

NHM First Fridays – April 3, 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>DJ sets by MIDI Riperton and GRACE KTOWN</p> <p>MIDI Riperton is a professional LA-based DJ and Host, Co-Founder of Ladies of Sound, and touring DJ to R&B singer, Joyce Wrice.</p> <p>GRACE KTOWN is a Korean American DJ celebrating L.A.'s diversity through sound. Her genre-fluid sets weave global rhythms—from Afrobeats to K-Pop—inviting listeners on a journey of curiosity and discovery.</p>	African Mammal Hall, Level 1




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<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>Three Bar Locations! Two On Level 1 and One on the Nature Gardens Level next to the Food Trucks</p> <p>Specialty cocktails and refreshments in the Foyer and DJ Lounge at the African Mammal Hall Level 1. A third bar location is in the Lower Otis Booth Pavilion on the Nature Gardens level next to the food trucks.</p>	<p>Foyer, Level 1 African Mammal Hall, Level 1 Lower Otis Booth Pavilion, Nature Gardens Level</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>  	<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><i>Giant Robot Magazine</i> was a bi-monthly magazine of <u>Asian</u> and <u>Asian American popular culture</u> founded by Eric Nakamura in 1994. It was published by Eric Nakamura and co-edited by Eric Nakamura and Martin Wong. It was initially</p>	<p>Foyer, Level 1</p>



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 	<p>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>6:30 PM - 7:15PM</p>   	<p>Featured Discussion: Life at the Planetary Scale Presented in Collaboration with the Planetary Program at the Berggruen Institute</p> <p>Co-presented by NHM and the Berggruen Institute. An engaging live conversation exploring how life and Earth have influenced one another over billions of years, and how that relationship continues to shape the planet we live on today. Featuring Austin Hendy, Assistant Curator of Invertebrate Paleontology, NHM; Margaret McFall-Ngai, Faculty Associate, Caltech/Staff Researcher, Carnegie Science; moderated by Dr. Yewande Pearse.</p> <p>Austin Hendy, Assistant Curator, Invertebrate Paleontology at NHM. After obtaining his doctorate at the University of Cincinnati, Austin was a post-doctoral fellow at Yale University, the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institution, and Florida Museum of Natural History. An author on numerous scientific papers, he has conducted research in many parts of the world, but especially tropical South America. There he studies the biodiversity, biogeography and paleoecology of Cenozoic mollusc faunas. He is also interested in bioinformatics and the application of natural museum specimens and data for K-12 education.</p> <p>Dr. Margaret McFall-Ngai studies animal-microbial symbioses as a faculty at Caltech and a staff scientist at Carnegie Science, She holds Honoris Causa (honorary</p>	<p>Commons Theater</p>

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	<p>PhD) positions: at Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne, Switzerland; University Claude Bernard, Lyon, France; and University of Kiel, Germany. She was a Guggenheim Fellow (2010), an AD White Professor-at-Large at Cornell University (2010-2016), and a fellow at the Wissenschaft Kolleg in Berlin (2024). She is a member of the American Academy of Microbiology (2002), the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2011), the National Academy of Sciences (2014) and is an HHMI Professor (2018-).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>ASL interpretation will be provided during the discussion by LifeSigns ASL.</p>	
<p>7:15 PM - 7:45 PM</p>	<p>Post Discussion Meet & Greet</p> <p>Take a moment to meet our guest speakers and moderator for a quick Post-Discussion chat.</p>	<p>Commons Theater Gallery</p>

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<p>8 PM</p>  A portrait of Nomi, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a blue top, holding a red can of Miss Sista.	<p>Live Music / Opener</p> <p>Nomi is a rising force in music, blending her southern roots with a global vision. A North Carolina native with Houston ties, she moved to New York City after college to launch her career in music. What began behind the decks quickly became a calling—her skills as a DJ led her to share stages and energy with audiences across the city.</p> <p>But her artistry didn't stop there. The world soon discovered that Nomi's voice was as commanding as her presence behind the turntables. In 2020, she relocated to Los Angeles during the pandemic and wasted no time making her mark, collaborating with artists such as Isaiah Rashad, Mount Kimbie, and more. That chapter also introduced her to producer Teej, with whom she began shaping the signature "Nomi sound"—a fusion of raw honesty, soulful depth, and fearless experimentation.</p>	<p>North American Mammal Hall, Level 1</p>
<p>9 PM</p>  A black and white photograph of Arima Ederra, a woman in a long dark coat, standing on a grassy hillside.	<p>Live Music / Headliner</p> <p>Poetry came first for Arima Ederra, the Los Angeles based singer who'd spent her formative years in Las Vegas. It was there that she first flirted with singing by way of open mics at poetry nights that soon invited her to cover songs from her favorite artists including Bob Marley, Lauryn Hill and Little Dragon. By 2016, she'd moved to Los Angeles and put out <i>Temporary Fixes</i>, an EP of original songs experimenting with her R&B influences on unconventionally structured and textured songs about time and mortality.</p> <p>The singer-songwriter has released her second LP titled <i>A Rush To Nowhere</i>, an invitation over the course of fourteen songs to slow down and experience time without fearing its passing. Her sound thus far has been less driven by genre as she comfortably travels around soul, R&B, and pop sonic qualities belonging to the Black music tradition to which she belongs and reflective of the singers she admires most including Amel Larrieux and Stevie Wonder. Her musical signature is really an earnestness — her songs stand like one curious question piling on top of the other held by delicious melodies to make songs that swell from reflections to prayers, from diary entries to wide-eyed declarations.</p>	<p>North American Mammal Hall, Level 1</p>