**MAY 2017** 

ISSUE 33

# DOWNTOWNER

#### THE INSIDER GUIDE TO DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES



### THE BOARDROOM

Tucked away in a secret enclave, the BoardRoom is a blast to the Parisian past with modern accommodations.

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## **DOWNTOWN MAP**

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### **EVENT CALENDAR**

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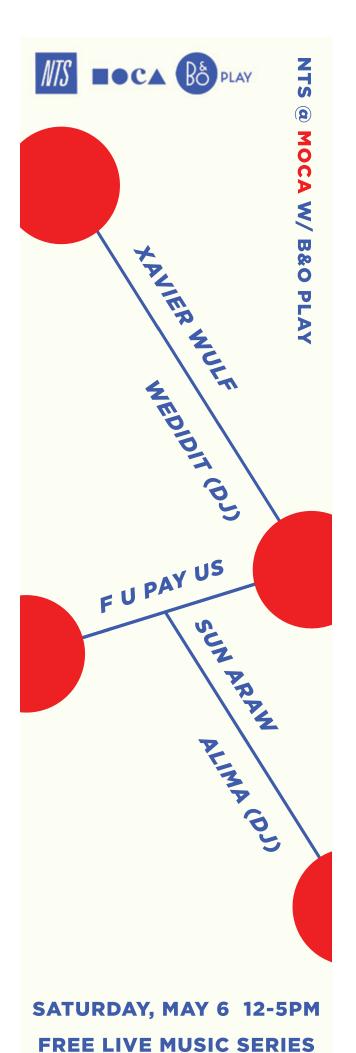
## **NEIHULÉ SALON**

Feel comfortable, not intimidated.

There are no moody stylists or morose estheticians to be found here.

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LADOWNTOWNER.COM



**RSVP:** 

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LADTR

## LONG LIVE DOWNTOWN

THE INSIDER'S VIEW OF DOWNTOWN CULTURE, FOOD, DRINKS, FASHION & THE PEOPLE WHO SHAPE IT.

A FERROCONCRETE PUBLICATION

ferroconcrete.com —

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## **Program out NOW**

With hundreds of events throughout Los Angeles featuring star chefs and our 5-day Night Market, FOOD BOWL is a new kind of food festival — 31 days to celebrate our diverse, dynamic food scene and raise awareness about food waste and hunger.





View the program at lafoodbowl.com



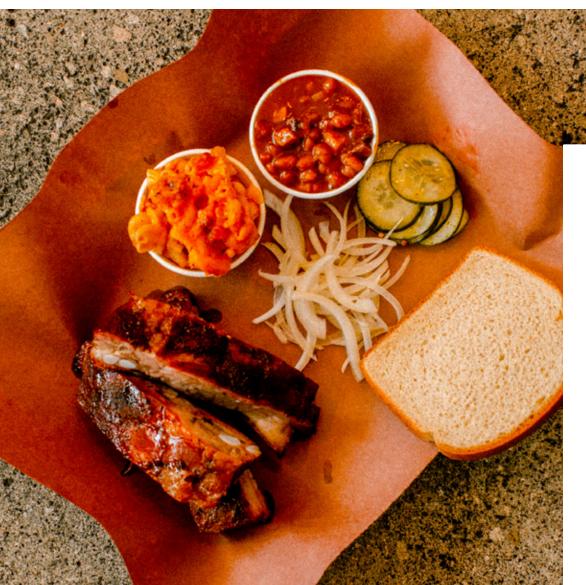




#lafoodbowl #31daysoffood #latimes









## BELLE'S CUE

## DEEP IN THE HEART OF CHINATOWN

Written By Abel Horwitz
Photographed By Stephen LaMarche

More than a thousand miles from the heart of Texas, nestled in the shadow of Disney Hall, sits a barbecue joint with its sights squarely set on the divine. Five days a week, long before the sun rises, one man begins his journey — stoking his fire, his oven burning hot, he pursues his quest to bring mouth-watering barbecue to Los Angeles.

"I love barbecue," says Justin Mi, the owner of Belle Belle's Cue, "and I wanted to start a barbecue restaurant for a few years." Knowing his path, he started looking into barbecue. Hard. "I read books, I did my homework, I watched 'BBQ Pitmasters' on YouTube," Mi says. He points to BBQ masters Aaron Franklin (Franklin Barbecue in Austin) and John Lewis (Lewis Barbecue in Charleston) as his meat gurus and guides.

He took a deep dive into barbecue while on a food tour of Austin, where he estimates he ate at eight or nine barbecue spots in three days. His research paid off. Belle Belle's Cue, named after Mi's daughter Isabelle, delivers incredible barbecue to BBQ lovers.

Mi aims to bring Texas quality BBQ to Los Angeles. "The biggest thing is the fire," Mi explains. "If it's not constantly monitored, the meat gets the wrong flavor. To get juicy, perfect meat you have to be there constantly to check on the fire." Because of this Mi starts his morning at 2:45am, tending to his smoker and monitoring the consistent quality of the day's meat.

The flavors that Belle Belle's Cue is able to conjure up are tasty beyond belief. The spare ribs slip right off of the bone. The brisket, wet cured for 30 days, is juicy and delicious.

"You have to have a passion for it," Mi says.

"Otherwise it doesn't come out right."

And don't forget your choice of sides from the mac & cheese, cole slaw, baked beans and creamed corn — all drool-worthy. The pickle chips served with each plate are crisp and tangy. "We make everything in house," Mi explains.

Mi is confident in his barbecue, "If we were to open up in Texas we'd do good business." Perhaps some day, but for now the native Southern Californian is more interested in traveling to other barbecue meccas scattered across the states, specifically Memphis and Kansas City. He's looking forward to continue learning and growing in his pursuit of barbecue perfection.

FIND IT HERE:
701 W Cesar Estrada Chavez Ave.
bellebellescue.com











THE BOARDROOM

#### LITERARY LIBATIONS

Written By Brian Chernick
Photographed By Jordana Sheara

Are you looking to find yourself in a turn-of-the-century Parisian speakeasy drinking alongside the Lost Generation's great artists without sacrificing a paycheck or building a time machine? Then the BoardRoom's elegant, yet casual, cocktail lounge is just right for you.

Located just below the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, tucked away in a secret enclave of Kendall's Brasserie, the BoardRoom is a blast to the Parisian past with modern accommodations complete with a painstakingly detailed decor of vintage, exposed light bulbs and dark turquoise walls that complement the light leather booths. The subdued and moody ambiance of a low-key exclusive lounge pairs impeccably well with the friendliness and hospitality you might find at your favorite local watering hole.

You might not be brushing elbows with Gertrude Stein, F. Scott Fitzgerald or Ernest Hemingway, but you can sip on their namesake drinks crafted by Patina Restaurant Group and LA Cocktail Company's mixologist Evan Charest and perfected by the BoardRoom's head bartender Christina Russo.

The two met during last year's World Class U.S. bartending competition as West Coast finalists and found that they mixed as well as their drinks.

Christina has worked the full gamut of bars

– from dive to club to lounge. This is evident in
her expertise. Looking for a specific taste, notes,
strength or something new? She'll whip up a
drink just for you.

Each night Christina pours her devotion into a wide range of finely tuned libations like the James Joyce, which packs a punch with a healthy shot of Irish Whiskey mixed with the exquisite Carpano Antica vermouth and black walnut bitters. A couple of these and you're sure to be penning the next great, stream-of-consciousness novel.

If you're rolling four to six deep after a captivating performance at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion then look no further than the punch bowls like the Virginia Woolf with champagne, St-Germain and Grey Goose muddled with blackberries and raspberries.

If you're looking for more variety then set course for the Triple Tipple — a 3-course cocktail tasting menu that periodically rotates its themes based on what's in season and what's playing on stage up above.

To soak it all up Chef Jean-Pierre Bosc's specialization in contemporary regional French dishes help bring balance to the cocktails.

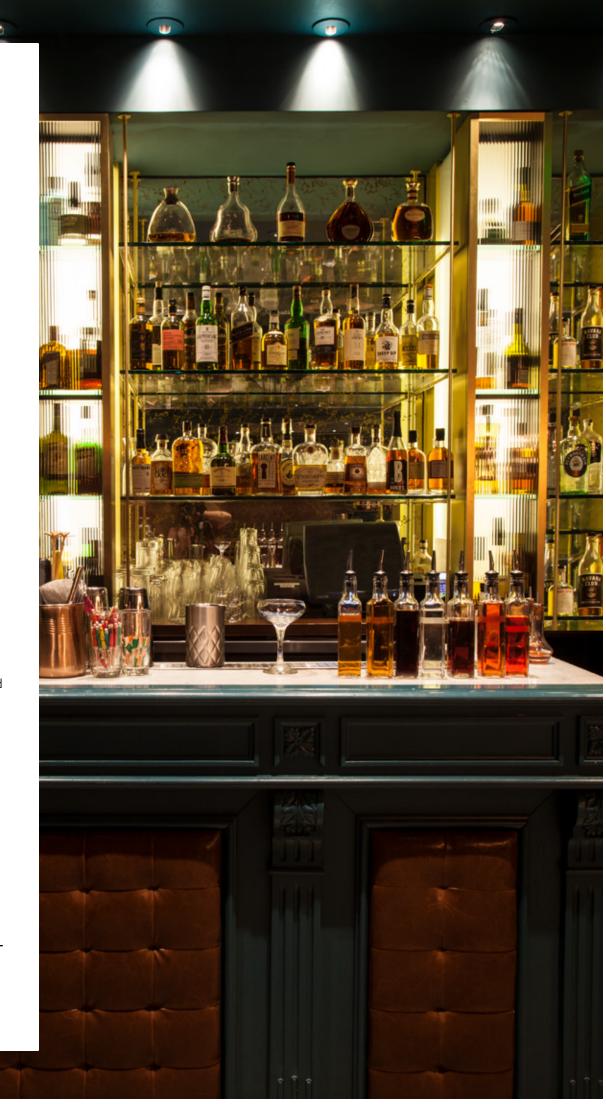
Having just returned from revisiting Lyon in France, Jean-Pierre has been refining dishes like the oxtail poutine which is next level Bourgeois pub grub that's large enough to share with a friend or two, if you're in the giving mood.

For lighter finger food indulgences look to the uni deviled eggs filled with creamy, whipped yolks seasoned to perfection with the lingering taste of an ocean breeze.

For larger appetites the Black Market Burger with its juicy course ground patty stacked with Comte cheese and rich foie gras in a buttery brioche is an experience not soon forgotten.

If you drop by on a weekend night expect live jazz music to provide a lush backdrop for a post-performance discussion, a Friday night decompression or brainstorming the next great American novel.

FIND IT HERE: 135 N Grand Ave. boardroomla.com







THE BOARDROOM

135 N Grand Ave. boardroomla.com



**EAT** 



BELLE BELLE'S CUE 701 W Cesar Estrada Chavez Ave.



FRITZI COOP

bellebellescue.com

814 Traction Ave. fritzidtla.com



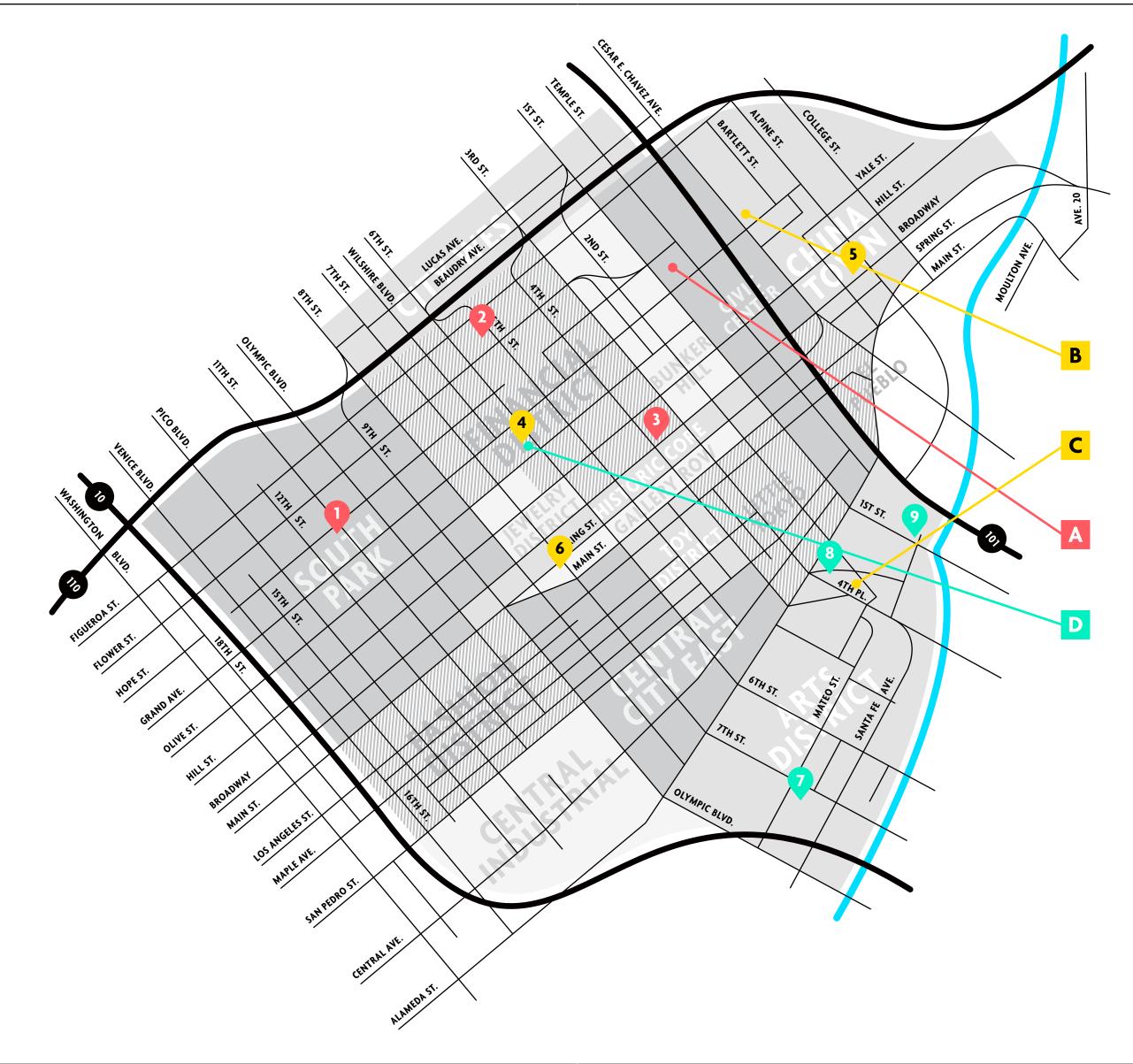
neihule.com



**NEIHULÉ SALON** 607 S Olive St.

CITY STREETS **FREEWAYS** LA RIVER METRO RAIL STATIONS

\*MAP SIMPLIFIED & NOT TO SCALE



## **DOWNTOWN FAVORITES**



PRANK BAR

1100 S Hope St. — prankbar.com

South Park's new Prank Bar is no joke. Designed by Ricki Kline, the stunning two-story space features a walk up bar, glass walls, indoor-outdoor seating, and a hidden karaoke booth. Enjoy their elevated bar food menu with inventive pairing options — you'll thank yourself later.



515 Flower St. — nicecoffee.com

Handsome Coffee Roasters co-founder, Tyler Wells, has a new coffee concept at City National Plaza. Nice Coffee Bar is a modern cube with a wraparound bar, outdoor seating, and... Doughnuts!



BAR CLACSON

Don't let the deli style, fresh-cut meats and cheeses hanging in the window fool you. Clacson is a bar that just happens to serve up very mean New York style paninis and salami sandwiches. Low-key in the

best possible way, Clacson feels like it's always been here.



**ASTRO DOUGHNUTS & FRIED CHICKEN** 

516 W 6th St. — astrodoughnuts.com

East Coast mecca for all things fried, Astro Doughnuts & Fried Chicken, has chosen DTLA for the location of its first West Coast outpost. You'll want to grab a side of Kimchi Cole Slaw to go with your chicken sandwich, and the Creme Brulee doughnut is essential.



727 N Broadway — lasa-la.com

With Jonathan Gold's stamp of approval, LASA, meaning "taste" in Tagalog, opens its doors in Far East Plaza. The menu features the progressive Filipino fare for which Chad and Chase Valencia have become famous. A 3 course Prix-Fixe menu is also available.



LITTLE DAMAGE

700 S Spring St. — littledamage.com The Instagram worthy soft serve in black chocolate waffle cones at DTLA's newest ice cream spot isn't just pretty. It's also progressive. Sample a rotating menu featuring flavors like "Just Beet it," "Almond Charcoal," and "Plain Jane."



THE MUSEUM OF ICE CREAM

2018 E 7th Pl. — museumoficecream.com

If edible candy balloons and jumping into a pool of ice cream sprinkles sounds like a good time, you'll want to get your tickets immediately. The tasty interactive exhibits and rotating menus from your favorite ice cream parlors sold out in New York in a matter of hours. Closing May 29th.



3.1 PHILLIP LIM

734 E. 3rd St. — 31philliplim.com

Further cementing DTLA's Arts District as a cultural epicenter for all things next, designer Phillip Lim has chosen to move his West Coast flagship store from West Hollywood to 3rd Street. Peruse 5000 square feet of Lim's high-end women's, menswear, and accessories.



TORTOISE GENERAL STORE

152 N Central Ave. — tortoisegeneralstore.com

Keiko and Taku Shinimoto's much loved store, Tortoise, has a temporary pop-up at the Geffen Contemporary. In addition to items designed to improve your home, life, and appearance, workshops and presentations are offered.



10



## NEIHULÉ SALON

#### A SPA TO REMEMBER

Written By Lucy Rogers-Ciaffa
Photographed By Caleb Thal

Never underestimate the incredible value of sincere and reliable customer service. As soon as you push through the sleek glass doors of the Neihulé salon, you're instantly welcomed by a cheerful employee handing you a flute of champagne — there are no moody stylists or morose estheticians to be found here. This is likely due to married co-founders Yvonne and Atouzo Neihulé's unique approach to their staff, or what they prefer to call their "family."

Each member of the Neihulé Salon family undergoes a "testing process in which I mentor and build them, in order to ensure the Neihulé standard of service," explains Yvonne. Yvonne has an extensive education in hair coloring along with years of experience at L'Oreal.

While the training at Neihulé Salon is rigorous, the staff enjoys annual retreats with their co-founders, both in the summer and winter. "We bring everyone to Palm Springs and Mammoth where we can cook together and enjoy an incredibly happy environment, which is necessary to create good art," says Atouzo. Paramount to the Neihulés is creating a palpable aura of happiness and camaraderie — this year, for example, everyone came in early to clean and decorate the entire salon to surprise

the salon cleaner for her birthday. "We also pitched in for an extra bonus and sent her to the Ritz-Carlton spa for the day. Many members of our salon family have been with us since day one, and I think that speaks to our treatment of employees and customers alike," says Yvonne with a sense of pride.

This incredibly welcoming and intimate salon culture is reason enough to visit, but still, the appeal does not stop there. The Neihulé menu boasts everything from colors, and cuts to spray tanning, and eyelash extensions. Some of their most popular services include eyebrow microfeathering and a designer nail bar complete with luxury polishes. "We're a one-stop shop, a mothership of sorts," quips Yvonne.

Despite the salon's sleek, modern design and luxurious amenities, "We aim for a very downto-earth, unpretentious experience — we want customers to feel comfortable, not intimidated," the Neihulés explain. Their reasonable prices reflect this concept, as does their music and conversation-filled salon space. "This was originally a completely raw, abandoned space. We had to design and build everything, from the layout to the wall paint," recounts Atouzo.

It is exceedingly rare to find a salon of this breadth built on every level with a personal touch. From the salon's structure to the staff culture, the Neihulés have ensured a standard of excellence and personality unprecedented in Los Angeles. Their name means, "to live a happy life," and that's precisely what you'll get at Neihulé Salon.



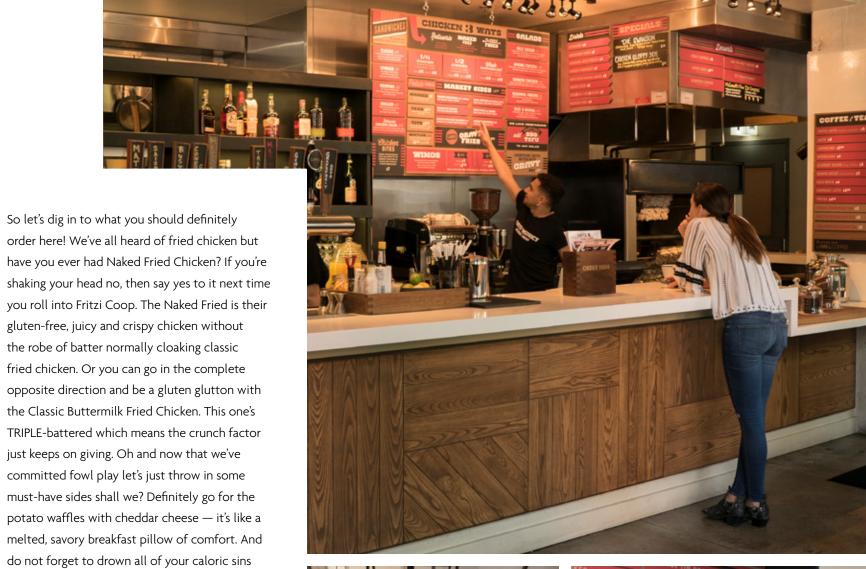






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DONT GIVE UP

THE SHIP

And before we let you go and check this place out for yourself — know that you can take a chicken break any time you want and order the best damn bacon and beef blend burger ever from the secret menu. Shhhhhh! We said secret so don't ever say we never gave you nuthin'.

with their seasonal agua fresca — a refreshing

balance to all the decadence you'll soon be

crawling back to repeat in no time.

FIND IT HERE: 814 Traction Ave. fritzidtla.com



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## **Kerry James Marshall**

# MASIRY



## **MOCA** members see it for free!

Become a member at moca.org/support

Kerry James Marshall: Mastry is organized by The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Lead support is provided by Suzanne and David Johnson.

Major support is provided by Mandy and Cliff Einstein, Fox Television Group, and Lillian P. Lovelace.

In-kind media support is provided by **KCETLink**, KCRW 89.9 FM, and **Los Angeles**.

Generous support is provided by Maria Seferian, Jack Shainman Gallery, Tom and Janet Unterman, and David Zwirner Gallery.

Additional support is provided by Carolyn Powers, Blake Byrne, James W. Kenyon, Rennie Foundation, Nancy Adams-Sims and Charles Sims, Mara and Salim Akil,
Janine and Lyndon Barrois, Joshua Friedman, Eileen Harris Norton Foundation, Kwanza Jones and Josè Feliciano SUPERCHARGED Foundation, Dee Kerrison and Gianna Drake-Kerrison,
Koplin Del Rio Gallery, Arthur Lewis and Hau Nguyen, Thao Nguyen and Andreas Krainer, and V. Joy Simmons, MD.

Exhibitions at MOCA are supported by the MOCA Fund for Exhibitions with lead annual support provided by Delta Air Lines, Shari Glazer, Hästens, and Sydney Holland, founder of the Sydney D. Holland Foundation. Generous funding is also provided by Allison and Larry Berg, and Jerri and Dr. Steven Nagelberg.

Through July 3, 2017 MOCA Grand Avenue



### DOWNTOWN EVENT CALENDAR

## **MAY 2017**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
DR. DU BOIS AND MISS OVINGTON Los Angeles Theatre Center 514 S Spring St. 3PM	MOIST MONDAYS La Cita Bar 336 S Hill St.	TACO TUESDAYS Mezcalero 510 S Broadway 3PM	THEORY The Airliner 2419 N Broadway	CHINATOWN AFTER DARK Far East Plaza 727 N Broadway 6 — 10PM	WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL Schubert Symphonies 111 N Grand Ave. 8PM	NTS @ MOCA W/ B&O PLAY The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA 152 N Central Ave.
The Robey Theatre Company presents Clare Coss' powerful play about interracial desire and the founding of the NAACP in the early 20th century.	DJ Moist spins old school hip-hop and R&B, plus Go Go Boogie by Nikki Leathers and all night happy hour.	Enjoy half-off Agave spirits and \$3 Tacos at DTLA's newest addition to the Mezcal scene.	9:30PM  Weekly experimental  Hip Hop and Electronic  music. Bring ear plugs.	On the first Thursday of every month, Chinatown's hottest property becomes a hotbed of culinary innovation, as chefs and friends take over.	Dudamel dives deep into the Romantic Era as he surveys the work of Viennese masters, Shubert and Mahler.	12 — 5PM  NTS Radio and MOCA bring you and afternoon of live music featuring Xavier Wulf, WeDidlt, Sun Araw, and F U Pay Us, & DJ Alima. Free w/ RSVP.
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
THE GREAT ROCK AND ROLL FLEA MARKET Regent Theater 448 S Main St. 11AM — 4PM Peruse the best in hand- picked vinyl, vintage clothing, jewelry and instruments. First Sunday of every month. Free entry!	DRINKY DRAW  Angel City Brewery 216 N Alamenda St.  8 — 10PM  Drinks and drawing live models at Angel City Brewery.	THE FLAMING LIPS The Theater at Ace Hotel 929 S Broadway 8PM The Flaming Lips promote their latest release, Oczy Mlody at The Theatre at Ace. Klangstof supports.	HIP HOP HAPPY HOUR La Cita Bar 336 S Hill St. 4PM Hip Hop Happy Hour happens every Wednesday on El Patio at La Cita. \$3 Tecate and domestics, \$4 imports and wells.	DOWNTOWN LA ART WALK  Art Walk Lounge 634 S Spring St. 6PM  Main and Spring streets come alive during DTLA's favorite monthly street party.	SCI-FI AT UNION STATION Union Station 800 N Alameda St. 8PM 1954 cult classic, "Them!" is this month's selection for Metro Art's free screening series at Union Station.	AIMEE MAN The Theater at Ace Hotel 929 S Broadway 8PM Aimee Mann tours in support of her self- released album, Mental Illness. Jonathan Coulton supports.
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
PAINT NITE Angel City Brewery 216 N Alameda St. 7:30PM  Create a masterpiece under the direction of a real live artist. Paint, canvas, brushes and smocks are provided, but food and booze are not. Tix \$45. 21+	RIVER OAKS Resident 428 S Hewitt St. 7:30 AM  Shane Told, of Silverstein fame, supports his new project River Oaks at Resident. JT Woodruff of Hawthorne Heights and Heavy Things support.	THE EVOLUTION OF BEAUTY Mark Taper Auditorium - LA Central Library 630 W 5th St. 7:15PM Richard Prum, academic and world-renowned ornithologist discusses the aesthetic dimensions of sexual selection	POD SAVE AMERICA The Theater at Ace Hotel 929 S Broadway 7PM  Jon Favreau, Jon Lovett, Dan Pfeiffer, and Tommy Vietor regale us with their collective experiences as speech writers for Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.	LUNCHTIME! CONCERTS Grand Park 200 N Grand Ave.  11AM — 2PM Listen to up-and-coming Angeleno artists as you nosh on selections from some of LA's favorite food trucks in	BJORK DIGITAL The Reef 1933 S Broadway 10AM — 9PM Bjork's collaborative virtual reality experience touches down in DTLA with multiple showtimes through May 31st. Reservations needed.	SKYLINE: ART, MUSIC, FOOD  L.A. State Historic Park 1245 N Spring St. 2PM  Miike Snow, Duke Dumont, Lido, Eden, Michl, Elohim and Jason Bentley perform at the first major music event in the rennovated LA State Historic
·		and the pleasure of beauty.		Grand Park.		Park. 21+
PRUN + YOGA + BEER Angel City Brewery 216 N Alameda St. 10AM	RUNDALAY Grand Park Fountain Terrace 200 N Grand Ave. 7:45AM	SNAIL MAIL Teragram Ballroom 1234 W 7th St. 7PM	BOMBA ESTEREO Mayan Theater 1038 S Hill St. 8PM	PANTHA DU PRINCE Regent Theater 448 S Main St. 8PM	FERRY CORSTEN: BLUEPRINT TOUR Exchange LA 618 S Spring St.	27 CULTURE CRAWL LOS ANGELES Art Share LA 801 E 4th Place 2PM — 10PM
Angel City Brewery hosts running, yoga, and beer — fortunately in that order, every Sunday at 10.	Start the week off right with a Monday morning run along with a hundred of your closest friends.	Classically trained guitarist and Pitchfork approved, Lindsey Jordan, aka Snail Mail, performs at the Teragram Ballroom. All Ages.	Voted best new band of 2012 by iTunes Latino, Colombian band Bomba Estereo, performs stateside at the Mayan.	Berlin-based techno producer-composer Pantha Du Prince brings his unique brand of dreamy electronic music to the Regent. 18+	10PM EDM empresario Ferry Corsten supports his album, Blueprint, at Exchange. Presale tickets suggested. 21+	Booze, food, street art, and music collide as you explore some of the coolest bars, food, and restaurants in Arts District.
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
L.A. ZINE FEST California Market Center 110 E 9th St. 10AM — 6PM Take in a free reading or	ARGENTINE TANGO Downtown Dance & Movement 1144 S Hope St.	THE SOURCE: FREE HEALTH, SHELTER, & SOCIAL SERVICES Los Angeles Central Library 630 W 5th St.	LUNCHTIME! YOGA RETREAT + FOOD TRUCKS Grand Park 200 N Grand Ave.	CHINATOWN AFTER DARK Far East Plaza 727 N Broadway 6 — 10PM	13 ARTS FEST Grand Park 200 N Grand Ave. Friday — Saturday	HISTORIC CORE MURAL TOUR Grand Central Market at G & B 317 S Broadway
workshop and peruse indie publications, comics, and zines from over 175 exhibitors at L.A. Zine Fest. Admission is free!	7:30 — 9:45PM  Professional dance instructors Carlos & Mayte help take your tango technique to the next level.	12:30 — 3PM  A "one-stop shop" afternoon of resources and services for homeless Angelenos. This award-winning collaboration	11AM — 2PM  Use your lunch hour for a little "me time." Enjoy the food trucks and take in the free outdoor yoga class	On the first Thursday of every month, Chinatown's hottest property becomes a hotbed of culinary innovation, as chefs and friends take over.	Check out large-scale installations, multimedia experiences, and music, spanning multiple locations from Grand Park to Pershing Square. Mostly Free.	Take a tour of discovery and learn the stories behind DTLA's coolest murals. Proceeds benefit DTLA Art Walk. Reserve
		welcomes everyone for free.	in Grand Park.			a space online. \$20–\$25.









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