A Space Odyssey” (1968), which will transport visitors into a color-verse.

“Color in Motion will offer visitors both dynamic learning opportunities and emotional connection through an engagement of the senses,” senior exhibitions curator Jessica Niebel, Senior Exhibitions Curator said. “Exploring color through the lenses of technology, artistry and experimentation, the exhibition is as entertaining as it is informational.”

“Cyberpunk,” on view Oct. 6–April 12, 2026, examines the global impact and lasting influence of the science fiction subgenre cyberpunk on film culture. The Academy Museum’s presentation explores this genre through an international and multigenerational lens, featur-

ing more than 25 films, including “Blade Runner” (1982), “Tron” (1982), “Videodrome” (1983), “Terminator 2: Judgment Day” (1991), “The Matrix” (1999), “Sleep Dealer” (2008) and “Alita: Battle Angel” (2019), as well as Afrofuturist films, including “Pumzi” (2009) from Kenya, “Neptune Frost” (2021) from Rwanda and Indigenous futurist films, such as “Night Raiders” (2021) from Canada.

“With the rapid advancement of new technologies, including artificial intelligence, now feels like an especially relevant moment to present an exhibition on cyberpunk cinema,” vice president of curatorial affairs Doris Berger said. “I’m particularly excited that our exhibition presents classic cyberpunk movies alongside more recent futurist films from around the world.”

“Color in Motion” and “Cyberpunk” are part of PST ART: Art & Science Collide, an initiative presented by Getty featuring more than 70 cultural institutions across Southern California, offering thematically linked exhibitions and programs in a five-month-long



photo courtesy of the Academy Museum

The Academy will highlight films with striking palettes starting Oct. 6.

exploration of the intersections of art and science. Both exhibitions will have companion publications and bespoke merchandise available at the Academy Museum Store.

Coinciding with the opening of “Color in Motion,” the Academy Museum will present a selection of films in a limited screening series entitled “The Wonder of Technicolor,” kicking off with a new 35mm print of Alfred Hitchcock’s “Vertigo” (1958) from the Academy Film Archive on Sunday, Oct. 6. The series will run through Nov. 23. In January 2025,

the museum will present a screening series to complement “Cyberpunk,” featuring films by David Cronenberg and the Wachowskis.

As a prelude to PST ART, the Academy Museum will host a screening of “Hackers” (1995) at 7:30 pm on Saturday, July 20. In advance of the screening, visitors will be invited to participate in photo opportunities and receive complimentary PST Art Merchandise.

The Academy Museum is located at 6067 Wilshire Blvd. For information, visit [academymuseum.org](http://academymuseum.org).

## LA Phil announces Dudamel Fellows



photo courtesy of LA Phil

Holly Choe, principal conductor of the chamber orchestra Reflektor, is one of the upcoming Dudamel Fellows.

The Los Angeles Philharmonic Association on July 18 announced the conductors who have been selected to participate in the orchestra’s prestigious Dudamel Fellowship Program for the 2024-25 season.

Music and artistic director Gustavo Dudamel, together with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, created the Dudamel Fellowship Program in 2009 to provide a unique opportunity for promising young conductors from around the world to develop their craft and enrich their musical experience through personal mentorship and participation in the LA Phil’s orchestral, education and community programs.

“We are proud to welcome our 14th class of Dudamel Fellows to Los Angeles for a season of shared beauty, mentorship and transformation,” Dudamel said. “Watching

these young conductors learn and grow with us, and then go out into the world with their expanded vision, is a source of endless joy for me. Through their talent and hard work, we are building a new future where the orchestra is both a source of profound artistry, as well as a force for social good.”

**“Watching these young conductors learn and grow with us, and then go out into the world with their expanded vision.”**

*Music and artistic director  
Gustavo Dudamel*

The Fellows will work alongside Dudamel and musicians of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, as well as

with visiting artists and conductors and will also work with students in key LA Phil education programs, during the LA Phil’s Hollywood Bowl 2024 season and 2024-25 season at Walt Disney Concert Hall. The Fellows will hone their skills through observation and application, such as conducting Los Angeles Philharmonic youth concerts at Walt Disney Concert Hall, participating as cover conductors and serving as mentors themselves through participation in programs such as Youth Orchestra Los Angeles.

The four conductors selected by Dudamel and the LA Phil as 2024-25 Dudamel Fellows are Holly Hyun Choe, born in South Korea and raised in Los Angeles, and principal conductor of the chamber orchestra ensemble Reflektor; Dayner Tafur-Díaz, born in Peru, who won the German Conducting Award, First Prize in the second edition of the International Opera Conducting Competition of the Opéra Royal de Wallonie-Liège;

Luis Castillo-Briceño, born in Costa Rica, who is the conducting fellow of the London Philharmonic Orchestra for the 2023-24 season; and Molly Turner, a Chinese-born conductor and composer from Tacoma, Washington, who is the Conducting Fellow with the New World Symphony and studied under the guidance of Esa-Pekka Salonen as a Salonen Fellow at the Colburn School’s Conservatory of Music.

The LA Phil’s Symphonies for Youth series performances featuring Dudamel Fellows will take place Nov. 2 and 9, conducted by Luis Castillo-Briceño; March 15 and 22, 2025, conducted by Dayner Tafur-Díaz; and May 17 and 24, 2025, conducted by Holly Hyun Choe. The LA Phil’s Symphonies for Schools series performances, led by Dudamel Fellows, will take place March 25 and 26, 2025, conducted by Tafur-Díaz, and March 27 and 28, 2025, conducted by Turner.

For information, visit [laphil.com/about/la-phil/dudamel-fellows](http://laphil.com/about/la-phil/dudamel-fellows).

**VINTAGE**  
PARKLABREA NEWS

### LGBT Center celebrates 25th anniversary



Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan presented a proclamation to former Los Angeles LGBT Center CEO Lorri L. Jean in this photograph in the July 25, 1996, issue of the Beverly Press and Park Labrea News in celebration of the center’s 25th anniversary. Jean said the center was created during a time when the LGBT community experienced discrimination and oppression on many levels, and it evolved over the years into one of the largest providers of services and resources for the community in the world. Today, the Los Angeles LGBT Center continues to offer health, social services and housing resources, as well as advocacy and leadership programs.

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# Leaders travel to Paris for Olympic Games

From page 1

prepare to welcome the world this week,” LA28 Chief Marketing Officer Amy Gleeson said. “This latest LA28 custom emblem celebrates the moment LA takes the baton from Paris and it’s an opportunity to invite everyone into the LA28 story and get ready for what’s next in 2028. We’ve got some celebratory plans in store for the handover – you won’t want to miss it.”

The preparations extend to a delegation of local leaders who will make the trek to France as representatives of Los Angeles County, including Board of Supervisors Chair Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass and West Hollywood Mayor John Erickson.

“Participating in the Paris Games is an important opportunity to witness the extensive effort required for a safe, sustainable and successful global event,” Horvath said. “I especially look forward to experiencing how Paris has implemented a mass transit system to efficiently move people between events and throughout the city; the strategies they employ to minimize the environmental impact of the Games, the vibrant display of arts and culture, the forward thinking for lasting

investment in the region for local benefit and the creation of safe, inclusive spaces for athletes and spectators from around the world.”

Erickson said he is focused on observing the Pride House, which is a nonprofit hub for LGBTQ+ athletes and supporters that has become a staple of Olympic and World Cup Games in recent decades.

“I’m looking forward to going to Paris for the Olympics and meeting with city officials, as well as representatives from Pride House and learning all I can from them on successfully hosting Pride House here in West Hollywood in 2026 [for the World Cup] and 2028,” Erickson said.

Los Angeles previously hosted the Olympics in 1932 and 1984. As part of an effort to drum up awareness and excitement for the city’s third outing as the Games’ host, LA28 will unveil a digital campaign, news and custom emblems over the next few weeks.

On July 18, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg visited Los Angeles to discuss Metro’s expansions that are anticipated for the 2028 Games.

“With funding made possible by

President Biden’s bipartisan infrastructure law, we’re helping connect even more people across L.A. County with affordable, reliable public transportation,” Buttigieg said. “These investments will help increase Metro ridership, get more cars off the road, make the air in L.A. cleaner for every single adult, and child, who breathes it in each day. And in four years when L.A. hosts the Olympics for the third time, Angelenos and Olympians alike will know just how efficient this region’s public transit can be.”

The Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks organization PlayLA Youth and Adaptive Youth Sports Program will host viewing parties and sports activities for its summer camp youth athletes starting Friday, July 26, at 10 a.m. at the Westwood Recreation Center, located at 1350 Sepulveda Blvd. Additional engagement opportunities and information can be found at laparks.org.

For Horvath it’s all about the future.

“We have a lot to do and no time to waste,” Horvath said. “I am excited to bring lessons learned back to Los Angeles County in preparation for 2028.”



photo by Tabor Brewster

The city contracted with Excel Paving Company to complete the project on Burton Way.

## Paving project improves roadway in Beverly Hills

From page 1

parking in each direction until then, although at least one lane in each direction will remain open.

“The heavy lane closures that you see out there will be done by this Saturday,” Chung said.

After the grind and overlay is completed, contractors will restripe the lanes – which should be done by early August, Chung added.

Though contractors are currently resurfacing the street, some work – including the curb ramp and bus pad installation – was completed in April.

The city contracted with Excel Paving Company for \$1.9 million for the project, according to Chung. Grilley noted that the project is largely funded by two

ballot measures – one state and the other local. Approximately \$1.1 million of the funding comes from SB-1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, which implemented a gasoline tax to fund transportation projects, including state highways and local streets. The remainder of the funding comes from Metro’s Proposition C.

“The Prop C money is transportation sales tax that’s from Los Angeles County Metro,” Grilley said. “Every city gets a certain amount of money back based on their population. That money can only be used for projects that support transit, and because this is a transit route we can use that money.”

## Delegates will vote for presidential nominee

From page 1

to specific candidates, but with the unusual situation presented by Biden’s withdrawal, delegates are now free to vote for whomever they choose on the first ballot.

After Biden’s immediate endorsement of his vice president, however, the California delegation followed his lead and pledged support to Harris. A virtual vote set for the first week of August is expected to ratify her as the party nominee. Including the entirety of California delegates, Harris has shored up the endorsement of more than 3,000 delegates – well over the 1,975 necessary to secure the nomination.

“This resounding endorsement illustrates Harris’ exceptional leadership and commitment to fight for the freedoms and rights of all Americans, which are under threat by Donald Trump and his dangerous, regressive MAGA agenda,” Hicks added.

“I’m proud to call Vice President Harris a longtime friend and an inspiring leader,” Assemblyman Rick Chavez Zbur, District 51, posted on X.

“She has dedicated her career to fighting for those who need it most

– from prosecuting human traffickers and big banks who ripped off working families to championing LGBTQ+ equality and reproductive freedom. I am with her 100% and look forward to electing her as the next President of the United States,” Zbur continued.

“Vice President Harris leads with strength, courage, and compassion. She has been an invaluable ally in our work to improve L.A.’s economy, safety and infrastructure, and in our work to house Angelenos,” Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said in a statement. “California is stronger because of her work as attorney general and senator. America is stronger because of her work as vice president. I am proud to endorse Vice President Harris to be the next president of the United States and call on all Democrats to join me in doing everything possible to help her win this election.”

“Tough. Fearless. Tenacious,” Gov. Gavin Newsom wrote on X. “With our democracy at stake and our future on the line, no one is better to prosecute the case against Donald Trump’s dark vision and guide our country in a healthier direction than America’s vice presi-

dent.”

West Hollywood Mayor John Erickson is among the California delegates, who will travel to Chicago for the Democratic National Convention Aug. 19-22, where Harris will accept the nomination.

“Kamala Harris was always part of the ticket for the presidential election [as Biden’s vice president],” Erickson said. “Not only has she secured all of the delegates necessary, but she has swept the fundraising and momentum support that she needs to go into the next 100 days. [She will] make sure we protect our country and stop us from going backwards into fascism with Republican nominee and convicted felon Donald Trump.”

Erickson stressed the importance of harnessing the momentum into action, encouraging supporters to volunteer, knock on doors and present a unified front for Harris.

“What happens at the federal level can impact us at the local level,” he said. “It is imperative that we put aside differences and unite, because if we don’t what’s at stake is our rights and liberties.”

## BHPD arrests robbery suspects

From page 4

the vehicle and attempted to stop the suspects, who led police on a pursuit before abandoning the car near 74th and Hoover streets and fleeing on foot. Officers set up a perimeter and a Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department helicopter joined the search. Police arrested two suspects nearby and were unable to locate the third assailant. Police said he carjacked another vehicle with a woman and infant inside and drove out of the area.

Sheriff’s deputies from the South Los Angeles Station saw the vehicle a short time later and the suspect led police on a pursuit in which he live-streamed the chase from the

driver’s seat. The pursuit ended when the suspect turned onto a dead-end street in the 3900 block of Shedd Terrace in Culver City. Officers rescued the woman and infant, who were unharmed, and arrested Daiyaan Henderson, 21, of Los Angeles.

The other two suspects were identified as Semaj Lopez, 24, of Los Angeles; and Michael Smith, 19, of Lancaster. All three men were booked for robbery. Henderson was also held on seven outstanding felony warrants for his arrest.

The investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information is urged to call the BHPD at (310)550-4951.



photo by Edwin Folven

Bus ridership increased 4.6% in June compared to June 2023.

## Bus and rail ridership continues upward trend

Metro announced on July 22 that it experienced a 19th consecutive month of year-over-year ridership growth in June, with 25,181,475 boardings on bus and rail services. Metro reached 85.5% of its June 2019 pre-COVID ridership level. With 18,792,300 boardings on weekdays, ridership reached 82.1% of pre-pandemic levels. Weekends in June had 6,389,175 boardings, reaching 97.7% of pre-pandemic weekend ridership from June 2019.

The increases were driven by summer weekend concerts, parades, festivals and sporting events. Weekend ridership was up

32.2% over weekend ridership in June 2023, with combined bus and rail boardings reaching 97.7% of June 2019 pre-pandemic levels. Saturday boardings on bus and rail combined reached 94.6% of June 2019 levels. On Sundays in June, average combined boardings exceeded pre-pandemic levels, achieving 101.6% of levels in June 2019.

For example, on June 9, the Hollywood/Vine Station experienced a 188% ridership increase and the Hollywood/Highland Station had a 73% ridership increase as riders headed to the

L.A. Pride Parade and Block Party..

The bus system had 19,531,545 rides in June – a 4.6% increase in ridership over June 2023 and 87.6% of the June 2019 level. Metro had 14,693,720 bus boardings on weekdays in June, with 2,629,060 boardings on Saturdays and 2,208,765 boardings on Sundays in June.

June rail boardings were at 5,649,930 last month, or 79% of June 2019 ridership, with 4,098,580 trips taken on weekdays.

Metro continues to provide programs that make riding more affordable. For information, visit metro.net/riding/fares.



# County plan will add supervisors to board

From page 1

Hahn and Hilda Solis in favor and Supervisors Holly Mitchell and Kathryn Barger voting no.

“The time for change is now, and it is time to put this decision in the hands of the voters. Only they hold the power to answer whether they want a Los Angeles County government that adapts to keep up with the times, or a government from 1912 when there were more cows than people,” said Horvath, 3rd District, who with Hahn initiated the proposal to expand the board. “They hold the power to reshape how the county serves our most vulnerable and our unincorporated communities, as well as how the county delivers the services on which so many of our communities rely. With the adoption of the governance reform ordinance changes proposed, voters are one step closer to the most meaningful structural reform L.A. County has seen in more than 100 years.”

“Since we unveiled this reform package, I have heard an overwhelming amount of support from people for this effort,” said Hahn, 4th District. “People are hungry for change and they see how these reforms will make L.A. County government more representative, accessible, transparent and responsive to their needs and concerns. These are big changes for the county but they are not radical, and people I talk to are telling me they are long overdue.”

If approved by voters, the proposal would amend the county charter and bring reforms to local government. It will create executive and legislative branches of county gov-

ernment and the elected position of county executive, who would function like a mayor, and an expanded board of supervisors, which would serve as the legislative branch like a City Council. Horvath, Hahn and Solis supported expanding the board to nine members to provide greater representation of the county’s nearly 10 million residents.

**“It’s part of our role as public servants to ensure that voters have all of the facts and the impartial analyses they need to make an informed decision on our countywide ballot measures.”**

*-Supervisor Holly Mitchell, 2nd District*

Mitchell and Barger held a press conference at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration prior to the July 23 board meeting to discuss a motion they authored to add a fiscal analysis for greater transparency. After approving the ballot measure, the board voted 5-0 to include a fiscal analysis.

Mitchell, 2nd District, and Barger, 5th District, opposed the board expansion proposal because they believe there has not been enough “data-driven” analysis of its consequences. They called for the

fiscal analysis to get a better understanding of what the expansion and changes to county government will cost, and to inform the public.

“Supervisor Barger and I are bringing the ballot transparency and consistency motion forward to ensure a fiscal analysis on countywide ballot measures is included on our county sample ballots, so the county is in alignment with what voters currently receive for statewide ballot measures,” Mitchell said. “We know the importance and life changing impact of elections. It’s part of our role as public servants to ensure that voters have all of the facts and the impartial analyses they need to make an informed decision on our countywide ballot measures, or any vote for that matter.”

“Trusting government and elected representation is fundamental so that our democracy can succeed and thrive. I wholeheartedly support providing information and resources for voters,” Barger added. “As elected as the legislative body, we need to do everything in our power to uphold the tenants of transparency and accountability.”

Solis, 1st District, supported putting the decision on expansion to the voters and including the fiscal analysis to ensure the public understands the potential costs. However, she cautioned that the analysis would provide an estimate of costs, which may increase as the process unfolds.

“We have to look at what the cost figures are,” Solis said. “Just like ... when you’re putting [county] budgets together, you make an



photo by Edwin Folven

Supervisor Kathryn Barger spoke about the importance of fiscal accountability and transparency with the government expansion proposal.

assumption, this is where we are at a point in time, and revenues change in that course. It could be because of things that are out of our control. I really hope that the public understands that this is not, how could I say, a hard science. There’s a lot of subjectivity here.”

Implementation of the expansion plan would likely take years. An independent ethics commission would be created by 2026 to help guide reforms and ensure the process is impartial. It is anticipated the county executive would be elected by 2028. The board expansion would occur in 2032 and would be based on population data from the 2030 census. The plan requires that the expansion be cost-

neutral, with no new taxes.

The board approved another motion by Barger and Horvath on July 23 asking county legal counsel to return in 30 days with information on creating an independent ethics commission.

“Creating, funding and empowering an independent ethics commission for Los Angeles County is necessary and the right thing to do,” Horvath said. “Through this motion, and with input from community voices, we will lay the groundwork for the commission, while working towards putting to voters a charter amendment to ensure the commission cannot be undone without a vote of the people.”

## Board expands definition of gender-based violence

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion on July 23 to prioritize gender-based violence prevention in Los Angeles County.

The motion, introduced by chair Lindsey Horvath, 3rd District, includes a more exhaustive definition for gender-based violence that goes beyond domestic violence to intentionally root out all forms and uplift survivors. Gender-based violence is one of Horvath’s priorities as chair.

“Los Angeles County is moving from a framework of intervention to one of proactive prevention to address the root causes of gender-based violence in our communities,” Horvath said. “Our focus on gender-based violence prevention will fill gaps in critical prevention services within the county and our community-based service network, centering the experiences and perspectives of survivors to foster stronger, more resilient communities.”

Through Horvath’s motion and a community outreach process, Los Angeles County has expanded its definition of gender-based violence to violent acts or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuses that are used to harm, punish or frighten due to a person’s identified or perceived gender or sexual identity. Gender-based violence includes, but is not limited to, domestic violence, intimate partner violence, gendered cyber abuses, sexual harassment, sexual assault and exploitation, trafficking, homophobic and transphobic abuses.

Gender-based violence prevention efforts will be led by the Department of Public Health’s

**“Los Angeles County is moving from a framework of intervention to one of proactive prevention to address the root causes of gender-based violence.”**

*-L.A. County Board of Supervisors chair Lindsey Horvath*

Office of Violence Prevention, in coordination with the Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Council, the Los Angeles County Office of Women’s Health, Los Angeles County Sexual Assault Council, Los Angeles County LGBTQ+ Commission, survivors and non-profit, legal, community and academic experts.

For information, visit [ceo.lacounty.gov/agendas](http://ceo.lacounty.gov/agendas) and scroll to Gender-Based Violence Cluster.

### Answers From Page 23



## Funds boost infrastructure ahead of Olympics

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass welcomed U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg to Los Angeles on July 18 to highlight ways in which the city is preparing for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

During the visit, local leaders highlighted federal investments to expand L.A.’s public transportation system and better connect to Exposition Park, home to renowned cultural attractions and core 2028 Games venues. Bass, Buttigieg and local leaders rode the Metro E Line from South L.A. to Exposition Park, where they highlighted continued preparations for the Olympics. They toured the Metro Division 13 bus maintenance facility, met with bus operators and boarded an electric bus. Nearly \$80 million in new funding was announced to electrify Metro buses and reduce air pollution following nearly \$900 million in federal funding announced earlier this year.

“We are preparing to be on the world stage in a way that will benefit every corner of Los Angeles by expanding and improving the transportation system in a sustainable way that creates good paying union jobs,” Bass said. “Thank you to the Biden-Harris Administration and Secretary Buttigieg for this new funding to electrify more Metro buses to reduce air pollution and continue preparing for the games.”

The Low or No Emission Grant funding announced on July 18 will go toward zero-emission buses and charging infrastructure. It is the second largest funding award out



photo courtesy of Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass’ office

Mayor Karen Bass met with U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, right, on July 18 to highlight federal support for transportation projects.

of more than 100 projects funded by the federal government. The grant funding provided by the Federal Transit Administration will allow Metro to procure battery-electric buses, charging equipment and supporting infrastructure to provide reliable zero-emission service along bus routes that operate from Metro’s Bus Division 7 in West Hollywood. The zero-emission buses will replace compressed natural gas buses that have exceeded their useful service life, creating more sustainable transportation options ahead of upcoming international sporting events in Los Angeles.

In March, nearly \$900 million in

funding was secured for the Los Angeles region to strengthen critical infrastructure, expand the Metro Rail system and reconnect communities ahead of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. L.A. Metro received \$709.9 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Fiscal Year 2024 transportation spending law, which will go toward projects such as sections two and three of the D Line Subway Extension Project. The Los Angeles region also received \$160 million in new federal grant funding for street and transit infrastructure, traffic safety and to improve connections between neighborhoods.







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(left to right) Dylan Dordick, Esq., Taylor Dordick, Esq., Gary A. Dordick, Esq., Nava Dordick, Esq., Michelle Dordick, Esq.

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