

NHM Commons Opening Celebration Information Packet



Event Overview

Celebrate the opening of the Natural History Museum’s new wing, NHM Commons! Dive into a world of creativity, curiosity, and community with this day-long, outdoor-indoor, museum-wide festival.

Zone Schedule and Details





Walk the Block | Commons Plaza

Discover local organizations, neighboring cultural institutions, music, and more.



Timed Programming

Program	Description	Schedule
DJ Linda Nuves	DJ Linda Nuves Linda Tovar, aka Linda Nuves, from Northwest Pasadena, CA, is a record collector, DJ, and singer with Central American roots. Her diverse record collection features genres like Salsa, Psychedelic Garage from El	10 AM - 1 PM


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	<p>Salvador, modern funk, and more. Passionate about art, music, and fashion, she excels in event production and aspires to be a music producer.</p>	
<p>Procession</p> 	<p>A Musical Community Procession led by LA Commons.</p> <p>LA Commons engages communities in artistic and cultural expressions that tell their unique stories and serves as a basis for dialogue, interaction and a shared understanding of Los Angeles. Through community-based arts programs, centered on youth leadership development, we help diverse, generally low-income neighborhoods create dynamic works of public art that build community connection and empowerment.</p>	<p>12:30 PM</p>
<p>DJ Tyler Boudreaux</p> 	<p>KCRW DJ Tyler Boudreaux, disc jockey, radio host, producer, James Beard-nominated storyteller, community organizer, and music supervisor. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Tyler is proud to broadcast a weekly music program over the 89.9FM KCRW airwaves Thursday nights from 10pm-12am. Her show spans across multiple genres ranging from soul, alternative R&B, and indie rock to disco, indie dance and electronic music. Her culture production for KCRW focuses on the intersection of food and culture, and explores the ways that folk stories connect us and reveal our collective experiences.</p>	<p>1 PM - 3 PM</p>
<p>Drag Arts Lab</p> 	<p>Join the Drag Arts Lab for two presentations in conversation with NHM Commons exhibits, including a drag musical tribute to Barbara Carrasco's landmark mural, <i>L.A. History: A Mexican Perspective</i>, and a comedic celebration of "Gnatalie."</p>	<p>3 PM - 3:10 PM</p>





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<p>DJ Linda Nuves</p> 	<p>DJ Linda Nuves Linda Tovar, aka Linda Nuves, from Northwest Pasadena, CA, is a record collector, DJ, and singer with Central American roots. Her diverse record collection features genres like Salsa, Psychedelic Garage from El Salvador, modern funk, and more. Passionate about art, music, and fashion, she excels in event production and aspires to be a music producer.</p>	<p>3 PM - 5 PM</p>
<p>DANCE LESSON</p> 	<p>Everyone is invited to a Dance Lesson and Dance Party by Queerchata on the Commons Plaza. Queerchata connects Queer dancers through movement. Our salsa and bachata classes allow you to explore dance outside the binary, celebrate community, and improve your dance skills. Whether you're an experienced dancer or just trying something new, you're welcome on our dance floor.</p>	<p>4 PM</p>


Resource Fair Participants

Name	Description
<p>A Place Called Home</p> 	<p>Join A Place Called Home for a vibrant, hands-on experience as they bring the community together to color in two mini murals of beloved local icons, Gnatalie and P-22! For over 30 years, A Place Called Home has provided a safe, nurturing space for youth in South Los Angeles, offering programs in arts, athletics, education, and wellness. Through creativity and collaboration, they inspire and support young people to achieve their full potential. Come be a part of the fun and help them celebrate the power of community through art!</p>

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<p><u>California African American Museum</u></p> 	<p>Join the California African American Museum (CAAM) for some friendly conversation about our exhibitions and programs, and take part in an exciting artmaking activity inspired by <i>World Without End: The George Washington Carver Project</i>, on view from September 18 to March 2, 2025. As a vibrant hub for exploring African American art, history, and culture, CAAM invites you to discover more about the stories they share and engage in creative expression. Visit them and be a part of celebrating history and art together!</p>
<p><u>California Science Center</u></p> 	<p>The California Science Center, a dynamic educational institution dedicated to inspiring science learning through interactive exhibits and programs, will be engaging guests through engineering! Guests will explore how air exerts a force called air pressure to launch our rockets! Their challenge? To assemble a rocket that could fly higher than the tent! They will have three launching pads where they can see how high their rocket can go!</p>
<p><u>CicLAvia</u></p>  <p>CICLAVIA</p>	<p>Come learn more about CicLAvia and their upcoming open street events, which allow Angelenos to explore LA County streets without a car! These temporary pop-up parks can be enjoyed walking, biking, skating, scooting, and more. They'll also have giveaway items, including coloring books with L.A. landmarks and CicLAvia neighborhood pins.</p>
<p>Drag Arts Lab</p> 	<p>Drag Arts Lab expands and elevates the art of drag in L.A. County. They believe in the revolutionary power of drag to inspire, educate, and transform. The organization seeks to EXPRESS the art of drag through dynamic, diverse, and accessible public programming, EDUCATE a new generation through Drag Story Hour and new drag education initiatives, and EMPOWER drag artists to expand their creativity and skills by connecting them to resources. Join them at 3 pm in Commons Plaza for drag presentations.</p>
<p><u>EXPO Center</u></p>	<p>Join the Expo Center's Teen Leadership Program for an interactive activity where you can contribute wildlife observations to a collaborative map! The Teen Leadership Program empowers the next generation of leaders through hands-on workshops focused on personal and professional development, technology skills, and community engagement. Since 2012, this program has supported nearly 800 teens, helping them build skills and prepare for future career opportunities. Stop by and get involved</p>

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	<p>in an interactive experience that connects leadership with environmental stewardship!</p>
<p>LA COMMONS</p> 	<p>LA Commons engages communities in artistic and cultural expressions that tell their unique stories and serves as a basis for dialogue, interaction and a shared understanding of Los Angeles. Through community-based arts programs, centered on youth leadership development, we help diverse, generally low-income neighborhoods create dynamic works of public art that build community connection and empowerment. Don't miss the Musical Procession led by LA Commons at 12:30pm in the Commons Plaza.</p>
<p>L.A. METRO</p> 	<p>Join Metro's On the Move Riders Program (OTMRP) and Rail Safety Program (RSP) for a fun and informative experience! OTMRP empowers older adults with the knowledge and skills to confidently navigate public transportation, offering tips on reduced fares, subsidy programs, and trip planning. RSP focuses on rail safety, providing valuable tips on how to stay safe at train tracks and platforms—especially with the E line nearby. Stop by, spin the Metro wheel, and test your transit knowledge for a chance to win some great Metro swag!</p>
<p>LAFC / Angel City</p> 	<p>Get ready for some LAFC excitement! LA's very own world-class football club, LAFC, brings the energy and passion of the game straight to you. Swing by the LAFC booth for a chance to score awesome promo goodies like stickers, pins, and lanyards—and don't miss out on our exclusive raffle for a signed LAFC item! It's your chance to take home a piece of the action.</p>

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<p><u>Lucas Museum of Narrative Art</u></p>  <p>Lucas Museum of Narrative Art</p>	<p>The Lucas Museum of Narrative Art is a new cultural destination celebrating visual storytelling in all its forms. Join them in a collective drawing project, exploring the stories that bring us together!</p>
<p><u>Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians Education and Cultural Learning Department</u></p> 	<p>The Education and Cultural Learning Department (ECLD) is the department of the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians that serves Native youth living in northern Los Angeles County. Their core mission is improving the concept of self and identity in American Indian students and adults. Join them for the co-created Tataviam Language Matching Game and stop by for a chance to purchase their language revitalization workbook.</p>
<p><u>Tierra Del Sol</u></p> 	<p>Tierra del Sol champions inclusion and value for all individuals with disabilities through creative pathways to employment, education, and the arts. Join them in making dinosaur paws, where participants explore creating patterns, texture, and color. You are also welcome to shop handmade items from their studio artists, including paintings, ceramics, fiber arts, and more!</p>
<p><u>WriteGirl</u></p> 	<p>WriteGirl, a nonprofit organization that empowers young women through creative writing and mentorship, will be guiding guests in a unique, interactive experience. Guests will pick up a writing activity handout that will lead them through a “walking workshop.” Along a predetermined route, they’ll respond to thought-provoking writing prompts before returning to the WriteGirl table to share their creativity. Stop by their booth to engage in writing prompts inspired by NHM collections!</p>

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The Commons Zone | Commons Entrance


NHM Commons Theater

Move to the rhythms of regional dance groups, get inspired with engaging discussions, and join a special Community Ceremony celebrating the opening of the new NHM Commons.

***Wristband required to attend**

Program	Description	Schedule
<p>Gnatie the Green Dinosaur Talk</p> 	<p>Gnatie the Green Dinosaur: From Ground to Mount with Dr. Luis Chiappe, Erika Durazo, and Stephanie Abramowicz</p>	<p>11 AM - 11:30 AM</p>
<p>Painting L.A. History Talk</p> 	<p>Painting LA History: A Mexican Perspective with muralist Barbara Carrasco</p>	<p>12 PM - 12:30 PM</p>
<p>Community Ceremony</p> 	<p>Community Ceremony and Performance by Tierra Blanca Arts Center, an organization dedicated to celebrating and preserving Mexican & Latin American culture through vibrant performances that inspire and educate audiences of all ages.</p>	<p>1 PM - 2 PM</p>
<p>Performance</p> 	<p>A Place Called Home presents 29 Live and the APCH Dance Ensemble. A Place Called Home has provided a safe, nurturing, and creative environment for hundreds of youth and children ages 8-24 on a daily basis, offering them programs in arts, athletics, education, wellness, and much more!</p>	<p>2:30 PM - 3:00 PM</p>

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<p>Performance</p> 	<p>Dance Performance by Kim Eung Hwa & Korean Dance Academy, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, founded in 1980, aims to preserve and share the vibrant art of Korean traditional dance and music. We welcome people of all ages, gender, and ethnicity who wish to learn about the richness of Korean culture.</p>	<p>3:30 PM - 4 PM</p>
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Judith Perlstein Welcome Center

The Judith Perlstein Welcome Center, the Museum’s portal to never-ending exploration and discovery, features brand-new exhibits that are free and open to the public. See Gnatalie, a 75-foot green-boned sauropod. Get up close to L.A. artist Barbara Carrasco’s landmark mural, *L.A. History: A Mexican Perspective*, and check out specimens found by local community scientists.

Collection Connection | Grand Foyer

Explore our newest exhibitions and see behind-the-scenes Museum specimens and artifacts.

See behind-the-scenes specimens and artifacts from the Museum’s collection on display in the Grand Foyer. Learn more about the Museum’s special exhibitions: *Reframing Dioramas: The Art of Preserving Wilderness*, *LA History: A Mexican Perspective*, *Wolves: Photography by Ronan Donovan* and more!

Timed Programming

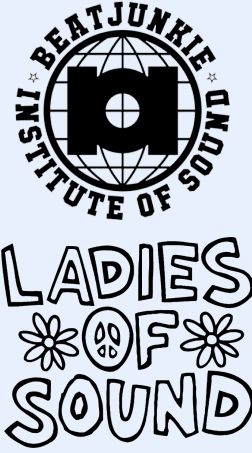


Program	Description	Schedule
<p>What’s in a (Dino) Name?</p>	<p>Join museum educators as we play the Name Game! We'll learn to decode scientific names (it’s easier than you think) and hear the stories behind some of our museum’s special nicknamed dinosaurs – including our newest dino, Gnatalie! *Great for kids!</p> <p>Meet in the Dino Hall, room 2</p>	<p>11 AM - 11:30 AM and 4 PM - 4:30 PM</p>

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Crafts & Creations | Nature Gardens

Unleash your inner artist in these hands-on workshops from local art organizations and shop from local vendors.



Timed Programming

Program	Description	Schedule
<p>DJs and Music</p> 	<p>DJs and Music: Beat Junkie Institute of Sound/Ladies of Sound (Nature Gardens) Located in Glendale, California, the Beat Junkie Institute of Sound offers fundamental and specialized DJ courses, workshops, private instruction, and an opportunity to join our community and learn the art form of DJ'ing "Beat Junkie Style" on state of the art equipment, in an intimate and professional environment. At Ladies of Sound, our mission is to empower women in the music industry by providing a platform for those who embody music as a career or soul-purpose. Our foundation is in the art of DJing.</p>	<p>10 AM - 5 PM</p>
<p>Nickelodeon</p> 	<p>Visit the interactive Nickelodeon Table</p> <p>SpongeBob's DNA DISCO! Dive into the Science of SpongeBob with NHM's DISCO crew and friends from Nickelodeon! Explore SpongeBob's biodiverse world with our hand-powered DNA machine. (Nature Gardens/Pond Deck)</p>	<p>10 AM - 5 PM</p>
<p>PBS</p> 	<p>Meet and Greet with Buddy the Dinosaur from PBS Dinosaur Train Hop on board the 'Dinosaur Train' to learn about natural science, natural history and paleontology. Produced in CGI-animated format by the Jim Henson Company. Also included are live-action segments hosted by paleontologist Scott Sampson.</p> <p>Meet & Greet: PBS KIDS Character visits bring beloved characters from popular PBS shows directly to community events, creating engaging and educational experiences for children and families.</p>	<p>11 AM - 11:30 AM 12 PM - 12:30 PM 1 PM - 1:30 PM</p>

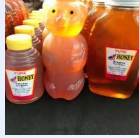


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	(Otis Booth Pavilion)	
<p>Self Help Graphics & Art Barrio Mobile Art Studio</p> 	<p><u>Self Help Graphics & Art Barrio Mobile Art Studio (BMAS)</u> serves our mission to nurture emerging artists and present Latino art to a broad audience, and address the vast demographic that is Los Angeles, while also expanding our audiences and community beyond the East Los Angeles and Boyle Heights communities.</p> <p>Activity: Clay Pots and Healing Plants: Participants will learn how to create their own pinch pots with air dry clay and decorate them.</p>	12 PM - 4 PM

Activities and Vendors

Name	Description
<p><u>Quilting for Community</u></p> 	<p>Quilting for Community's mission is to build community by teaching free quilting classes. Quilts are donated to people managing physical and emotional hardships, particularly those in hospice, hospitals, and shelters. Established in 2018, Q4C provides a safe multi-generational, creative space that is as diverse as Los Angeles.</p> <p>Activity: Block printing on materials to be included on a community quilt.</p>
<p><u>Nova Community Arts</u></p> 	<p>Nova Community Arts is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit art studio in Los Angeles. We offer art classes, workshops, open studio access, and guest programming at our studio in Atwater Village. Nova is committed to providing arts education, access to materials and equipment, and a platform of creative expression for the community.</p> <p>Activity: Screenprinting</p>

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<p><u>Chaparral Mountain Honey Company</u></p> 	<p>Chaparral Mountain Honey Company is a family-owned company located in the foothills of Altadena with over 45 years of beekeeping experience.</p>
<p><u>Junior High Los Angeles</u></p> 	<p>Welcome to Junior High! This is a transformative multi-purpose space redefining the traditional "Junior High" experience of our adolescence. Our mission is to facilitate arts expression and arts education for all people. Our programming is curated with a core ethos to encourage radical empathy intended to attract a compassionate community of artists. Basically, everything you wished your growing up experience was, and more!</p>
<p><u>Patchouli Nomad</u></p> 	<p>Patchouli Nomad: I'm known for my fun, funky and colorful creations. I'm inspired by nature, music and cultures. I use my creativity as a tool for healing and therapy. I hope that my pieces can make you smile and bring joy to you like they have for me.</p>
<p><u>Robin M. Cohen</u></p>	<p>Face painting</p>

LA's Backyard | Nature Lab

Explore live animals and hands-on interactives to show you L.A.'s wild side.

Name	Description
<p>NHM Nature Lab</p>	<p>Los Angeles is a hotspot of biodiversity and you can find this nature all around you. Use the tools of a scientist in our large, hands-on lab to discover the incredible stories of L.A.'s wild plants and animals. Spot local spiders, snakes, rats, and frogs as they scurry, slither, and splash through our many live-animal habitats and learn how your own observations can help museum researchers better understand the natural world around us.</p>

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Grow LA | Edible Garden

Grow your love of plants by meeting the museum’s Horticulture Team and shopping with fellow plant enthusiasts.

Activities and Vendors

Name	Description
<p>NHM Horticulture</p>	<p>Visit NHM’s Horticulture department for helpful tips, fun facts and a see activity.</p> <p>Activity: Create a small mixed packet with your choice of wildflower seeds. Learn more about the different species of seeds and how to sew them at home!</p>
<p><u>Latinx With Plants</u></p> 	<p>Latinx with Plants is a small woman of color owned business in Boyle Heights whose focus is to uplift people of color in the plant world. We hope that through plant parenthood, people will be able to deepen their connection with nature and tune into the healing that caring for plants can offer us.</p> <p>Activity: Learn about local herbs and make your own herb satchel to take home.</p>
<p><u>Artemisia Nursery</u></p> 	<p>Artemisia Nursery is a friendly neighborhood nursery in Northeast LA specializing in California native plants, low-water landscape design, and vibrant wildlife habitat gardens.</p>
<p><u>Theodore Payne Foundation</u></p> 	<p>Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild and Natural Flowers & Native Plants is a nonprofit organization that inspires and educates Southern Californians about the beauty and ecological benefits of California native plants. Come visit our native plant nursery, bookstore, art gallery, hiking trail, and attend our educational classes. Open year round (Tuesday–Saturday).</p>

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Quiet Zone | North American Mammal Hall, Level 2

Take a break in this designated quiet area to help you relax and recharge.

Other Event Information

ADMISSION

The event is free with general admission. Events on the Commons Plaza and Theater will be free to the public on this day. Members always receive free general admission.

PARKING INFORMATION

Parking will be available in the BLUE STRUCTURE PARKING LOT at 700 Exposition Park Dr, Los Angeles, CA 90037. For more information, see [Parking and Directions](#).

ACCESSIBILITY

We aim to make NHM an exciting, educational, and enjoyable experience for everyone. If you have any questions about your visit and our services, contact our Call Center at 213.763.3466 or info@nhm.org. ASL Services will be provided for talks taking place in the Commons Theater. For more information, see [Accessibility](#).

DINING

Enjoy family-friendly food options at the Neighborhood Grill (located on Level G), The Commons Cafe, and select food trucks on this day. For more information, see [Shopping and Dining](#).