

NHM First Fridays – February 6, 2026 Event Guide






First Fridays celebrates 20 years as Los Angeles' premier museum after-hours experience, where exclusive access to the museum after dark brings music, science and culture together for a fun and engaging evening of conversation and community.



TIME	INFO	LOCATION
5:30 PM	Membership Early Entry	
6 PM - 10 PM	Event Starts	
6 PM - 10 PM	<p>DJ Lounge</p> <p>Dance the night away in our DJ lounge featuring your favorite local DJs in our African Mammal Hall. Additional seating and second bar available.</p> <p>Novena Carmel is the host of KCRW's flagship music show Morning Becomes Eclectic. A spirited open-format DJ and host, Novena brings joy, curiosity, and a global perspective to her work. Whether behind the mic or behind the decks, Novena is all about connection—sharing the music she loves and the stories behind the sounds.</p> <p>Rocio aka Wyldeflower, is a creative producer, on-air radio host and DJ. Consistently exploring new and classic sounds from all over the globe with a special dedication to artists</p>	African Mammal Hall, Level 1



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	<p>that transcend genre, tropicalia, MPB, soul, funk, cumbia, jazz, reggae & beyond...</p>	
<p>6 PM - 10 PM</p>	<p>Scientist Meet & Greets and Curiosity Crawl</p> <p>Visit the Research & Collections, Museum Educators and Volunteer pop-ups for access to NHM collections and have a chat with our NHM experts.</p> <p>Don't forget to participate in the Curiosity Crawl Stamp Rally!</p>	<p>Various Locations</p>
<p>6 PM - 9:45 PM</p>	<p>Two Bar Locations On Level 1</p> <p>Specialty cocktails and refreshments in the Foyer and DJ Lounge at the African Mammal Hall Level 1</p>	<p>Foyer, Level 1 and African Mammal Hall, Level 1</p>
<p>6 PM - 9:45 PM</p>	<p>Food Trucks</p> <p>A variety of delicious eats from local food trucks on the Nature Gardens level at the Neighborhood Grill patio</p>	<p>Neighborhood Grill Patio on the Nature Gardens</p>
<p>6 PM - 10 PM</p> <div data-bbox="123 1297 402 1577">  </div> <div data-bbox="123 1581 402 1864">  </div>	<p>Pop-Up Experiences</p> <p>A mix of lively pop-ups featuring museum experts, local artists, and community partners, art activities, creative vendors, and interactive moments.</p> <p>Amoeba</p> <p>Beloved Los Angeles independent record store returns to First Fridays with vinyl, merch, and fantastic deals!</p> <p>Giant Robot Store and GR2 Gallery established in 2001 and 2003 features products from around the world. Notably, fun house wares, gifts, stationeries, t shirts, comics, plush and toy figures. Giant Robot is often cited as the birthplace for Asian Pop Culture products and Uglydolls. GR2 Gallery features art by both local and international artists. Exhibitions take place more than once a month including the Post It Note Show in December.</p>	<p>Foyer, Level 1</p>

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 PINAYSPHERE 	<p>Giant Robot Magazine was a bi-monthly magazine of Asian and Asian American popular culture founded by Eric Nakamura in 1994. It was published by Eric Nakamura and co-edited by Eric Nakamura and Martin Wong. It was initially created as a small, punk-minded magazine that featured Asian pop culture and Asian American alternative culture, including such varied subject matter as history, art, music, film, books, toys, technology and more. The magazine ended in 2010 after 68 issues.</p> <p>PINAYSPHERE, non-profit organization supporting Filipina/x American (Pinay) girls and young adults on their artistic journey. We offer transformative programs, fostering creativity, growth, and empowerment. Our mission is to unlock potential, challenge cultural narratives, and create a brighter future together through creativity, diversity, and sisterhood.</p> <p>Umakyat, My work is to disrupt the cycles that devalue your gifts and aren't representing your deepest truths. Through intuitive readings + sound healing + variety of meditation modalities, we can shift the mind to prioritize the body, allowing the internal and external energies to align with you in a more authentic reality.</p>	
<p>6 PM - 10 PM</p> 	<p>Fierce! The Story of Cats</p> <p>Included with First Fridays admission, step into Fierce! The Story of Cats during its final weeks on view. From sabertooths to today's wild and domestic cats, explore an immersive exhibition filled with interactive moments, cultural stories, and iconic cats of Los Angeles before it closes February 18.</p>	<p>Ground Floor</p>
<p>6:30 PM - 7:15PM</p>	<p>Featured Discussion: Life at the Human Scale Presented in Collaboration with the Planetary Program at the Berggruen Institute</p> <p>An engaging live discussion on how unseen life inside our bodies influences health, identity, and what it means to be human. Featuring scientists Kayce Bell and Jack Gilbert, moderated by Dr. Yewande Pearse.</p> <p>Dr. Kayce Bell studies the diversity and distribution of small mammals, their parasites, and, sometimes, the microbes in both. Natural history collections play a vital role in her</p>	<p>Commons Theater</p>

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research to understand how history, landscape, and interactions among different species shape the diversity of life that we see today.

Dr. Jack A Gilbert works at University of California San Diego as a Professor in Pediatrics and Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Marine Science and Director of the Soil Health Center. He has authored more than 450 peer reviewed publications on microbial ecology. He's the President of Applied Microbiology International, a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology and co-chair for the new IUCN Microbial Conservation Specialist Group. His research spans human and environmental microbial health, with a special focus on translation.



London-born and Los Angeles-based, **Dr. Yewande Pearse** is driven by the belief that science has the power to connect people and communities. A neuroscientist with over fifteen years of research experience at King's College London and Harbor-UCLA, she translates science as an expert advisor, speaker, moderator, writer, and media contributor, broadening where science belongs by bringing it out of the lab and into cultural institutions.


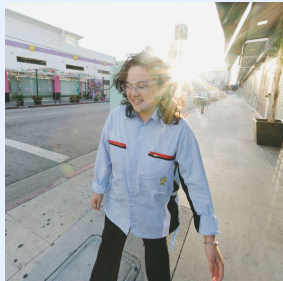


Dr. Pearse has brought science storytelling to the Natural History Museum, Sundance Film Festival, LA Phil, Headspace, TEDMED, and Science Gallery. She's produced and hosted Sound Science on Dublab Radio, served as Director of Science Editorial and Content for Emergence (part of the Getty's PST Art initiative), and worked as an Account Supervisor at Stellate Communications, helping some of the greatest minds in science translate their discoveries into meaningful public impact. She currently serves as an advisor to the California Science Center and Community Fellow at The Center for Diverse Leadership in Science at UCLA.

ASL interpretation will be provided during the discussion by LifeSigns ASL.

7:15 PM - 7:45 PM	Post Discussion Meet & Greet Take a moment to meet our guest speakers and moderator for a quick Post-Discussion chat.	Commons Lobby
8 PM	Live Music / Opener	8 PM

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	<p>Of former Camp Cope fame, Georgia Maq has started turning heads as a solo artist. Her EP "God's Favourite" came out last year and stood as a showcase to the breadth of her taste and range - calling out music industry sexism over fearsome indie rock salvos while garnering widespread international acclaim.</p>	
<p>9 PM</p> 	<p>Live Music / Headliner</p> <p>Jay Som the artist project of Melina Duterte, known for its warm, introspective sound blending lo-fi textures, pop melodies, and guitar-driven songwriting. Jay Som explores themes of identity, intimacy, and self-discovery with emotional clarity and subtle experimentation. Across releases including Everybody Works and Anak Ko, and most recently Belong Jay Som has earned critical praise for crafting deeply personal music that feels both intimate and expansive.</p>	<p>9 PM</p>