



NHM First Fridays – May 1, 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	
<p data-bbox="115 1262 298 1293">6 PM - 10 PM</p>  	<p data-bbox="440 1262 591 1293">DJ Lounge</p> <p data-bbox="440 1333 1170 1430">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 data-bbox="440 1465 1154 1530">All vinyl DJ sets from Rani de Leon with guest DJs Gio (Rincón Tropical) and El Marchante</p> <p data-bbox="440 1566 1214 1696">Rani de Leon is a Los Angeles–based cultural programmer, DJ, and radio host. He hosts Tizita Radio on dublab and serves as Executive Creative Director at JACCC, presenting diverse global music experiences.</p> <p data-bbox="440 1732 1214 1829">Gio(Rincón Tropical) is an archivist, DJ, and founder of Rincón Tropical—an all-vinyl dance party focused on creating spaces to celebrate Latin music in all of its forms.</p>	<p data-bbox="1252 1262 1479 1327">African Mammal Hall, Level 1</p>

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	<p>Osmar Romero is the founder of El Marchante, a cultural project born in Caracas in 2015 that has evolved into a platform dedicated to researching, curating, and sharing Latin American and Caribbean music.</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>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 and Grill</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</p>	<p>Foyer, Level 1</p>

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  	<p>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 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.</p> <p>May's discussion "Life at the Cosmic Scale," features Dr. Aaron Celestian, Curator of Mineral Sciences, NHM, and Betül Kaçar, Astrobiologist and Professor, University of Wisconsin–Madison, in conversation with neuroscientist Dr. Yewande Pearse. Together, they explore what the search for life beyond Earth reveals about life here on our own planet. Discover how looking outward into space is reshaping our understanding of biology, evolution, and what it means to be alive.</p>	<p>Commons Theater</p>

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Dr. Aaron Celestian currently researches how minerals interact with their environments and with living things, and how those minerals can be used to solve problems like climate change, pollution, and disease. His on-going research in experimental design, real-time material characterization, mineral discovery & application, and the functionalization of minerals is developing novel nano-crystalline Earth materials into functional materials for a wide variety of demanding applications. Dr. Celestian holds adjunct teaching and research faculty positions at the University of Southern California and is an Affiliate Research Scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. In addition to research, Dr. Celestian oversees the Gem & Mineral Hall at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles and regularly develops mineral science exhibits.




Dr. Betül Kaçar is an astrobiologist and professor at the University of Wisconsin–Madison who explores how life began on Earth and what that history can teach us about life beyond our planet. She leads a NASA-funded research center that brings together scientists across disciplines to study life's ancient past and its future in space exploration. Her work has been recognized internationally, including the naming of asteroid 284919 Kaçar in her honor. Through science, storytelling, and global outreach, Kaçar invites audiences to see life as a planetary phenomenon, ancient, resilient, and full of possibility.



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

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	<p>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>
<p>8 PM</p> 	<p>Live Music / Opener</p> <p>D33J is a Los Angeles–based DJ, producer, and co-founder of the Wedidit Collective, known for pushing the boundaries between underground rap and forward-thinking electronic music. With over a decade behind the decks, his sets are fluid, high-energy, and deeply attuned to the room, spanning everything from warehouse raves to global festival stages. As a producer, he’s collaborated with artists like A\$AP Rocky, Joji, Lil Yachty, and Yung Lean, helping shape a sound that blurs genre lines while staying rooted in club culture.</p>	<p>North American Mammal Hall, Level 1</p>
<p>9 PM</p> 	<p>Live Music / Headliner</p> <p>John Glacier was raised in Hackney, the second eldest of seven. Of Jamaican heritage, her family had loved music. It was a home where every genre was played; pop, reggae, soca, country, lovers rock, grime, more. First making a name on the London poetry scene performing at the likes of Serpentine Gallery, her first forays into music would be standout collaborations with the likes of Vegyn, Babyfather and LYAM whilst 2021’s SHILOH: Lost For Words would see her gain wild critical acclaim as her breakout moment.</p> <p>The artist has received wide critical acclaim, gracing the covers of Time Out, The Face, Crack, POP Magazine, Interlope Magazine and Off The Block to name a few, as well as seen features in The Guardian, Vogue, GQ, iD, Dazed and many more. And in the fashion world, collaborators include Marine Serre, modeling for Skepta’s MAINS line, Farfetch, Wales Bonner and Burberry, the latter of which saw her star in, produce the soundtrack for and compose original poem “I’ll Keep You Warm” in the brand’s first campaign with Daniel Lee as Creative Director.</p>	<p>North American Mammal Hall, Level 1</p>