

**FOOD**

# Black Restaurant Week back for third year, under new leadership

**Samantha Diaz**  
Managing Editor

For the past two years, dozens of local Black-owned restaurants and eateries have been highlighted through Long Beach Black Restaurant Week.

Following months of controversy surrounding its co-founder earlier this year, the future of the week-long celebration, which brings national media attention to small businesses each year, became unclear.

In October, the announcement arrived that Long Beach Black Restaurant Week would return—now led by one of the past year’s participants, Qiana Mafnas.

Mafnas runs Axiom Kitchen with her family, a Long Beach-based barbecue restaurant that serves smoked meats and classic Southern sides. In May, the family recruited Terri Henry, who ran Black Restaurant Week through her nonprofit LB Food and Beverage, to help promote their inaugural BBQ festival.

When Henry came under controversy for using the N-word, local publications published multiple stories on the incident and many people urged Henry to step down from running the week. Mafna was Henry’s first choice to take over.

“I made a mistake and I apologized and it was followed by death threats and anonymous mail and texts,” Henry said. “It’s been really weird and it’s been very divisive, some are like, ‘We’ll never speak to you again’ and some are like, ‘Yeah you made a mistake let’s move on.’”

Henry sold the rights to the week for \$1, and said she sold the Cambodian Restaurant Week she created to Chef T.

see **BLACK RESTAURANT WEEK** page 6



A collection of menu items at Axiom Kitchen including pulled pork, ribs and brisket.

Image Courtesy of @thehoodfoodie on Instagram

**NEWS**

## Tuesday is Election Day (despite no election). Here’s what that means.

**Staff Report**  
Signal Tribune

On Tuesday, Nov. 7, dozens of California cities will hold elections for various measures and board seats for city council, school districts and more. Long Beach is not one of those cities.

Regardless, Long Beach will still treat Nov. 7 as a city-wide holiday which means libraries, services and most city-run offices will be closed to residents. The first Tuesday of each November is a holiday whether an election takes place or not, according to the City Municipal Codes.

see **ELECTION DAY** page 5



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune  
Diana Litvin poses her 14-year-old dog Rocky in front of the giant penny at Lincoln Park in Long Beach on Feb. 11, 2022.

**OIL**

## City continues to wait on Signal Hill Petroleum’s Environmental Impact Report

**Samantha Diaz**  
Managing Editor

Multiple local environmental groups have begun to protest a proposed 20-year permit renewal for Signal Hill Petroleum, and the company has hired independent, third-party scientists and researchers to create a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to provide an overview of its operations, which was expected to be completed in September.

The purpose of an Environmental Impact Report is to provide the



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune  
A woman walks past an unused pumpjack-style oil well along a Signal Hill hiking trail on May 2, 2023.

City and public with the full environmental effects of a project and suggest mitigations to

see **SIGNAL HILL PETROLEUM** page 5

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## CRIME

# Long Beach man on death row returns to court

Kristen Farrah Naeem

Staff Writer

A Long Beach man is getting a new trial 38 years after he was sentenced to death.

In 1983, Anwar Khawaja was shot and robbed while in his vehicle, and his mother Gulshakar Khawaja was murdered. Days later, Andre Burton was arrested for the crime, and was eventually convicted and given the death penalty in 1985.

Now, because of issues with his original legal defense (or lack thereof), Burton will be returning to a Long Beach courtroom to plead his case.

In 1983, as Anwar Khawaja was sitting in his car in front of his mother's home, a man demanded his money, shot Anwar twice in the face, and shot Anwar's mother, Gulshakar, in the chest as he fled, killing her. Anwar and a neighbor who witnessed the scene later identified Burton as the perpetrator.

During his first trial in the '80s, Burton was represented by criminal defense attorney Ron Slick, who was infamous for getting through capital cases exponentially faster than other lawyers and having a high number of clients who were sentenced to death.

Burton also confessed to police that he had committed the crimes, but later recanted his confession and stated that he had been lying.

Court documents from 2016 also state that another witness identified the perpetrator as white (Burton is Black), whereas others described him as being an older man (Burton was 19 at the time).

In 2016, a panel of judges for the Ninth Circuit of the United States Court of Appeals found that Burton expressed that he was dissatisfied with his legal representation, and tried twice to represent himself. The ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals states that under the legal precedent set by *Faretta v. California*, Burton should have been allowed to represent himself, and that the judge in his original trial wasn't justified in denying this request on the basis that it would delay the trial.

Burton is quoted in court documents as making the following statement on Aug. 10, 1983:

"Your Honor, I would like to represent myself due to the circumstances of lack of interest as far as the investigation is concerned with my case. [...] I haven't spent or had enough time to communicate with my lawyer because he haven't given me the time, because [...] it is not worth it to him, but to me it is worth it, because it is my life that is involved and I don't want to take the fall for the real person in this crime."

According to 1989 court documents, Burton's father was murdered when he was five years old.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Exterior picture of the sign in front of The George Deukmejian Courthouse in Long Beach.

His mother had eight children, and survived off of social security and welfare. Burton's mother testified that five out of her eight children had gotten into trouble with the law.

A pretrial hearing was scheduled for Burton on Monday, Oct. 30, according to *City News Service*.

According to the LA Sheriff Department's Inmate Information Center, Burton is due back at the Governor George Deukmejian Courthouse in Long Beach on Nov. 27.

The *Signal Tribune* mailed a letter to Burton at San Quentin State

Prison on Nov. 2 asking if he has any statement for the public, and is waiting to hear back.

Burton was quoted by *KSWB Action News* and the *Marin Independent Journal* during a media tour of the death row units at San Quentin in 2015, criticizing the treatment he and his fellow condemned inmates receive.

According to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), as of January 2023, there are 671 people in the state's prison system who have been sentenced to death (650 men and 21 women).

Between 1893 and 2006, California executed 514 people.

In 2014, a federal judge ruled that California's death penalty system was unconstitutional, violating the Eighth Amendment's prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment. This is because the death penalty was rarely carried out, but those on death row were potentially facing the threat of death for decades at a time.

The last person executed by California, Clarence Ray Allen, had been on death row for over 20 years before his execution by lethal injection in 2006.

All male Death Row inmates were previously incarcerated at San Quentin, and were housed separately from the general population of prisoners until earlier this year, when California began to transfer them into the general populations of other high-security prisons.

California Governor Gavin Newsom has been an outspoken critic of the death penalty system, and signed a moratorium on executions in the state in 2019.

Across the nation, 23 states and Washington D.C. have abolished the death penalty, while 24 states still practice it. Along with California, the states of Oregon and Pennsylvania have a moratorium on the death penalty, but have not abolished it.

## WAGES

## Hotel worker wages will be decided by Long Beach voters; City seeking argument writers for measure

Samantha Diaz

Managing Editor

Following months of strikes from Long Beach hotel workers demanding higher wages, City officials voted five to one to pass the issue to voters in March 2024.

In a special city council meeting on Oct. 26, Long Beach councilmembers discussed the final language of the ordinance, which says that the council can pass issues to Long Beach voters with a simple majority.

Councilmember Duggan was the lone "no" vote, asking about the possibility of pausing the wage increases in case of emergencies such as another pandemic. City staff said that the City would have to put the issue on another ballot in that case.

Long Beach City Council has discussed the item three different times in the past two months, hearing hour-long arguments from both sides of the issue.

"This has been a really tough fight, but a historic moment," said Grecia Lopez, the only resident who showed up to the Oct. 26 meeting. "We're witnessing a different council than the one we did a decade ago ... one that cares about working families and putting this on the ballot for workers."

If Long Beach voters pass the item, the minimum wage for hotel and hospitality workers will



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

The Long Beach Independent Redistricting Commission members sit during the commission meeting on Nov. 19, 2021, to vote on the proposed new city council district map.

rise from its current \$17.55 per hour wage to a \$23 per hour minimum by 2024. The wage increases will follow through 2028 as follows:

- \$23 per hour as of July 1, 2024
- \$25 per hour as of July 1, 2025
- \$26.50 per hour as of July 1, 2026
- \$28 per hour as of July 1, 2027
- \$29.50 per hour as of July 1, 2028

The city is now seeking argument writers for and against the measure. Those interested in writing arguments for the measure can submit a form of interest to the Office of the City Clerk by Friday,

Nov. 4 at 4:30 p.m. Forms can be sent to [cityclerk@longbeach.gov](mailto:cityclerk@longbeach.gov) or turned in in-person at City Hall (411 W. Ocean Blvd.) lobby level, window 12.

Mayor Rex Richardson will nominate the argument writers, pending approval of the council at its Nov. 14 meeting. Those selected as argument writers are required to submit direct arguments for or against the ballot measures by Friday, Dec. 8, while rebuttal arguments are due by Monday, Dec. 18.

For more information, please contact the Office of the City Clerk, at 562.570.6101.

## CITY SERVICES



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

An aerial view of the Long Beach Multi-Service center on Feb. 6, 2023.

The site will offer 50 spots, seven days a week from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

## Staff Report

Signal Tribune

For the third time this year, Long Beach's Emergency Safe Parking Program is moving locations, this time near the Multi-Service Center (MSC).

The parking site allows residents who are living in their RVs and other vehicles to park overnight in a safe environment. The sites also provide basic needs such as restrooms, handwashing stations, a pet relief area and connection to services from the MSC.

Residents can use the site seven days a week from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. at 1664 W Anaheim St., near the southeast corner of Santa Fe Avenue and Anaheim Street with 50 available spots each night.

The City has entered a memorandum of understanding with the Port of Long Beach to lease the land

for the next year.

According to a City statement, Long Beach shared its plans for relocation at a Westside Business Association meeting and with local businesses throughout October.

Long Beach established a temporary Safe Parking Site in March 2023 in the Queen Mary parking lot as one of its first actions after declaring a local state of emergency due to homelessness at the start of the year.

The Safe Parking Site was moved to 501 Queensway—a smaller location with 20 less spots offered each night. The move was due to "preexisting contracts" for events in and around the Queen Mary during the summer, according to a City statement.

Long Beach is still looking for a permanent location for a Safe Parking Site to operate.

EMPLOYMENT



# LB Parks & Rec plans series of job fairs to fill temporary, part-time positions

Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

A Long Beach Parks, Recreation, and Marine worker adds sold-out stickers to California native plants that have already sold out at the El Dorado Park Nature Center on Nov. 23, 2021.

Staff Report  
Signal Tribune

The Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) is organizing a series of job fairs to fill its available part-time positions.

"These job fairs are a great resource for those seeking employment to learn more about our City's recreation programs," Mayor Rex Richardson said in a public statement. "This is just one of many employment opportunities offered across our City departments."

The PRM Community Recreation Services Bureau staff will present information on various recreation programs that are hiring or that will start hiring soon. These programs include Aquatics, Day Camps, Youth Sports, Older Adults,

Teens, Mobile Recreation and Virtual Recreation.

Attendees will have the chance to meet supervisors and current staff to gain insight into the role of a Long Beach Recreation Leader. More details about open positions can be found on the Job Opportunities webpage at LBParks.org, where individuals are also encouraged to apply.

There are two information-only job fairs scheduled; the first on Saturday, Nov. 11 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at McBride Park (1550 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.) and the second on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at El Dorado Park West (2800 N. Studebaker Rd.) from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. These events will focus on current and upcoming employment opportunities.

The third job fair is planned for Saturday, January 20, 2024, at the



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

A single jacaranda tree blooms among other green trees near the El Dorado Duck Pond in Long Beach on April 26, 2022.

Doris Topsy-Elvord Community Center in Houghton Park (6301 Myrtle Ave.) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. In addition to the information about open positions, attendees will have the opportunity to apply in person, and may even participate in interviews.

HEALTH

# Local farms and City will team up to provide fresh produce to low-income communities



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Michael Remley, who has been volunteering with Food Finders for ten years, taps a produce box filled with donated veggies into place in the back of his truck on the morning of Sept. 23, 2022.

Staff Report  
Signal Tribune

Long Beach urban farms and farmer markets vendors will soon place their homegrown produce in stores in low-income communities through the Produce to Market Project.

Long Beach Fresh, the collective of "feeders, eaters and seeders" has partnered with the City's Health Department to connect more residents to healthy, organic produce at an affordable price. The two organizations are currently visiting grocery stores in Central, West and North Long Beach to choose the six locations that will become stocked with fresh, locally-grown produce.

"The Produce to Market program will knit together our local farms, corner stores and our community compost sites," Long Beach Fresh co-director Ryan Smolar said in a public statement. "By buying from local producers and engaging with residents, we hope to create a new

collaboration that makes healthy, cultural and seasonal food affordable and available in West, Central and North Long Beach."

The chosen stores will receive a minimum of three months of free, culturally relevant produce and an accompanying "Health Shelf" display. The produce will be sold at or below the average cost of similar produce sold in larger markets.

The produce will come from local urban farms and markets such as the MAYE Center, Harbor Area Farmers Market and Grow 2 Zero.

Interested market owners can email healthyactiveLB@longbeach.gov or call 562.570.4364 to learn more about the program.

"Every Long Beach resident deserves access to fresh, affordable and culturally diverse foods," said Mayor Rex Richardson. "This initiative is about nourishing our communities, strengthening our local economy and fostering connection between community members and their local markets."

HEALTH

# Long Beach reports first locally acquired dengue virus

City News Service

Southern California Local News

Long Beach health officials Wednesday confirmed the city's first locally acquired case of the mosquito-borne dengue virus, which is normally associated with people who have traveled outside the country.

The local case is only the second of its type reported in California, with the first being reported roughly two weeks ago by health officials

in Pasadena.

Long Beach officials insisted the risk of local exposure remains low, and the patient is recovering at home.

"The health and well-being of the community is our most important priority," Mayor Rex Richardson said in a statement. "We are working closely with health officials to do everything we can to prevent more cases. We ask that everyone do their part by removing any standing water on their property to

help us control the mosquitoes in our neighborhoods."

Health officials said a person can be infected with the dengue virus from an infected Aedes mosquito. Dengue cases in the United States typically occur in people who have traveled to countries where the disease is more common, but neither the Long Beach nor Pasadena patients had any history of recent travel.

Long Beach health officials said

see DENGUE VIRUS page 9

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Adapted by Michael Bloom

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# EYE ON CRIME

## CRIMES REPORTED BY THE SIGNAL HILL POLICE

### Wednesday, October 25

7:28 a.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, 700 block E. Spring St.  
1:38 p.m., Grand theft, 2800 block Temple Ave.  
5:07 p.m., Possessing controlled substance; felony warrant, 1900 block Cherry Ave. (suspect arrested)

### Thursday, October 26

12:37 a.m., Felony spousal abuse, 1500 block E. Hill St.  
12:58 a.m., Theft of personal property; possessing burglary tools; resist Police Officer, 5 felony warrants, 2100 block Crescent Dr. (suspect arrested)  
10:53 a.m., Intoxicated person, E. 28th St./Orange Ave. (citation given)  
12:23 p.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, 2400 block California Ave.  
5:05 p.m., Injury traffic collision, E. 19th St./Stanley Ave.  
6:09 p.m., Identity theft, 2600 block Cherry Ave.

### Friday, October 27

3:45 a.m., Burglary, 1000 block E. Willow St.  
8:27 a.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, 3300 block E. 19th St.  
2:34 p.m., Grand theft, 2200 block E. Willow St.  
5:26 p.m., Injury traffic collision, Orange Ave./E. 33rd St.  
11:06 p.m., Injury hit and run, Orange Ave. north of E. 33rd St.

### Saturday, October 28

3:29 a.m., DUI, Stanley Ave./E. Hill St. (suspect arrested)  
6:12 a.m., Auto burglary, 900 block Las Brisas Way  
11:24 a.m., Injury traffic collision, Walnut Ave./E. Spring St.  
11:32 a.m., Injury traffic collision, Orange Ave./E. Spring St.  
5:30 p.m., Identity theft, 2300 block Lewis Ave.

### Sunday, October 29

2:01 a.m., Inflict corporal injury on spouse, 2200 block Gaviota Ave. (2 suspects arrested)  
3:14 a.m., DUI, Cherry Ave. south of E. 29th St. (suspect arrested)  
4:16 p.m., Fire, 1300 block E. Spring St.  
4:22 p.m., Fire, E. 29th St./Cherry Ave.

### Monday, October 30

10:38 a.m., Take vehicle w/o owner's consent; theft of personal property, 2200 block E. Willow St. (suspect arrested)  
10:44 a.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, 1600 block E. Willow St.  
4:04 p.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, E. 33rd St./Gundry Ave.  
5:18 p.m., Injury traffic collision, 1800 block Redondo Ave.  
7:57 p.m., Elder abuse, 3200 block California Ave.

### Tuesday, October 31

5:44 a.m., Auto burglary, E. 19th St./Temple Ave.  
8:04 a.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, 3200 block Orange Ave.  
8:08 a.m., Auto burglary, E. 20th St./Orizaba Ave.  
9:25 a.m., Robbery, 700 block E. Spring St.  
10:06 a.m., Identity theft, 2500 block E. 19th St.  
10:38 a.m., Grand theft, 3300 block Lemon Ave.  
12:20 p.m., Auto burglary, Orizaba Ave./E. 29th St.  
12:33 p.m., Grand theft – motor vehicle, 2200 block E. Willow St.  
5:49 p.m., Intoxicated person on drugs, 2600 block E. 28th St. (suspect arrested)  
10:37 p.m., Auto burglary, 2000 block Orizaba Ave.

*LBPD reporting area is too extensive to report here, but you can go to their website: [longbeach.gov/police](http://longbeach.gov/police). Once there, click on Crime Info, then Crime Incident Mapping Application. Click on Launch Crime Incident Mapping Application & type in an address.*

*You can use filters to select dates and types of crime.*

## CRIME

# Long Beach City Prosecutor pushes for felony charges against man who attacked woman in broad daylight



Image Courtesy of Sora Shimazaki on Pexels.com

### City News Service

*Southern California Local News*

The Long Beach City Prosecutor has asked the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office to reconsider its decision not to file a felony case against a man accused of attacking a woman in Long Beach in a crime caught on surveillance video.

Miguel Angel Avila Figueroa is facing one misdemeanor count each of sexual battery and vandalism in connection with the alleged attack about 2 p.m. Oct. 20 near Linden Avenue and East Broadway.

In the security video, the victim is seen walking on a sidewalk in a dark dress, passing a man who is sitting on the sidewalk. After she passes by, the man stands up and begins following her, eventually grabbing and lifting her dress from behind before she falls to the ground.

A witness nearby approached the man as he tried to leave, but the suspect ran away. He was gone before police arrived.

The alleged victim, Rebekah Pedersen, told Fox11 that what happened to her was "absolutely disgusting."

"When I turned around, I did notice he started picking up his pants," Pedersen said. "If it wasn't in broad daylight, and that (good Samaritan) was sitting there, (the suspect) would have raped me."

Figueroa, 30, remains jailed in lieu of \$75,000 bail while awaiting a pretrial hearing Nov. 8.

The District Attorney's Office declined to file a felony case, and the city charter only allows misdemeanor charges to be filed by the city prosecutor's office, according to a posting online about the case by the prosecutor's office.

"If felony charges are filed, the

defendant could face increased incarceration, but it could also result in greater rehabilitation resources through Collaborative Court and the L.A. County Probation Department, which are not available for misdemeanor defendants," according to the city prosecutor's office. "At a minimum, bringing sexual assault charges at the felony level will more likely ensure the defendant has access to appropriate treatment, while exposing the defendant to additional jail or prison time, in an effort to better protect the public."

In a statement released Tuesday afternoon, the District Attorney's Office responded, "The case was carefully reviewed previously. However, based on additional information, the head deputy of our Sex Crimes Division will review the evidence and interview a witness that was located after our initial decision was made to determine whether any felony charges are provable."

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**ELECTION DAY**  
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Trash and recycling services will follow their regular schedules, but street sweeping will not occur on Tuesday. Parking violations will be enforced, and residents should check parking meters for an "Exempt on Holidays" message; otherwise regular parking rules will be displayed on the meter.

The Towing Operations and Vehicle Storage Facility (3111 E. Willow St., between Temple Ave. and Redondo Ave.) will be closed, but vehicles can be released outside of operation hours for an additional fee. More information can be found on the City website.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune  
A view of the front entrance of the Billie Jean King Main Library in Long Beach on May 13, 2022.

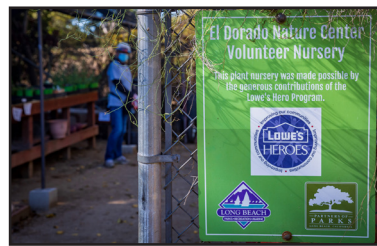
**These places will be closed in Long Beach on Nov. 7:**

- Billie Jean King Main Library, all branch libraries, including library offices (digital resources available 24/7)
- BizCare Hotline (562.570.4BIZ)
- Building and Safety services, including the Permit Center, inspections and plan reviews
- Citizen Police Complaint Commission
- City Hall
- City-operated vaccination sites for COVID-19 and MPX
- City-operated COVID-19 testing sites
- Code Enforcement services
- COVID-19 Information Line (562.570.4636)
- Energy Resources offices
- Fire Headquarters, Support Services, Fire Prevention & Operations, including Marine Safety Administration
- Health Department and Health

- facilities
- Homeless Services Outreach Line (562.570.4672)
  - Housing Authority
  - LB Resource Hotline (562.570.4246)
  - Long Beach Airport administration offices
  - Long Beach Animal Care Services and spcaLA (regularly closed Tuesdays)
  - Long Beach Utilities offices
  - Mobile Access Center
  - Neighborhood Resource Center
  - Public Health Information Line (562.570.7907)
  - Special Events and Filming offices

**These places will remain open on Nov. 7:**

- All City parks and trails
- City Prosecutor's Office
- El Dorado Nature Center
- El Dorado Regional Park
- Fire Stations and Lifeguard Stations
- Long Beach Airport
- Marina offices (Alamitos Bay Marina, Shoreline Marina)
- Main Police Station Front Desk
- Parks, Recreation and Marine programs, community park facilities and pools



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune  
The El Dorado Park Nature Center has a plant nursery where residents can plant and take home plants.

- Refuse and Recycling collection
- Gas Services Dispatch (562.570.2140) open 24/7 for emergency calls
- Water/Sewer Dispatch (562.570.2390) open 24/7 for emergency calls

**SIGNAL HILL PETROLEUM**  
continued from page 1



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune  
An aerial view of the Signal Hill Petroleum Central Unit Facility in Signal Hill on May 2, 2023.

minimize potentially significant effects.

In January 2023, the Signal Hill Planning Commission conducted a public Environment Impact Scoping Meeting for a possible 20-year permit renewal for Signal Hill Petroleum.

The meeting was to notify the public of the proposed extension, which will be the longest permit renewal for the company if approved. Local groups Climate Brunch and Sierra Club created an online petition on Sierra Club's website that has gained 249 signatures as of Oct. 26.

In the 10 months since then, the issue has not returned to the Planning Commission, though the City expected the EIR to be completed by September, multiple City officials told the *Signal Tribune* in June and August.

As of Nov. 2, the EIR has still not been released, and city spokesman Michael Fratino told the *Signal*

*Tribune* in an email that the draft EIR "is not complete but could be by the end of the calendar year."

"If so, we anticipate beginning the required 45-day public comment period and posting of the document on the City web site after the first of the year," Fratino wrote in an email.

City Manager Carlo Tomaino said in an email that the City did not set a due date for the draft EIR. Signal Hill Petroleum's most recent Conditional Use Permit extension expired on July 23, 2023.

The *Signal Tribune* reached out to Signal Hill's communications department through multiple phone calls on Oct. 25 and 26 and made requests for a phone interview, but the requests were denied and no phone calls were returned.

Tomaino said in an email to the *Signal Tribune* on Nov. 1 that the Conditional Use Permit remains in place so long as the business operator remains in compli-



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune  
Workers move around an oil well at the top of Signal Hill inside of the neighborhood on May 2, 2023.

ance with the terms of the permit, and is only revoked if the operator is found in violation of the terms.



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## BLACK RESTAURANT WEEK

continued from page 1

## NEWS

# This nonprofit invites people to 'trade ages' to better understand seniors

Samantha Diaz  
Managing Editor

Most people will not know the intimate struggle of slowly losing their vision, sense of hearing or control of their body until they are much older. A local nonprofit is offering the chance to feel those sensations in hopes of creating empathy and understanding with older adults.

Residents can sign up for Trading Ages, free monthly classes designed to put people in the perspective of someone much older than themselves, and have their eyes opened to certain obstacles the senior community faces every day.

The Senior Care Action Network (SCAN) was created in 1977 by a group of Long Beach seniors who wanted to improve resources for their community. The network now connects seniors, caregivers and families to much-needed resources to provide older adults with basic needs and resources so they don't need to rely on nursing homes or healthcare facilities.

SCAN's Independence At Home programming has spanned to offer mental health counseling and classes, technology support, health education, homeless services and its Trading Ages program.

According to the U.S. Census, 12% of Long Beach's population is at least 65 years old. The City recently supported the senior community by declaring each Oct. 7 as Ageism Awareness Day, and programs like Trading Ages help com-

bat that issue through a hands-on, simulated method.

Attendees in Trading Ages are put through a series of simulations and then are given specific tasks in order to understand how everyday functions become more difficult or complex with loss of vision, hearing, motor functions and more.

"It really broadens your understanding and opens your eyes to the aging process and how people are aging differently and how that feels," said Dina Berg, co-founder of Heart of Ida, a nonprofit organization that assists seniors with basic needs and community engagement.

Berg had taken the class over a decade ago, but felt she could still learn from the simulations, so she signed herself and her entire staff up for a day of empathy and understanding. She said she felt it was important since her staff works with seniors every day, but emphasized that anyone can learn from the training.

"It gives you a renewed sense of how to walk in someone else's shoes," Berg said. "As patient as you think you are, you can always use the training. I think it's a great thing for anyone."

Berg and her staff put on glasses that impaired their vision, then tried to read various words in close proximity, and Berg said she was unable to read a single word correctly. The class was then asked to put on a headset that impaired their hearing, which made it difficult to follow conversations and



Image Courtesy of Leslie Smith  
Attendees in SCAN's Trading Ages training wear vision-impairing glasses that simulate what it's like to lose eyesight due to age.

complete simple tasks.

Attendees are also asked to do things with one arm behind their back, or various limbs deemed unusable.

Oliver has been with Independence at Home for 16 years, and said she's been able to see a shift in the way that people treat and think about older adults. Part of that change is programs like Trading Ages, and part of it, she said, is simply people talking about it more openly.

Her staff encourages people who work in retail, banks, grocery stores, pharmacies and hospitality to take the class, as well as those with older parents who wish to understand them more intimately.

Residents can sign up for the free Trading Ages class on Nov. 30 from 10 a.m. to noon online. Registration deadline is Nov. 22. Trading Ages also offers private, specialized meeting times for those who wish to sign up with a group.



Image Courtesy of Spicy Green Book

The Mafnas family stands for a group photo in front of their pop-up restaurant location.

Henry said even before the controversy, people had begun questioning why a white woman was organizing events based on cuisines of other cultures, and people were accusing her of making hundreds of thousands of dollars off of other communities.

Henry clarified that she started Black Restaurant Week after a Black restaurant owner asked her to, and the two ran it together. Eventually, her partner became too busy to organize the week, and Henry had already put a lot of work into it.

"Because of the negative past, I just want this to be a fresh start," Mafna said. "It's in the hands of someone who's not only willing, but capable."

Mafnas said she was hesitant at first, not because of people's perceptions of Henry, (though she said she had already heard what was going on) but because of the large time commitment. Eventually, Mafna's husband convinced her

that her love for community and passion for the celebration in previous years made her the perfect person for the job.

"It was really important to [Henry] to give it to a person in the Black community because she understood how she messed up," Mafnas said. "I've gotten so much support, I was so grateful. It's been 99.9% positive."

Mafnas emphasized how important it was to keep the celebrations going, especially since many Black-owned businesses were forced to shut down during the pandemic shutdown.

The annual Black Restaurant Week will return from Jan. 21 through Jan. 28, 2024. The event will highlight Black restaurants, chefs, pop-ups and bartenders.

Those interested in participating in the week must register by Nov. 30 and pay a \$175 entry fee. Black Restaurant Week is also accepting partnership opportunities with packages from \$1,000 to \$10,000.



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**SURVEY**

# Signal Hill releases new survey for Civic Center Master Plan

**Kristen Farrah Naem**  
Staff Writer

The City of Signal Hill is asking residents to share their opinions on what the new civic center should look like. The City has narrowed its options down to three proposed plans, and is asking the public to give feedback on them by taking an online survey.

In July, the Signal Hill City Council approved a contract of over \$218,000 with John Kaliski Architects, Incorporated (JKA Inc.) to develop the Civic Center Master Plan. The plan will outline updates made to the area including the existing community center, City Hall and its parking lots, Signal Hill Park, Signal Hill Public Library, Spud Field and certain properties along 21st Street.

The City put out its first survey for the Civic Center Master Plan in August, and held multiple in-per-

son public meetings in October in order to gauge what amenities and resources the community wanted to see in the revamped civic center.

The information gained during this time was used to create three potential plans for the civic center, and the new survey aims to find out which one residents prefer.

The survey consists of 10 questions, some of which are:

- Do you live in Signal Hill?
- What is your age?
- How should the existing City Hall building be reimagined?
- Would you be supportive of a voter-approved bond measure to help fund a specific improvement?

To take the online survey, visit [www.surveymonkey.com/r/signalhillCCMP1](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/signalhillCCMP1).

To keep up with the Civic Center Master Plan, or to learn more, visit the City's website or call 562-989-7343.

## Option 2: "The Terrace"



Image Courtesy of Signal Hill

Option 2 suggests placing the new amphitheater just west of the existing Bruce May Memorial stage, which is currently used for summer concerts. This option envisions additional park land and walking paths replacing Spud Field. A new Civic Center facility, combining City Hall and the community center with various indoor and outdoor activity spaces, would be located north of the new park space and south of an expanded Hill Street parking lot. Kelley Drive would undergo improvements as an alley south of 21st Street. Jesse Nelson Circle would be transformed into a pedestrian plaza facing City Hall, which, in this plan, would be renovated for cultural activities and incorporate various art opportunities.

## Option 3: "The Green"



Image Courtesy of Signal Hill

Option 3 proposes placing the new amphitheater to the west of Spud Field, with a southerly extension of Kelley Drive connecting it to 21st Street. A new community center with activity spaces for seniors, adults, teens and children would be constructed just north of the amphitheater. The plan includes an enlarged sports court and children's play area adjacent to Hill Street, connecting south to the community center. A City Hall annex would be built east of the existing facility, and Jesse Nelson Circle would be replaced with an extension of the park.

## Option 1: "The Campus"

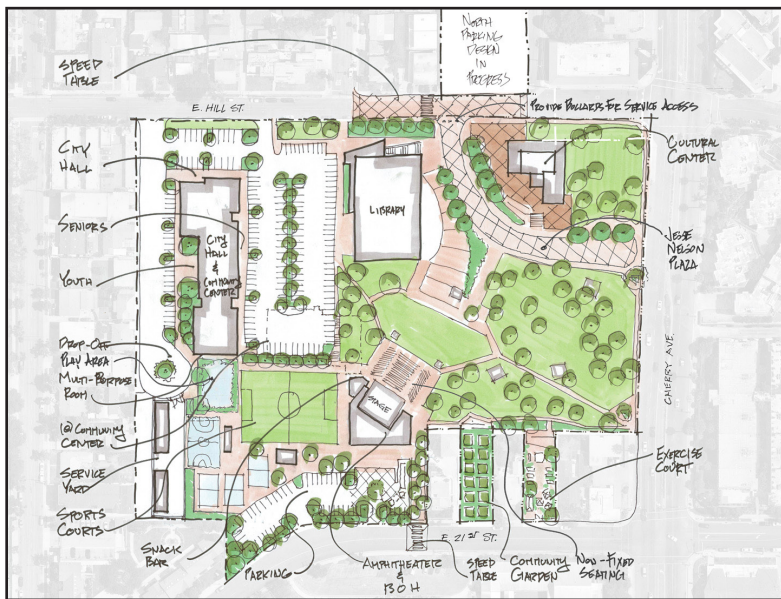


Image Courtesy of Signal Hill

Option 1 proposes the construction of a new amphitheater near the park's center, with sports courts and a play area positioned to the west, near the existing Spud Field. A new Civic Center facility, housing City Hall and a community center with various activity spaces would be situated west of the Signal Hill Library. The existing City Hall would be renovated to accommodate cultural activities, and Kelley Drive would be widened and enhanced with a cul-de-sac for improved access to the community center and neighboring residential properties.

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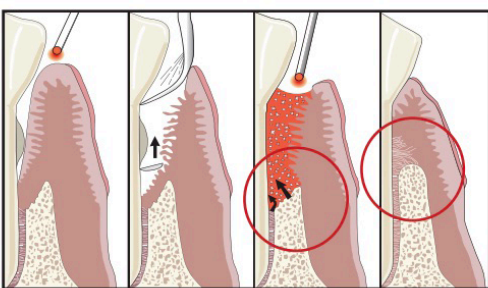
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1. Gregg RH II, Gregg DM. Laser-assisted periodontal regeneration with the LANAP protocol. *Dent Today* 2019 May;38(5):78, 80-83  
2. FDA Clearance K151763

# AROUND TOWN

A WEEKLY LIST OF THINGS TO DO IN LONG BEACH AND SIGNAL HILL



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

A customer browses through some plants under an archway of hanging plants inside the new Plantiitas location on 4th Street in Long Beach on May 4, 2022.

The first weekend in November offers chances to learn new skills, festivals to attend and more free and fun things to do in Long Beach and Signal Hill.

Long Beach will close out the Dia de los Muertos celebrations with a festival and parade Saturday morning, while families can attend an English and Spanish playtime Friday afternoon and residents can enjoy ancient Mexican music Saturday afternoon.

Residents can explore their artistic side by attending a museum tour at the Long Beach Museum of Art Friday afternoon, a charcoal art workshop a couple hours later, a bamboo-based workshop Sunday morning, a poetry workshop Wednesday night or multiple film screenings and discussions Thursday evening.

The week also presents opportunities to appreciate nature, with a walk through Los Cerritos Wetlands Saturday morning, a plant festival Saturday evening, or a native plant sale Tuesday morning.

## 03 FRIDAY

### CUENTOS Y CANTOS BILINGUAL STORYTIME

Noon to 1 p.m. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to bring young children to read, talk, sing and play in English and Spanish at the Billie Jean King Main Library (200 W. Broadway). This event is appropriate for babies, toddlers and preschoolers. Free.

### ART CHAT

Noon to 2 p.m. A weekly discussion of the exhibits at the Long Beach Museum of Art (356 E 3rd St.). Docents will inform attendees about each exhibit currently on display at the museum and facilitate a discussion about them. Participation is included when visitors pay the \$12 admission to enter the museum.

### ADULT ART-MAKING WORKSHOP

3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Instructor Curtis Green will lead students in this oceanfront charcoal art workshop at the Long Beach Museum of Art (2300 East Ocean Blvd.). This workshop is beginner-friendly.

Participants will be recreating a still-life subject. General admission tickets cost \$50 and can be purchased on Eventbrite.

### BIXBY KNOLLS FIRST FRIDAYS

6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Businesses and residents along the Atlantic corridor in Bixby Knolls are invited to this monthly celebration of community. The corridor will come alive with music, art, entertainment, face-painting and more. Free.

### FEVER FRIDAYS

10 p.m. Those 18 and older are invited to dance the night away at Hamburger Mary's (330 Pine Ave.) to music from DJ Paulo Ramirez. The event will feature gogo girls and boys. Free.

## 04 SATURDAY

### LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS NATURE WALK

8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Residents can explore the Los Cerritos Wetlands and view creatures and parts of the wetlands that are rarely seen with this nature walk led by environmental educators. Attendees should meet in the driveway at the corner of First Street and Pacific Coast Highway. The gate will open at 7:45 and close at 8:10 a.m. with no late entries and no early exits. Reserve a spot through Eventbrite. Free.

### COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Local nonprofit Sustainable Health Empowerment will host this health fair with over 100 volunteers at the Signal Hill Public Library (1800 E Hill St.). The fair will consist of workshops addressing a variety of topics: women's health (including breast self-exam), men's health, children's health, podiatry, heart health, mental health and more, as well as connect residents to resources. Lunch will be provided. Free.

### DIA DE LOS MUERTOS GRAND PARADE & FESTIVAL

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The public is invited to this parade in Downtown Long Beach that celebrates

those who have died. The parade will begin at the intersection of Pine Avenue and E. Third Street and conclude at Rainbow Lagoon (400 E Shoreline Dr.). There will be arts & crafts, music, entertainment, food and drinks. Free to attend.

### LONG BEACH PLANT FEST

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. A wide variety of popular and rare plants will be for sale at the Museum of Latin American Art (628 Alamitos Ave.). Attendees will also be able to take educational plant workshops. Food will be available for purchase. This event is organized by Plantiitas and Hella Plants. General admission tickets can be purchased for \$10 on Eventbrite.

### MUSIC OF ANCIENT MEXICO

2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Residents are invited to learn about the culture and music of Mexico by singing in the indigenous language of Mexico and playing ancient percussion instruments with musician Martin Espino at the Signal Hill Public Library (1800 E Hill St.). Free.

## 05 SUNDAY

### PLEIN AIR ART WORKSHOP

9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Artist Maria Guadalupe will be teaching participants to create art using bamboo and micron pens. The workshop will take place in the garden of the Museum of Latin American Art (628 Alamitos Ave.). Supplies will be provided. Admission costs \$5.

### HONORING OUR GRIEF & OUR ANCESTORS

4 p.m. to 7 p.m. During this event hosted by local curanderismo practitioner Claudia Rueda, women of color and nonbinary people are invited to connect to each other, their grief and their ancestors at La Fuente (4647 Long Beach Blvd., Suite B3). Those who attend are asked to bring a photo or item of their deceased loved one, a mug for the cacao ceremony and comfortable clothing. Tickets cost \$67, and can be purchased on calendly.com/clauidiarising.

## 06 MONDAY

### MOBILE RECESS

2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Kids between the ages of 5 and 14 are invited to participate in sports and arts and crafts in a safe environment during this City-run after-school program at Grace Park (361 E. Plymouth St.). Free.

### READ TO DOGS

5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Young children can practice reading to certified therapy dogs at the Signal Hill Public Library (1800 E Hill St.). Reading to dogs is meant to build a child's self confidence as they learn to read. Free.

## 07 TUESDAY

### RANCHO STORYTIME

10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Parents and caregivers are invited to bring young children to listen to a story read out loud at Rancho Los Cerritos (4600 Virginia Rd.) Attendees are welcome to bring blankets, strollers and snacks. Free.

### CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SALE

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Native plants will be sold at the El Dorado Nature Center (7550 E. Spring St.) every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday through Nov. 21. Proceeds will go toward the Friends of El Dorado Nature Center's habitat enhancement programs. Prices vary.

### TRIVIA NIGHT

7 p.m. This weekly trivia night at Beachwood Brewing (210 East 3rd St.) is organized by Thinky Drinky Trivia. Prizes will be given to the winners. Beer is \$5. Free to play.

## 08 WEDNESDAY

### STEAM LAB

2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Children between the ages of 6 and 12 will work on a STEAM activity together at the Signal Hill Public Library (1800 E Hill St.). Space is limited so registration is required. To register, call (562) 989-7323. Free.

### YOUTH POET LAUREATE POETRY READING

6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Youth Poet Laureate Claire Beeli and poet ambassadors Helena Donato-Sapp, Matilda Iem, Kieran Lundy and Sofia Uribe will be reading their work at Kubo LB (3976 Atlantic Ave.). This event is appropriate for all ages and will conclude with a Q&A session. Free.

## 09 THURSDAY

### PRESCHOOL WITHOUT WALLS

Noon to 2 p.m. The nonprofit Preschool Without Walls holds educational events that prepare parents and their children to begin school. During this event at the Burnett Neighborhood Library (560 E Hill St.), children will play and learn together while parents receive helpful information to prepare them to enroll their child and support them in school. This event is geared towards families with children ages 5 and younger. Free.

### FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Residents can watch this documentary by Mandy Lake that tells the story of how a drag show saved a Lawn Bowling Club in North Ipswich, Australia. The film will be followed by a talk and Q&A discussion and will take place at the CSULB University Theater (1250 Bellflower Blvd.). Free, but on-campus parking is fee-based.

### 'SINGING EARTH' TOUR

9 p.m. to 11 p.m. Grammy-Award Winning Producer Barrett Martin will be facilitating an evening of storytelling, film and music at the Art Theatre of Long Beach (2025 East 4th St.). Tickets can be purchased for \$20 on Eventbrite.

### IS THAT IT?

### NOPE!

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**DENGUE VIRUS**  
continued from page 3

most patients never exhibit any symptoms, but one in four will develop signs including fever, nausea, vomiting, rash and aches and pains to the eyes, joints or bones.

The symptoms generally last no more than a week, and people usually fully recover within two weeks. Deaths from the virus are extremely rare, health officials said.

“We are taking many steps to prevent mosquito-borne infections in Long Beach,” city Health Officer Dr. Anissa Davis said. “Outreach teams are visiting the neighborhood where dengue was identified to provide information on mosquito bite prevention and ways to control mosquito breeding around the home. Health Department staff continue to trap and test mosquitoes in nearby areas to look for infected mosquitoes and are intensifying efforts to reduce breeding and control mosquito populations.”

Health officials urge residents to take steps to prevent and reduce mosquito populations, such as:

- Eliminate standing water in



Image Courtesy of Pexels.com

clogged rain gutters, rain barrels, discarded tires, buckets, watering troughs, or anything that holds water for more than a week.

- Ensure that swimming pools, spas, and ponds are properly maintained.

- Change water in pet dishes, birdbaths, and other small containers weekly.

- Report neglected swimming pools to vector control district.

- Wear insect repellent containing CDC and EPA approved active ingredients such as DEET, picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus.

- Wear loosely fitted, light-colored, long-sleeved shirts and long pants.

**EDUCATION**

# LBUSD approves district-wide goals to improve student success

**Briana Mendez-Padilla**  
Education Reporter

Following multiple discussions to narrow down its areas and student demographics of focus, the Long Beach Unified School District board officially approved its goals and guardrails for the next five years.

With only a few minor updates since they last discussed these, the board approved the following goals:

1. The percentage of grade 3 students who meet or exceed grade-level standards on the state English Language Arts SBAC assessment will grow from 48% in June 2023 to 70% by June 2028

2. The percentage of students in Grades 4-8 improving their SBAC-English Language Arts assessment from ‘not met’ to the goal target will increase from 28% in June 2023 to 60% in June 2028.

3. In pursuit of having more than 80% of Black students meet the Algebra A-G requirement by the end of Grade 9, the proficiency gap between Black students and all other students will decline from 5% in June 2023 to 0% by June 2028.

4. In pursuit of having more than 66% of Black graduating seniors AG eligible, the proficiency gap between Black students and all other students will decline from 15% in June 2023 to 0% by June 2028.

“As board members, we are elected to uphold and represent the community’s vision around student success, and that’s exactly what we’re trying to uphold through the development of these goals and guardrails,” board member Juan Benitez said.

The decision on what goals to focus on came from different engagement events and meetings with different community members and leaders, according to Benitez.

“It’s the end of the very beginning of the work. Now that the easy part is done, the harder task is how do we actually reorganize an entire school system to be in alignment with the community’s vision,



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune

Members of the Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education listen to Dr. Juan Benitez during a meeting on Nov. 17, 2021.

goals, values and guardrails. That is a much harder journey,” said AJ Crabill, an education reform advocate who has been assisting LBUSD with this process.

Now that the board has approved these goals and guardrails, the next step in the process is for the district administration to create a goal-monitoring calendar that will describe exactly which of the goals they’ll be monitoring each month through June 2028. Multiple drafts will be presented to the board before they approve a finalized version.

Crabill will assist district administration with building out the monitoring calendar as well as helping the board with monitoring practice. He recommended that following the approval of the goals, the board reach a point where they are “spending 50% of [their] time each month monitoring progress toward [their] goals.”

“Monitoring is a very different thing. It is not just randomly asking questions; there’s an intentionality and purpose behind monitoring,” Crabill said.

**Disagreement among the board**

At a previous board meeting, board member Maria Isabel Lopez had requested data on Long-Term English Learners (LTEL) to consider them as a potential subgroup for

these goals. She said the data had not been presented to her, but she still wanted to include the demographic.

“I believe we need to continue to look at our students who are underperforming and if there is one more group, I think it would only be a good idea to center our work around them,” Lopez said.

However, board member Doug Otto and board president Diana Craighead worried about the goal being less effective if it involved too many student subgroups.

“I, for one, am not willing to change the focus of the goal for all the reasons that were stated earlier: that if we don’t have a clear focus, then we’re not giving clear direction to staff and that the monitoring of this goal will not be straightforward,” Craighead. “Adopting this goal is not saying that we’re not going to pay attention to our other groups, it’s just we’re saying this is the subset of students that needs the most help.”

Ultimately, Lopez voted yes on both goals.

“I think it’s critical that we center work on Black students,” Lopez said. “I want to be clear that I don’t believe it’s an impossible task to include our LTEL students here, but I’m going to vote yes on this.”

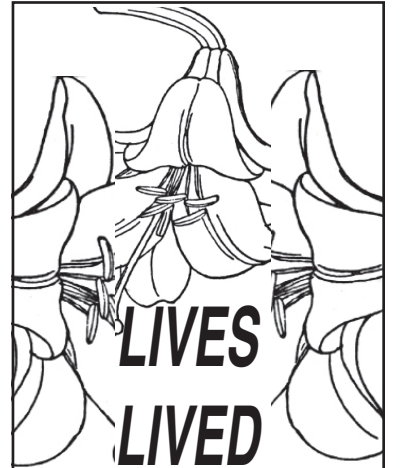


**Pet of the week: Beau**

Say “Sit” to Beau, and he’ll take it as an invite to join you on the backyard furniture. Beau would so like that as a forever option—at only a year old, he’s about reached the limit of his shelter residence. His stress levels have increased because of shelter containment. Beau’s a lovely German shepherd who enjoys a good tennis ball toss and an energetic rubdown. Please don’t let his last days at the shelter be his last ones on the planet. You can speed the process of adopting or fostering Beau and any of our other pets by emailing [PetAdopt@longbeach.gov](mailto:PetAdopt@longbeach.gov) or [pet-foster@longbeach.gov](mailto:pet-foster@longbeach.gov). You can also call (562) 570-4925. Even better, stop by during our new open walk-in hours every Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Our shelter is located at 7700 E. Spring St. Ask for ID#A704264 to meet Beau.

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**IN PHOTOS**

# In Photos: Día de los Muertos at MOLAA

**Richard H. Grant**  
Photo Editor

Long Beach's Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA) celebrated its annual Día de los Muertos festival on Sunday, Oct. 29, with the theme of "Hecho con Amor/Made With Love."

MOLAA partnered with the Museo Nacional de Arte, Mexico, for the event in conjunction with its current exhibit, "Festín de Sabores, Banquete Mexicano."

Performances were held throughout the day with Folklorico dances from various regions of Mexico in the museum's sculpture garden. In between performances, attendees browsed through the dozens of vendors selling Day of the Dead-related merchandise, attended a workshop on sugar skulls or face painting and got a bite to eat from various Latin-American food vendors.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune  
Dancers with Ballet Folklórico Nueva Antequera perform the Flor de Piña or "Flower of Pineapple," a folk dance with indigenous origins from the city of Tuxtepec in the Mexican state of Oaxaca at the Museum of Latin American Art during the Día de los Muertos celebration on Oct. 29, 2023.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune  
A young performer with Neiya Arts walks onto the stage during a performance of traditional folklorico dance at the Museum of Latin American Art during the Día de los Muertos celebration on Oct. 29, 2023.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune  
A dancer with Ballet Folklórico Nueva Antequera carries a pineapple for the Flor de Piña or "Flower of Pineapple," a folk dance with indigenous origins from the city of Tuxtepec in the Mexican state of Oaxaca at the Museum of Latin American Art during the Día de los Muertos celebration on Oct. 29, 2023.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune  
A young performer with Neiya Arts twirls her dress during a performance of traditional folklorico dance at the Museum of Latin American Art during the Día de los Muertos celebration on Oct. 29, 2023.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune  
Dancers from Ballet Folklórico Nueva Antequera perform a folk dance at the Museum of Latin American Art during the Día de los Muertos celebration on Oct. 29, 2023.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune  
Dancers in colorful flowered outfits from Ballet Folklórico Nueva Antequera perform the a folk dance at the Museum of Latin American Art during the Día de los Muertos celebration on Oct. 29, 2023.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune  
A couple looks over some of the ofrendas outside of the Museum of Latin American Art during the Día de los Muertos celebration on Oct. 29, 2023.



Richard H. Grant | Signal Tribune  
One of the dancer's from Ballet Folklórico Nueva Antequera was able to dance their shoe off while performing at the Museum of Latin American Art during the Día de los Muertos celebration on Oct. 29, 2023.

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- Academic Excellence
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics)
- Multicultural experience
- Family-centered values
- Smaller class setting
- **College credits in HS**
- Fast track Pathway:
  - Pharmacy
  - Nursing
  - Clinical Research
  - Medicine

## WHAT MAKES US AURA?

### AURA

Offers students an advanced Christian-based, Global-Mission-based, and STEAM-based curriculum with university credits in an International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum.

### INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) CANDIDATE

IB is a global-focused, rigorous academic program

### FAITH-BASED

Develops greater compassion and spiritual awareness

## TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE TODAY!



**YEAR-ROUND ENROLLMENT  
APPLY TODAY, ATTEND TOMORROW**

*AURA welcomes incoming 9th and 10th graders to apply!*



**LEARN MORE:**

<https://auracademy.org/p205/application-for-admission>

**Announcing the Edna Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund!**

- **\$10,000 scholarship**
- **\$5,000 remaining tuition cost**

AURA High School, an International Baccalaureate (IB) MYP and DP Candidate School\*. This school is pursuing authorization as an IB World School. These are schools that share a common philosophy—a commitment to high quality, challenging, international education that AURA High School believes is important for our students.

\*Only schools authorized by the IB Organization can offer any of its four academic programmes: the Primary Years Programme (PYP), the Middle Years Programme (MYP), the Diploma Programme, or the Career-related Programme (CP). Candidate status gives no guarantee that authorization will be granted. For further information about the IB and its programmes, visit [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)