

# A Very Special Event



Dear Friends,

The arts are so special because they're made for everyone—no matter where you live, what you look like, or what you can do. Today, I was grateful for the opportunity to head over to [The Music Center](#) for their 43rd annual Very Special Arts Festival. The event invited more than 2,000 kids of all ages and abilities, from schools across Los Angeles County, to enjoy performances from people with

disabilities, including dance, music, theatre, and even magic. Then, the youth got the chance to make some art for themselves, participating in workshops where they could paint, dance, and make instruments. The event kicked off with a few songs from [Straight Up Abilities](#), whose mission says "everyone can and should dance." I couldn't agree more! It was incredibly powerful to see the participants' confidence and joy and the audience's enthusiasm during the show.

If you'd like to see it for yourself, it's not too late! The Music Center is hosting the very first Very Special Arts Festival [Community Day](#) tomorrow, Saturday, April 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for people of all ages to get in on the fun. If you're available, I highly encourage you to attend. April is Arts Month and I can't think of a better grand finale. Everyone deserves to see themselves represented onstage, and the festival shows that arts bring an incredible sense of belonging to those who participate.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathryn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'K' being particularly large and stylized.

Kathryn Barger

Supervisor, Fifth District

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# Tune in Tuesday



In response to the growing homelessness crisis, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors established the Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness in July 2021. For six months, commission members closely studied our system and found areas for improvement that could change the course of how we approach homelessness services in Los Angeles County. On Tuesday, May 3, our Board will be voting on a motion I'm introducing that would implement the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations. These changes include establishing a new county entity to spearhead homelessness efforts, focusing on local solutions, streamlining the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, closely tracking data and metrics, and more. I encourage you to tune into our Board meeting on Tuesday to engage with the conversation.

[Read the motion.](#)

[Log into the meeting.](#)

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# Foothill Family



Foothill Family is a remarkable organization that meets children and families' holistic needs, offering parenting resources and mental health services. Their new Pasadena Family Center will further amplify the amazing efforts that are already underway!

[Engage with the organization.](#)

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# One for the Books



Last Saturday was a night for the books! Like so many of our favorite childhood stories, Kidspace Children's Museum makes an impact on kids and their families that lasts a lifetime. The museum's gala, where attendees dressed as their favorite storybook characters, invited our community to celebrate all the chapters they've had so far and join them for the journey ahead.

[Play at Kidspace.](#)

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# Mental Health Dialogue



The L.A. County Library has been hosting their Trailblazers in Conversation series to explore discussions with elected officials, authors, community organizers, and other trailblazers who are making a difference in our community. Tune in for a conversation with me and our L.A. County Library Director Skye Patrick on Monday! We'll be talking about mental health advocacy, my career journey, and more.

[RSVP for the conversation.](#)

[Enjoy library resources.](#)

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# Pups of the Week



Roxy



Harvey

We're back with two more amazing dogs who are ready for adoption. Roxy is a two-year-old Armenian Gampr who is very social and loves to play. She would do a best in a home where she's the only dog because she likes to hog all of the affection and is still practicing some of her manners. Harvey is a 10-month-old Australian Cattle dog who is very easy to handle and loves attention. He's playful and social and gets along with other large dogs especially well. If you have room in your heart and home for a new pet, please consider adopting one of these adorable pups from the Palmdale Animal Care Center!

[Pick your perfect pet.](#)

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# Armenian History Month



## Ronald Altoon Honoree

To mark the last week of Armenian History Month, our final honoree is Ronald Altoon, a third generation Armenian American. Trained as an architect, Ronald is a founding design partner of Altoon Partners, LLP and is an internationally recognized architect with numerous design awards. He is considered a global expert in commercial retail and mixed-use facilities and currently serves on the Board of Trustees of Woodbury University. He has made a tremendous impact on Armenia by designing the new state-of-the-art Paramaz Avedesian academic building for the American University of Armenia in Yerevan and contributed his time advising the AMAA on the design of a new K-12 Avedesian School and Community Center in Yerevan.

[Celebrate Armenian History.](#)

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# City Collaboration



If we're going to effectively provide services to our communities, we have to collaborate with local leaders. Thank you to the Contract Cities Association for inviting me to join you for your Los Angeles County Advocacy Day this week and for your commitment to the 66 cities in L.A. County that you represent every day.

[Connect with Contract Cities.](#)

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# New Farmers Market



This week, the City of Santa Clarita celebrated the opening of the Canyon Country Farmers Market, which will be held every Wednesday from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Canyon Country Community Center. Natalie from my SCV team was grateful for the opportunity to commemorate the launch, which marks the city's third farmers market, alongside Councilwoman Marsha McLean, Farmers Market Manager Larry McClements, and Mayor Laurene Weste.

[Check out the market.](#)

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# NoHo Arts District



NoHo Day is a neighborhood arts crawl on Saturday, April 30 from 5 to 10 p.m. with free theatre, music, dance, art, dining, and shopping experiences to celebrate the reopening of the North Hollywood Arts District. NoHo will offer free, full-length theatre shows including musicals about L.A. (with a special Ode to NoHo song), a modern take on Moby Dick, musical improv, and play readings of new works. There will be live music, dance classes, acting and filmmaking workshops, and art demonstrations from local North Hollywood visual artists. Plus, restaurants and local businesses will offer discounts! NoHo Day visitors are encouraged to download the [NoHo Card](#) to receive discounts from 50 NoHo restaurants, bars, and businesses.

[Celebrate NoHo Day.](#)

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# Share Your Perspective



**CFCI Listening Session**

**Help direct funding to  
programs that service  
your community**

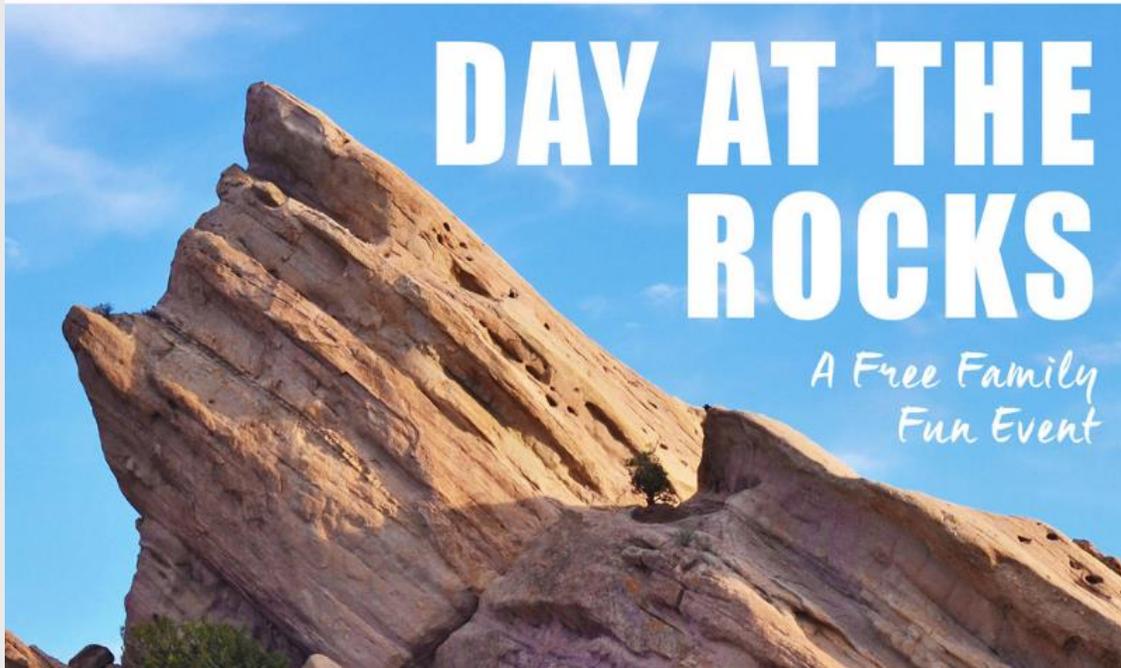


Lend your perspective to an important conversation about community funding and resources. Join the Alternatives to Incarceration Office on Saturday, in partnership with the Antelope Valley's [Paving the Way Foundation](#), to share your thoughts, ideas, and experiences. Attendees will also get a **\$20 gift card and free food!**

[Attend the event.](#)

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# Outdoor Adventures



Go explore a Fifth District landmark! The Department of Parks and Recreation is hosting a Day at the Rocks at Vasquez Rocks Natural Area on Saturday, April 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event will feature storytelling and songs with members of the Fernandeño Tataviam indigenous people, guided hikes, animal presentations, food trucks, crafts, educational booths, and more! For details, call (661) 268-0840.

[Visit Vasquez Rocks.](#)





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Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 974-5555

**Santa Clarita Valley:**

27441 Tourney Rd. Suite 120  
Santa Clarita, CA 91355  
(661) 287-3657

**Antelope Valley:**

42455 10th Street West, Suite 104  
Lancaster, CA 93534  
(661) 726-3600

**San Gabriel Valley:**

215 N. Marengo Ave. Suite 120  
Pasadena, CA 91101  
(626) 356-5407

**East San Gabriel Valley:**

615 E. Foothill Bl. Suite A  
San Dimas, CA 91773  
(909) 394-2264

**San Fernando Valley:**

21943 Plummer St.  
Chatsworth, CA 91311  
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