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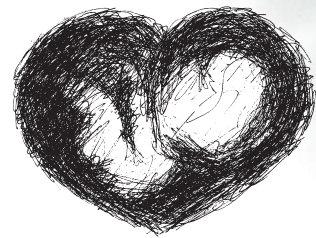
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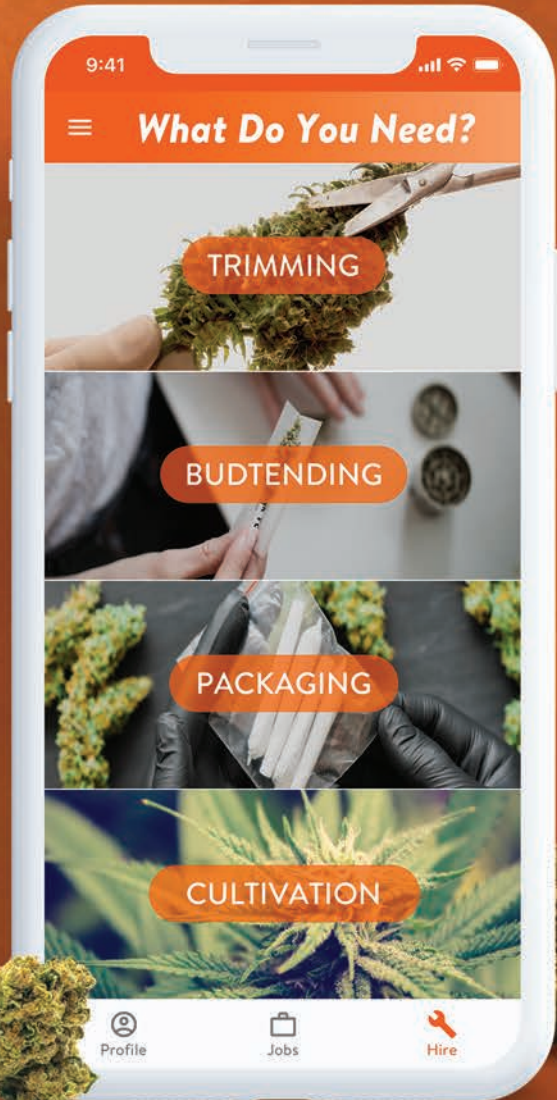
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ON THE COVER
The Venice canals

HUMBOLDT'S FINEST Hemp Infused Vodka



93
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March is one of those glorious months

in Los Angeles that signifies the coming of lush green vegetation, gorgeous fresh blooms, good surf, outdoor events, and so much room to play. Spring is about to bloom!

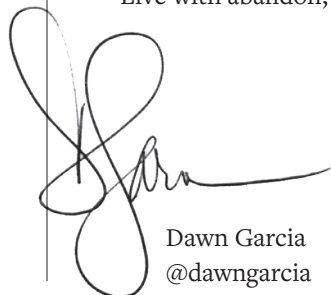
This month's issue is a deep dive into the city's rich history, including unsolved crimes, fascinating architecture, and a more intricate look inside the stories and fables surrounding Hollywood. Having been raised in the heart of Santa Monica and Venice Beach, my sister and I embarked on adventures powered by the lure of LA. Whether it was grabbing a donut with our grandfather at the local donut shop and hearing him tell us stories about golfing with Bob Hope, or roller skating along the boardwalk where my mom would tell us stories about listening to the Beatles at Hollywood Bowl, story was always at the heart of growing up. Venice Beach and Santa Monica happens to be where I would ditch school and escape.

Something about the beach always called my name. Venice and the canals were the source of sanity when life at home got a little crazy, and as I grew up and became an adult, I found myself utterly enthralled in *all* of LA. I explore on the regular. From roaming downtown during the day to holing up at Café Stella's in Silverlake sipping a latte to sipping an afternoon martini while writing at Musso and Frank's in Hollywood—there is no shortage of places to escape to. That's the beauty of LA. You can always eat, always drink, always find cold pressed juice or vegan options, cultural immersion, art. Honestly anything you can think up, it's here.

This month, you can also get your Britney Spears on at the hot new Britney Zone or get swept away in technology and art at the Wisdome downtown. No matter where you go and what you do, don't let the chaos of a politically jarring primary election or the looming reminder of tax season get to you.

Let go. Breathe. Dance. Play. Eat. Find something new to do that you've always wanted to try. This is a new beginning. Take it. Embrace it. Enjoy it.

Live with abandon,



Dawn Garcia
@dawngarcia



Something about the beach always called my name. Venice and the canals were a source of sanity, and as an adult, I found myself utterly enthralled by LA. I explore on the regular.

THE BUZZ



Losing a Legend

Kobe Bryant's death devastates Los Angeles.

On January 26, Los Angeles mourned the loss of one of our local legends when news hit of the deaths of retired LA Lakers Kobe Bryant and his 13-year-old daughter, Gianni, who were killed in a tragic helicopter crash along with seven other passengers. That evening, the Los Angeles City Hall was lit in purple and gold. “Kobe Bryant was a giant who inspired,

amazed, and thrilled people everywhere with his incomparable skill on the court—and awed us with his intellect and humility as a father, husband, creative genius, and ambassador for the game he loved,” Mayor Eric Garcetti said in a statement. “Bryant will live forever in the heart of Los Angeles and will be remembered through the ages as one of our greatest heroes.” Bry-

ant is survived by his wife, Vanessa, and their three daughters, Natalia, Bianka, and Capri.

The seven other passengers who lost their lives that day include Orange Coast College coach John Altobelli, his wife, Keri, and their daughter, Alyssa; mother and daughter, Sarah and Payton Chester; girl's basketball coach Christina Mauser; and pilot Ara Zobayan. **S**

PHOTO COURTESY OF MAYOR GARCETTI'S OFFICE

Aaron H. Bible, Eli Dupin,
Dawn Garcia

Honoring Activist Leda Ramos

Meet one of the original organizers of the Women's March Foundation.

Los Angeles has been home to many activists, but one woman, Leda Ramos, began a movement that sparked something extraordinary when she organized the Women's March Foundation in Los Angeles. Inspired after the 2016 election, when she says she was "shaken by the deep misogyny" displayed during that time, Ramos reached out to find women who shared her passions and became a leader in a march that's continually bringing women and supporters of equality together. A defender of women's rights, Ramos is also an artist and educator at Cal State LA, where she teaches Chicana Latinx art, film, visual culture, and trans-media organizing. She is an activist and organizer, engaging themes of feminism, resistance, and community power. This year marked the fourth annual Women's March through downtown Los Angeles, with more than 300,000 marchers marching to advance women's rights.

PHOTOS (TOP): RENDERINGS COURTESY AEONBOTANIKA.COM. (BOTTOM): BY DAWN GARCIA



BY THE NUMBERS

8 PERCENT

The percentage of water your body loses on a 10-hour flight

SOURCE: rustourismnews.com

76,923 CASES

Number of missing person reports filed in California in 2018

SOURCE: oag.ca.gov/missing/stats

\$4 MILLION

Projected sales of electric cars sold worldwide in 2020

242K PEOPLE

Number of Americans working in solar energy

SOURCE: seia.org



AEON BOTANIKA

A new wellness space is opening its doors to expand the cannabis canvas.

West Hollywood is the city that launched the first legal cannabis café in the nation with OG Cannabis Cafe. The city's commitment to bringing more like-minded companies into the space and to the community is leading the charge. This spring, Angelenos are invited to Aeon Botanika, a new modern cannabis wellness space. The storefront will include a plant-based café; wellness center with services such as bodywork, acupuncture, and other holistic services; and a Moroccan-inspired tea and hashish lounge. Its mission is to introduce "Cannabis with Conscience, leading the way in curating brands in our stores that share our values for high-quality, social equity, and the ethical, sustainable production of cannabis products." On-site consumption is allowed.

@aeonbotanika

"I'm teaching my daughter that the sun goes down each night because it's mad at her. Probably gonna write a book on parenting at some point."

—Ryan Reynolds, actor



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sensIBILITIES

BY STEPHANIE WILSON, EDITOR IN CHIEF

1 READING ROOM *The Glass Hotel* by Emily St. John Mandel (Knopf, \$27). Showcasing her signature literary prowess, Mandel explores the infinite ways we search for meaning in this much-hyped new release, expected March 24. Also out this month: *It's Not All Downhill from Here* by *How Stella Got Her Groove Back* author Terry McMillan.

2 STREAM THIS Freeform's *The Bold Type*. Now in its third season, this sleeper hit could be your new favorite series. It's mine, in no small part because it centers on three young women working for a New York mag. But also because it's witty AF, aspirational, and depicts successful women who are defined not by their relationships but by their careers. It's empowering, and you should watch it for free on Freeform, or on your favorite streaming platform.

3 LISTEN UP NPR's *Life Kit* podcast offers tools to keep it together. And by you, I mean me; I need all the help I can get. Picking out a lightbulb last fall had me staring mouth agape in a store aisle for a half hour trying to make sense of all the options. After listening to "Picking Out a Lightbulb, Made Easy," I know which bulb's for me. *Life Kit*'s episodes are short, to the point, and offer tips on how to do things like start therapy, start a book club, master your budget, remove stains, and juggle paperwork, appointments, and repairs. Basically how to adult.

4 GROWING TREND *Pot in Pots*. The Swiss-cheese-leaved *Monstera* is last year's "It" plant. Cannabis is the hashtagable houseplant of 2020. Get in on the trend. Depending where you live, you can find clones or seeds at select dispensaries with an easy google—while you're at it, look up local laws regarding home grows. Cannabis cuttings (a.k.a. clones) are pretty easy to root—check *Leafly.com* for tips—and you should definitely bring some to your next plant swap. Spread the word, spread the love.

"YOU'RE NOT A ROAD COMIC TILL YOU'VE WATCHED REAL SEX AND AMERICAN GREED ALONE IN YOUR HOTEL ROOM."

—Liza Shlesinger, comedian

LOCAL PRODUCT



Glamorous Cannabis

A hemp-based self-care line offers a link to the senses.

Cannabis wellness has become a real part of our daily lives, from lit yoga classes to infused bath bombs, topicals, and luxury CBD products. Mineral, founded by Matthew "Mills" Miller is a top-shelf hemp-based bath and body product line. Among the impressive lineup is Maison and Sousa, both available at the Neiman Marcus (neimanmarcus.com) in Los Angeles. Maison (\$70), made with hints of sage, sandalwood, and mint, is intended to reduce inflammation and soothe stressed skin in need of restoration. Sousa (\$70) is a body oil and treatment made with 200 milligrams of CBD and the hemp-derived terpenes linalool and limonene.

The line is known for its sleek design, elegant aesthetic, scientific sophistication, and scents that evoke the undeniable allure of French perfumes. Miller is known as a pioneer in the cultivation of hemp plants, with an eye for design, creative campaigns, and high-quality products. You can find several products at Neiman Marcus in LA, San Francisco, Boston, and Las Vegas.



Coming Soon

HALL OF FLOWERS



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VOX POPULI

Question: What is the one thing in life you want to be remembered for?



DAVID CAROL
Photographer, Publisher
New York, NY

Being a great dad!
Everything else is just
biscuits and gravy.



CHAD M. SCANLON
Asst. Super of Road Operations
Fort Worth, TX

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compassionate person
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what is right.



STARLA KOLENIC
Production Assistant
Canoga Park, CA

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better place.

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Promescent promises
longer-lasting sex.

Although PE, or premature ejaculation, doesn't have quite the same stigma as ED (erectile dysfunction), it can definitely become a barrier to intimate and meaningful lovemaking. It's also a common problem for couples. In fact, *Psychology Today* recently reported on the "orgasm gap." In case you hadn't noticed, men tend to reach an orgasm during heterosexual lovemaking about three times faster than women—5.5 minutes vs. 18 minutes. According to the new brand and product Promescent, a climax-delay spray, claim it prolongs lovemaking. So, will it become the next Viagra? Check it out for yourself and see if it improves your sex life.



promescent.com

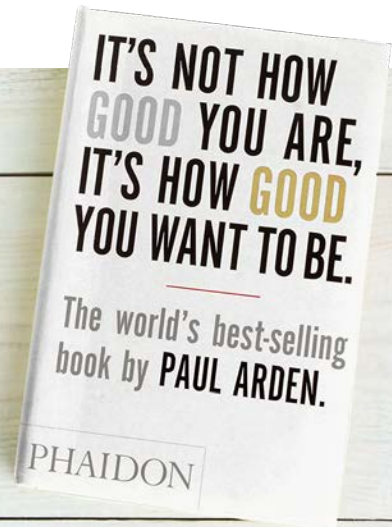
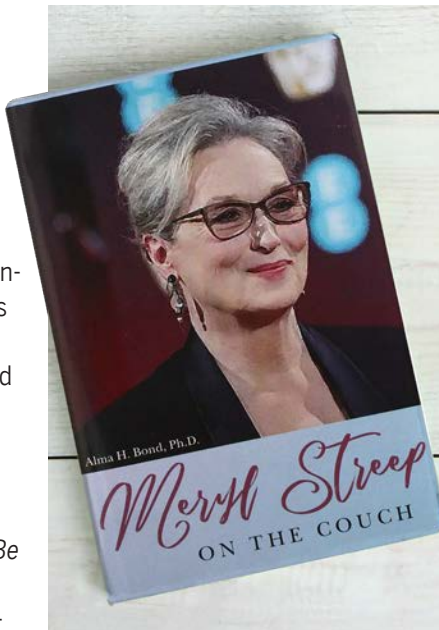
GOOD READS

Add these books to your reading list.

Meryl Streep on the Couch by doctor Alma H. Bond is a look at the inner workings of actress and activist Meryl Streep. Bond, a clinical psychoanalyst, is known for her couch sessions with famous women in history like Barbra Streisand, Hillary Clinton, Marilyn Monroe, Jackie Kennedy Onassis, and Michelle Obama. Streep approached her when researching the role of psychoanalyst for her film *The Psychotherapist* and what follows are stories, insights, and a deeper appreciation for Streep as a woman, mother, activist, and actress. Bond was married to the late *Streetcar Named Desire* actor Rudy Bond.

Available at amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com and bancroftpress.com

It's Not How Good You Are, It's How Good You Want to Be by Paul Arden may possibly be the most encouraging book anyone in the marketing, publishing, or advertising worlds can read. Pages and pages of honest, inspiring anecdotes, quotes, personal stories, and failures and successes make this book a must-read. Answering everyday questions with logical responses, Arden has written a cohesive handbook for navigating through the terrain of life by altering your conditioned mindset. The



message: it doesn't matter what job you have or where you are in your journey. His positivity and intellect will make it near impossible not to accomplish something epic in your own life.

Available on amazon.com

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disrupts the
ridesharing
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PLAYING WITH THE BIG BOYS

RideConnect qualified as a finalist in Austin's \$100,000 City:One Challenge, an initiative powered by Ford Mobility, in collaboration with corporate partners including AT&T, Ford Motor Company, Microsoft, and Dell Technologies.

In an age where using a rideshare service like Lyft and Uber is commonplace, finding a company that has the potential to disrupt the way we use those services is a welcome solution. While it's convenient in big bustling cities like Los Angeles and San Diego, as well as Orange County, something about calling a stranger to pick you up can feel like a bit of a gamble in terms of safety, cleanliness, etc. Thankfully, most drivers are great conversationalists, have clean cars, and undergo safety-approved security checks (if you're using Lyft). And when

you find a truly great driver, how amazing and convenient would it be to be able to call them directly for pickups whenever you needed to go somewhere?

RideConnect, founded in 2015 by Santosh Krishnan, addresses some of the challenges we face when using Uber or Lyft, including safety, building trust and good working relationships with drivers, and being able to pre-negotiate rates that serve riders and drivers alike.

Krishnan got the idea for RideConnect while waiting for a cab one night in the pouring rain in New York

“Riders have the power to only get rides with trusted drivers and can even insist that these drivers [meet certain criteria] before they allow them into their private community.”

—Santosh Krishnan,
co-founder of RideConnect

City. “Heading to the East side for the evening often [meant] waiting forever to get a cab back to the West side, especially around 4 a.m.,” Krishnan says. “Often cabs would only [take you] if you were going where they wanted.” Krishnan and his friends were frustrated by the near impossibility of finding a cab that night, when a perfectly normal looking Toyota pulled up and the driver rolled down the window. “Twenty dollars anywhere in Manhattan,” he said. That was the aha moment.

“Without even thinking, we hopped in and

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were off,” Krishnan says. “It was only on the way that I started feeling a bit uneasy. I don’t know who this is. I have no idea if he’s going to harm me or not, and frankly, I didn’t give it much thought before accepting his offer so readily. This was not a good situation.” That onset of reasonable fear really got Krishnan thinking.

“What if we could have an app where you push a button and someone from your trusted private network were to come to your aid?” Krishnan joined forces with Allan Pichardo, and together they began development of RideConnect. “That’s when we turned our focus on transportation and how to facilitate it within a

trusted private network,” Krishnan says.

Doing field research and utilizing both Uber and Lyft, Krishnan noted patterns where he’d request a ride and no drivers were nearby or available. Over the course of several rides, he would connect with drivers he felt comfortable with and they’d exchange numbers. In the event he couldn’t find a ride? He’d give those drivers a call. “From that experience, it became clear that in many cases, even if a driver is not in your vicinity, the prospect of return business will motivate the driver to be available for you when you need a ride,” Krishnan says. “As long as you can inform the driver with enough time

for him to come to your area, the driver will consider your business over the hope of business from someone else.”

Knowing that the world we live in is full of potential dangers, RideConnect is intended to offer users the tools to help them make smarter decisions before getting into a stranger’s car with its private ridesharing platform. “The intent is to enable the rider to selectively allow drivers into their network so that the drivers meet certain minimum criteria.” The private network app gives riders the option to select criteria they need met in order to feel safe, giving them control of who picks them up. “With these features, riders have the

power to only get rides with trusted drivers and can even insist that these drivers pass certain background checks or produce certain evidence of their qualifications before they allow them into their private community.”

In the gig economy, making a profit is very rare with the exception of companies like Airbnb. Eliminating a middleman by delivering services to both sides of user and service provider is critical to seeing real tangible

profits. “We believe that for us to make money, we need to facilitate transportation between those who want it and those who provide it, while giving both sides options in terms of pricing, privacy, and security,” Krishnan says. “Instead of preventing both sides from transacting with one another, RideConnect encourages it.”

One of the major concerns of RideConnect at present is enforced background checks for drivers. Krishnan hopes in time, that can be rectified. Like all rideshare services, safety is paramount, and there is still a lot that needs to be worked out to make it the safest alternative to taxi cabs, trains, subways, and buses. ■

PLENTY TO SHARE

Ride hailing (also referred to as “ride-sharing”) services are used by roughly 74.3 million people in the United States alone. Revenue generated from ridesharing will amount to \$56.23 million this year, showing an increase of \$20 million.

SOURCE: statista.com



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Mona Van Joseph has been an intuitive since 2002. She is an author, columnist, and host of *Psychic View Radio*. She created *dicewisdom.com*, which also has a smart-phone app. mona.vegas

MARCH HOROSCOPE

What do the stars hold for you?

TEXT MONA VAN JOSEPH

FEB. 19-MAR. 20

PISCES ♋

Listen to the compliment that presents itself to you as a criticism; energies will make you better through jealousy and roadblocks. It could be that you realize it's time for a change.

MAR. 21-APR. 19

ARIES ♈

There is something to celebrate that presents itself to you. To thank the universe for this opportunity or inspiration, donate to an organization a few times this month.

APR. 20-MAY 20

TAURUS ♉

Do not try to impress anyone who isn't treating you well. Please agree with the vibration that you are perfect the way

you are—and totally step back from the people who are taking advantage of your good nature.

MAY 21-JUNE 20

GEMINI ♊

It's time to apologize for the things you have done to hurt people. If your ego won't let you actually call them to apologize, write them a "spiritual" letter telling them you were unfair to them and that you are sorry.

JUNE 21-JULY 22

CANCER ♋

"Today is the first day of the rest of your life." The door to your future couldn't open any wider. If you want the job, you can have it. If you want that relationship to go to the next level, you can have it.

JULY 23-AUG. 22

LEO ♌

People are about to prove to you how much they love you. March is when your gratitude toward people who are supporting you will make all the difference.

AUG. 23-SEPT. 22

VIRGO ♍

There are angels surrounding you. Pennies and feathers in your path are likely. This is a month of being aware of how things are lining up for you. Accept all invitations.

SEPT. 23-OCT. 22

LIBRA ♎

Coincidence will be your best friend this month. It's time to drop (old) ideas that you can't have what you want...you totally can. Pay attention!

PISCES, ENERGIES WILL USE JEALOUSY AND ROADBLOCKS TO MAKE YOU BETTER THIS MONTH. IT COULD BE THAT IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE.

OCT. 23-NOV. 21

SCORPIO ♏

Practice saying nice things about people. Do not take on the bad karma right now of backstabbing those who truly do not deserve it. Ask yourself: "Am I basing my opinion on someone else's agenda?"

NOV. 22-DEC. 21

SAGITTARIUS ♐

You are the owner of this lifetime and acting as though you do have the power to change things will make all the difference this month. You will get a sign that you are on the right track.

DEC. 22-JAN. 19

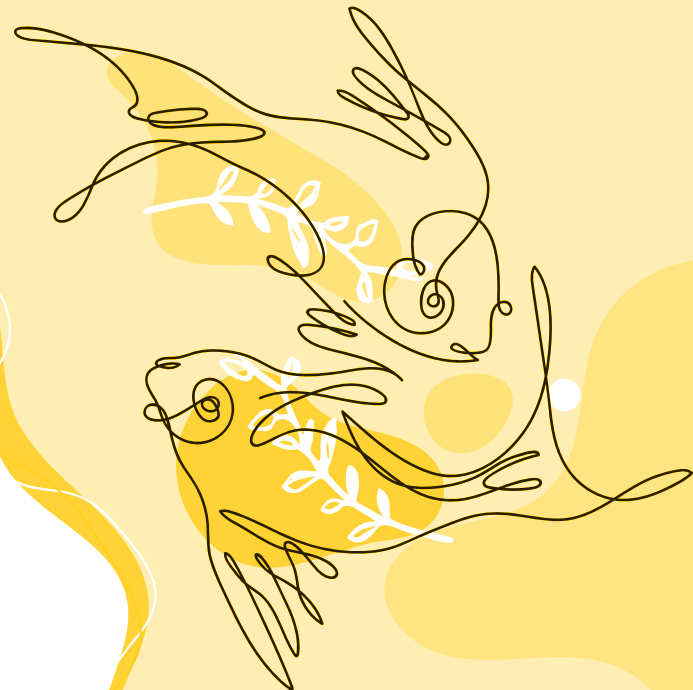
CAPRICORN ♑

When you focus on one thing at a time, you are a genius. Avoid multitasking this month. Better to spend the time to make sure it's done right the first time.

JAN. 20-FEB. 18

AQUARIUS ♒

Embrace the high energy of spinning lots of plates right now. You are the chef who has many pots simmering, and it's time to admit that you like it this way. Thrive by making the magic happen with all the resources available to you.



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TRIVIA

A Timeline of

A walk through history reveals random facts, interesting tales, and more reasons to love LA.

TEXT DAWN GARCIA



PHOTO BY KEVIN FREYMON

Los Angeles officially became an American city on April 4, 1850, named El Pueblo de la Reyna de los Angeles, meaning “The Town of the Queen of Angels.” While this is still contested by historians, it is now universally referred to as the “City of Angels.”

It was established as a settlement in 1781 by a Spanish governor named Felipe de Neve. Originally part of Mexico, LA became a municipality of the US after the Mexican War of Independence. It was purchased as part of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo prior to California getting its official statehood in the union.

The city dwells in a basin that is surrounded by mountains as high as 10,000 feet and a sprawling sea by way of the Pacific Ocean. Its first riches came when oil was struck in the 1890s, which led to a surge of settlers claiming Los Angeles as their new home.

Fast-forward a few decades and Los Angeles became (and still is) the busiest container port of all the Americas. With growth came progress, including engineering, technology, design, and eventually film and television. Home to more than 88 cities and 4 million residents within the county limits, Los Angeles is the source of some truly fascinating tales. Below is a look at some of the interesting things you may not know about the City of Angels.

Venice Canal Historic

District | 1905

Los Angeles has so many extraordinary features, but this historic

district tucked away in photogenic Venice Beach feels more like you’ve been transported to Venice, Italy. Cute waterfront cottages and bridges line this European-like district that’s a mecca for creatives. It’s the vision of developer Abbot Kinney (yes, the man the eponymous district is named for). While the area has changed considerably with the inclusion of modern homes amid classic originals, the district was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. Where permitted, residents can take kayaks and rowboats onto the canals that lead through the sea gates of Marina del Rey.

Birth of Hollywood | 1907-1915

Hollywood was once an agriculture mecca before banker and real estate mogul H.J. Whitley purchased property and opened the Hollywood Hotel (now the Dolby Theatre). The first film to be completed in Hollywood, *The Count of Monte Cristo*, was released in 1908, after ties with Chicago-based studios led by Thomas Edison forced filmmakers to move out West. In 1910, Prospect Avenue was born, which inevitably became the famed Hollywood Boulevard. By 1915, more than 15 studios were in production around town. Today there are more than 100 movie and television shows filmed every day in Los Angeles.

LACMA | 1913

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Natural History Museum are two of the city’s first known museums. Originally called the Los Angeles Coun-

ty Museum of History, Science, and Art, the museum opened to the public in 1913 in Exposition Park. It wasn’t until 1961 that the museum split to become what we now know as LACMA and the Natural History Museum.

Black Dahlia | 1947

Downtown Los Angeles is the last place the Black Dahlia, a.k.a. Elizabeth Short, was seen alive. Rumor has it that on January 9, 1947, she was dropped off by Robert “Red” Manley at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel. Guests claim to have seen her in the cocktail lounge, but the staff at the hotel claims she slipped out one of the many secret exits in the ballrooms (the exits still exist today). An aspiring actress, Short never made it in the film industry. Her body was discovered on the morning of January 15, 1947, by Betty Bersinger, who was out walking with her three-year-old daughter. Her body had been severed into two pieces, completely drained of blood, and she was left on the west side of South Norton Avenue near Coliseum Street in Leimert Park. There were more than 150 suspects, but no one was ever charged. To date, the murder is arguably one of the most notorious cold cases in America, and certainly the most prominent unsolved case in Los Angeles history. The name Black Dahlia is linked to the 1946 noir film *The Blue Dahlia*, and Short was known for adorning her hair with dahlia blooms.

A fun tidbit is that underneath the Biltmore hotel, there are rooms, tunnels, walkways, and in-

W W

weavers





Historic Places to Visit in LA

Olvera Street, El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument (1781)

Charles Lummis Home and Gardens (1894)

Hollywood Forever Cemetery (1899)

Venice Canals Historic District (1905)

Alfred Rosenheim Mansion, a.k.a. *American Horror Story* house (1908)

Beverly Hills Hotel (1912)

Barnsdall Art Park (1919)

Griffith Park Observatory (1933)

Chinatown Central Plaza (1938)

Sheats-Goldstein House by John Lautner (1963)

interesting fixtures, many of which have been featured in films. One of the more recognizable is the black and white tiled bathroom used in a prominent scene in *Fight Club*.

Beverly Hills | 1910-Present

Beverly Hills may be known as the land of the wealthy, Rodeo Drive, and films and shows like *Pretty Woman*, *Beverly Hills Hillbillies*, *90210*, and *Beverly Hills Cop* (I-III), but it also happens to be where oil was struck in 1910. In fact, Beverly Hills High once produced 400 barrels of oil a day on its property, earning the school a whopping \$300,000 annually in revenue. However, due to concerns about cancer-causing toxic fumes (lawsuits ensued), oil production ceased in 2017. Clearly there was much more than meets

the eye at this famously pristine public high school!

Hollywood Sign | 1923

A number of modern films have made the Hollywood sign infinitely epic, like *Beyond the Valley of the Dolls*, *Superman*, and *Independence Day*, but LA's iconic signage began construction years prior in 1923. Constructed with 3,700 20-watt light bulbs, spaced eight inches apart, the Hollywood sign was initially a nod to a new housing development called Hollywoodland, which real estate developers Eli Clark, General Moses Sherman, Tracy Shoults, Sydney Woodruff and the *Los Angeles Times* publisher Harry Chandler invested in. The letters weigh a cumulative total of 480,000 pounds and are each 45 feet tall. According to

hollywoodsign.org, after years of neglect, the "land" was removed permanently from the sign in 1973 by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce.

At one time, visitors could hike all the way to the Hollywood sign, but it has since been closed off due to the number of suicides and accidents reported. You can still hike on trails in Griffith Park, with views of the sign and the Griffith Park Observatory, but direct access is prohibited. **SN**

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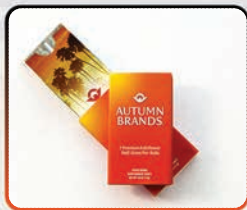


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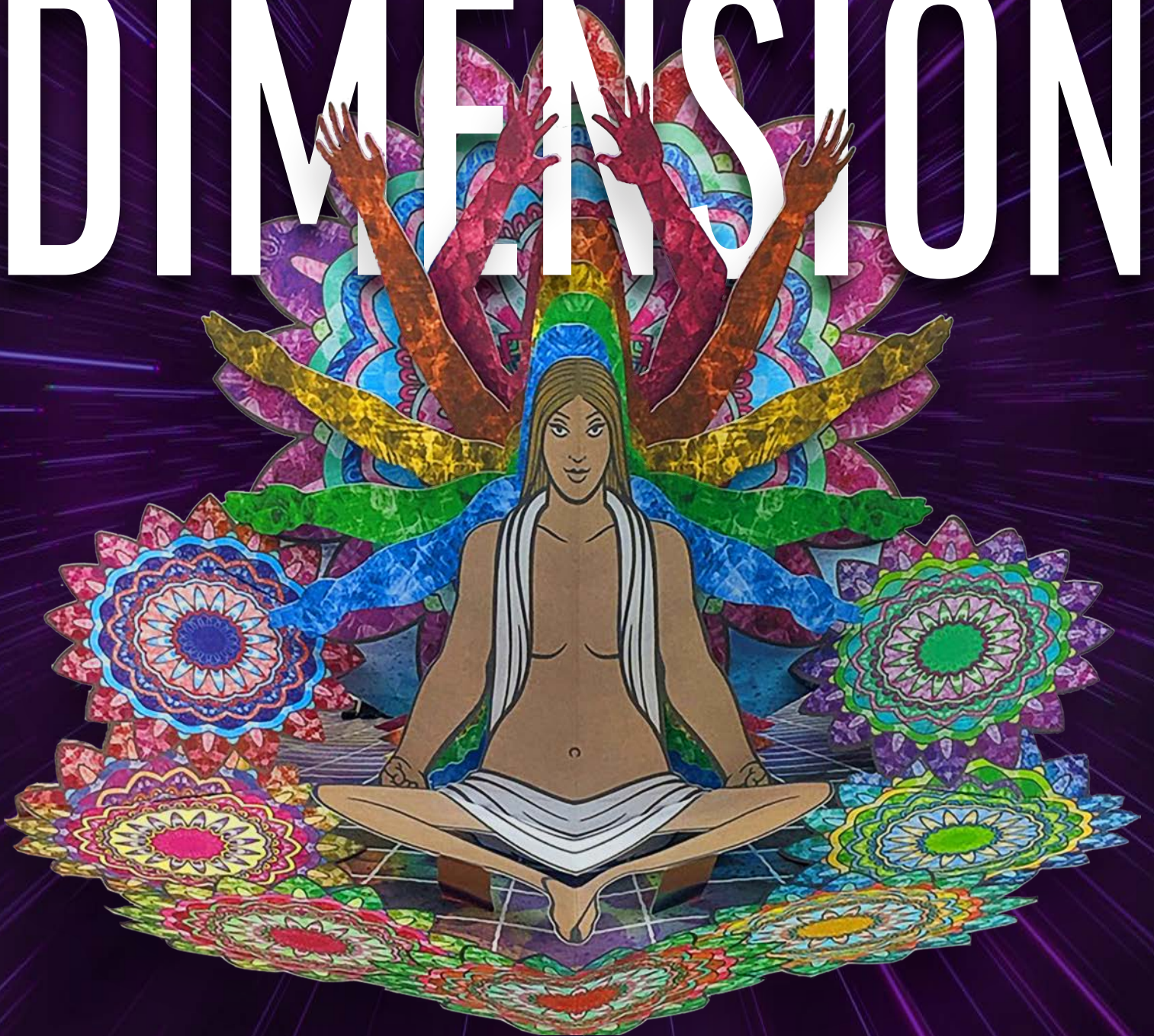
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strains for brains

Paper-engineering obsessives create the first pop-up book to explore the world of cannabis.

TEXT LELAND RUCKER

In a New
DIMENSION



Collaboration is a wonderful thing. When my friend Rosston Meyer told me a few years ago that he was planning a pop-up cannabis book, I thought it sounded like a great idea. I knew Meyer ran an independent publishing house designing pop-up books in collaboration with artists. Meyer is a designer with a passion for art and pop culture, so I imagined his books were a modern upgrade of the old-school pop-up books I played with as a child—3-D elements and foldouts, tabs to pull and wheels to spin—but with a modern aesthetic that appeals to adults. “A pop-up on pot would be cool to flip through and play with,” I remember thinking. “I hope he does it.”

A few years later, Meyer came around to show me a physical mock-up of his pot-themed pop-up, which he’d titled *Dimensional Cannabis*. What he showed me was a modern art form I wasn’t aware existed. Yes, the book featured 3-D elements and foldouts, with tabs to pull and wheels to spin, but what I had pictured was similar only in concept. These were intricate and elaborate kinetic paper sculptures that painted a picture and brought it to life. I was blown away. So, when he asked if I’d be interested in writing the words to go on the pages before me, I signed on immediately.

Altogether, *Dimensional Cannabis* took more than three years to complete, with a total of nine people contributing to the final product published by Poposition Press, Meyer’s independent publishing house. A small press, Poposition designs, publishes,

and distributes limited-edition pop-up books that feature artists or subjects that Meyer finds of deep personal interest. He got started in the genre in 2013, when he started working on a collaboration with Jim Mahfood, a comic book creator known as Food One. The resulting *Pop-Up Funk* features Mahfood’s diverse designs transformed into interactive three-dimensional pop-ups. The limited-edition run of 100 copies were all constructed by hand.

Since then, Poposition has worked with a number of contemporary artists to publish titles like *Triad* by cute-culture artist Junko Mizuno and *Necronomicon* by macabre master Skinner.

Meyer has been fascinated by pop-up books since he was a kid, and in 2013, he began concentrating on paper engineering and book production. “After making a couple books focused on just artists, I thought that creating a pop-up book about cannabis would be a good idea,” he says. “There’s nothing else like it in the market, and there’s an audience for adult-themed pop-up books.”

For *Dimensional Cannabis*, Meyer collaborated with Mike Giant, a renowned American illustrator, graffiti writer, tattooer, and artist. Giant’s medium of choice is a Sharpie, and Giant’s detailed line work is instantly recognizable. An avid proponent of cannabis, Giant illustrated the entire *Dimensional Cannabis* book.

Giant and Meyer met at a weekly open studio Giant hosted in Boulder. “When the idea of doing a pop-up book about cannabis came up, he asked if I would illustrate it,” Giant says. “I’ve been an

advocate for cannabis use for decades, so it didn’t take long for me to agree to work on the project.”

Meyer began by sending Giant reference materials to visualize. “I’d get it drawn out, hand it off, and get some more stuff to illustrate,” Giant says. “He’d send me previews of the finished pages as we went. It was really cool to see my line drawings colored and cut to shape. That process went on for months and months until everything for the book was accounted for.”

The process of making pop-up books is called “paper engineering.” I love obsessives, and the engineers who put this book together, make no mistake, are the ones who spend endless hours figuring out the tiniest details of the folds and materials necessary so that water pipe emerges every time you open the paraphernalia page.

“David Carter and I started talking about the idea a couple years prior to actually starting on the book,” Meyer says. “The initial concepts for each spread were figured out, and a different paper-engineer peer was asked to design each spread so that the book had variation throughout.”

Dimensional Cannabis is divided into six pages, or spreads, covering the cannabis plant’s biology, medical properties, cultivation, history, and influence on popular culture. The paraphernalia page features many items we associate with cannabis consumption over the years in America, from rolling papers and pipes to vaporizers, dabs, and concentrates—and that foot-long bong that miraculously appears as you turn the page.

One spread opens to the full plant, with information on its

LEFT: *Dimensional Cannabis* includes six pop-up pages, including this colorful, meditating figure that dominates the medical spread. It was designed by Isabel Uriá.



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Left: The paraphernalia spread shows the many ways people consume cannabis, and includes many items, including a clear, acetate bong, rolling papers, and a vaporizer. It was produced by Ray Marshall, who, Meyer says, “basically knocked it out of the park on his first version.”

Below: Well-known illustrator Mike Giant provided the cover, with Kevin Steele providing the coloring for the book’s six pop-up spreads

unique and fascinating properties. Another opens to a colorful, meditating figure with text about the healing properties of cannabis. One page is dedicated to its cultivation possibilities, basic genetics, and the differences between indoor and outdoor growing.

The history spread takes us back to the beginnings of the curious and long-standing connection between humans and cannabis. Engineer Simon Arizpe had worked with Meyer before and jumped at the chance to work on that one. “I wanted it to be Eurasian-centric as the viewer opens the page, showing the early uses

of cannabis in ancient Vietnam and China,” Arizpe says. “As the viewer engages with the pop-up, cannabis’s use in the new world spreads across the page,” he adds. “We decided [to focus] on moments in time that were either politically relevant, like weed legalization, or culturally significant, like *Reefer Madness*.”

Arizpe feels like the entire project is an example of what can be done working with talented people outside the traditional publishing engine. “Rosston came up with an idea that has a big following and made it happen,” he says. “It is pretty exciting when people can do that out of nothing.”



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For Meyer, who says he likes a good sativa when he's working, the project was a labor of love that spans all his areas of interest. "Not only was this a great experience putting together such a unique book, but having different paper

engineers work on each spread made this a real collaboration," he says. "There have only been a couple pop-up books produced with a roster of engineers. *Dimensional Cannabis* is for cannabis lovers and pop-up book collectors alike." ❧

POP-UPGRADE

If the book alone isn't enough to decorate your coffee table, Position Press offers two more ordering tiers, complete with extra merch to maximize your enjoyment.

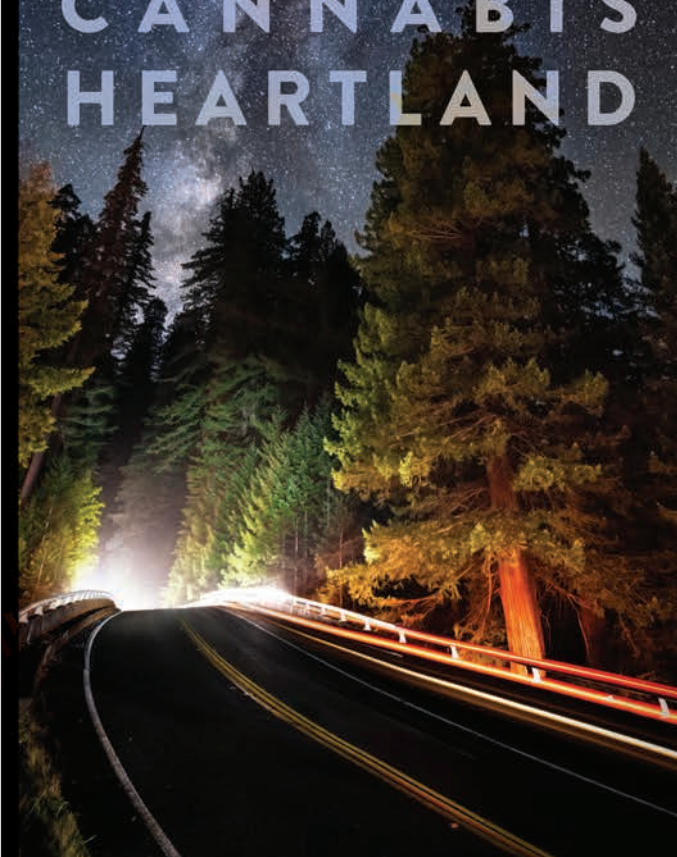
The Collector's Edition (\$240) includes an enhanced pop-up book with gold-foil case wrap, a foil-stamped slipcase, The Good Stuff enamel pin, and a Hemp art print on hemp paper.

The Connoisseur Edition (\$420) comes with a wooden laser-etched slipcover, two sets of enamel pins, a Dope art print, and a Gramps art print, both on hemp paper.



Meyer originally conceived a scene showing people looking at the book, which morphed into a celebration of the universality of the plant in many cultures and people throughout history.

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THE SCENE

Lyfting Off

The third annual Lyft Lounge kicks off the Sundance Film Festival.

TEXT DAWN GARCIA

Every year the world watches as independent films and new and notable filmmakers on the rise make their film debuts at the world-renowned Sundance Film Festival. This year, Sundance partnered with the Lyft Lounge for the third year to bring visitors a unique escape amid the snowy weather. Featuring multiple panel discussions with filmmakers, including the cast of *Dinner in America*, *Time*, and *Promising Young Woman*, the event offered the opportunity to experience community and inspiration.

In the throes of the festival, the lounge kicked off with *The Atlantic* Filmmaker Chat, moderated by the magazine's executive editor, Adrienne LaFrance. The

presentation featured Garrett Bradley, the up-and-coming director of the documentary *Time*, and Mike Masserman, head of social impact at Lyft. The film looks at the problematic rise of over-incarceration. Later that day, *Dinner in America* director Pat Healy and cast members Kyle Gallner, Emily Skeggs, Griffin Gluck, Lea Thompson, Adam Carter Rehmeier, and Mary Lynn Rajsckub rode VIP to the festival with Lyft. *Dinner in America* tells the story of on-the-lam punk-rocker Simon and obsessed-with-his-band misfit Patty—and their unexpected love story as they journey through decaying Midwestern suburbs. Celebrating the after party in the Lyft

Lounge was *Promising Young Woman* writer and director Emerald Fennell, cast members Carey Mulligan and Bo Burnham, producers Tom Ackerley, Sophia Kerr, and Josey McNamara, and composer Anthony Willis. Cyn performed during the party, and other notables included artists Fletcher and Keto. The film tells the story of a young woman who, traumatized by a tragic event in her past, seeks vengeance against the men who cross her. **S**

Lyft is the official rideshare partner for the Sundance Film Festival. #lyftlounge



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PHOTO BY TASOS KATOPODIS/
GETTY IMAGES FOR LYFT

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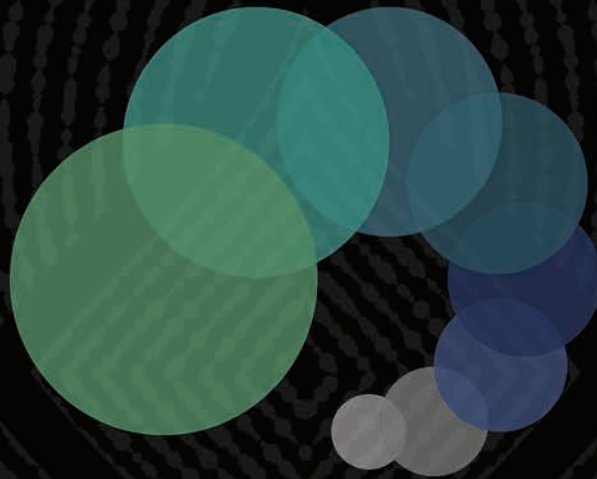
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BELOW: BRITNEY SPEARS: THE ZONE



THE ZONE
by Britney Spears

On the Calendar

Spring is in the air. Can you feel it?

TEXT ELI DUPIN AND DAWN GARCIA

This month in Los Angeles, the city is blooming with fresh events, yummy food fests, and things to do. In the words of Gertrude S. Wister, “The flowers of late winter and early spring occupy places in our hearts well out of proportion to their size.” Let’s do this. **S**

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It’s Britney, bitch! Relive your favorite Britney Spears moments with a truly epic experience at the Britney Spears Zone in Los Angeles. A nod to every great Britney song

and music video, this multiple dimension immersive experience invites visitors to play in several interactive rooms that span the pop icon’s musical career. “This one-of-a-kind exhibit...promises to immerse fans in the life and legacy of the star,” according to the official website. Don a Burmese python,



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The CBA Business Awards is a ceremony honoring those in the cannabis industry bringing progress and innovation worthy of recognition and esteemed accolades.

Lantern Festival

Mar. 7, 12–5 p.m.
 Chinese American Museum, 425 N Los Angeles St., DTLA
 Free
camla.org

The 19th Annual Los Angeles Lantern Festival celebrates the closing of Chinese New Year festivities, Chinese American heritage and cultural legacy, and the continued contributions to the community.

Art Walk Night Market

Mar. 12, 6 p.m.
 399 S. Spring St., DTLA
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downtownartwalk.org



Drawing & Art Class

Mar. 12, 9 a.m.
 Raminfard School of Arts, Rancho Park
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3rd Annual Herstory: A Series of Womxn Art Show

Mar. 21, 12–4 p.m.
 Tea n Rose, DTLA
 \$25
 Tickets on Eventbrite

In honor of Women’s History Month, the Debbie Allen Dance Academy x Artfonfa present this beautiful art show and performance art series.

Vegan Street Fair

Mar. 21–22, 11 a.m.
 Vegan Exchange LA, North Hollywood
 Free
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Los Angeles Fashion Week 2020

Mar. 26–29, 5 p.m.
 The Majestic
 Downtown, DTLA
 \$50–\$3,000
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Curve Fest Los Angeles

Mar. 27–29, 7 p.m.
 Pershing Square, DTLA
 \$30–\$300
 Tickets on Eventbrite

Curve Fest, a.k.a. Curvybella, is a festival to empower plus-size women and promote body acceptance, in an effort to put an end to fat and body shaming. The carnival-themed event will include a street parade, artists, entertainers, and speakers.



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Category: Cultivation
 Author: Autumn Shelton, CFO of Autumn Brands
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Cannabis can bring relief to the body, making yoga more accessible.

Much of the latest science confirms cannabis is effective in reducing internal inflammation. The plant is also believed to provide temporary relief from bodily aches and pains, making the physical practice of yoga more accessible to some. Furthermore, without these restrictive ties to the physical self, one is finally free to achieve one of the central goals of yoga: a stronger mind-body connection. As the body becomes more capable of unhindered movement, the mind can bring full awareness to the execution of each pose, both working in harmony to stretch, strengthen, and renew.

Is cannabis a gift from nature to help mankind reach a higher state of peace and tranquility?

Although cultivators and connoisseurs alike believe that premium, pesticide-free marijuana certainly plays a role in helping to achieve optimum wellness and better mind-body balance, we may never know for certain. Scientists continue to provide further insight into the various physical benefits of the plant. As to whether or not cannabis is the perfect complement to the mental and spiritual practice of yoga—the true answer may be as personal and varied as each individual yogi.

Autumn Brands is a licensed cannabis cultivator in coastal Santa Barbara County that is 50 percent women owned, united by the vision of two families and dedicated to the synergy of health and wellness.

The Sensi Advisory Board comprises select industry leaders in a variety of fields, from education to cultivation. They are invited to share specialized insight in this dedicated section. For a full list of board members, see page 8.

Yoga and Cannabis

A meditative match made in heaven?

Does cannabis help to improve the practice and experience of yoga? According to ancient teachings, the answer leans toward *yes*. A rich historical record dating back thousands of years suggests yogis have enhanced their practices with cannabis for generations. In the Hindu tradition—out of which many of the meditative arts were born—Shiva is known as a patron god of both yoga and marijuana, gifting cannabis to mankind as a spiritual conduit, so to speak. As a result, what some view as a “gateway drug” others deem a “gateway to the gods” and a means of spiritual cleansing or renewal that is perfectly complementary to the physically rejuvenating practice of yoga.

Like yoga, cannabis can help prepare the mind for spiritual connection.

The THC component of marijuana is believed to cleanse the conscious mind of earthly anxieties. This clearing out of old beliefs and warring desires, a mental reset of sorts, quiets the busy mind’s steadfast focus on the physical world, empowering the user to establish a stronger communion with the unseen, spiritual realm.

Yoga itself serves a similar purpose, bringing awareness to breath and attention to deliberate movement in an effort to still the unfocused mental chatter keeping us from embracing a higher self. When experienced together, cannabis and yoga can serve as complementary tools, preparing the mind to be more receptive to outside elements seeking our attention.



Bridging Nations Through Cannabis

Ikänik Farms is changing the cannabis landscape.

A few years ago, to get good pharmaceutical grade cannabis, you resorted to asking a friend of a friend—or that one guy everyone knew had the primo stuff. We also knew if anyone had recently been on a trip to Latin America, they were coming back with stories of the best green they'd ever had. Now that it is legal(*ish*), cannabis companies are expanding into international territory.

It can be a daunting endeavor, but progressive and forward-thinking company Ikänik, founded by Brian Baca, is opening new doors.

The name *Ikänik* is inspired by the idea of becoming iconic in a nontraditional sense, through a nontraditional business, working outside of social norms. While the brand grows flower, its expansion into pharmaceutical cultivation is groundbreaking in terms of thinking outside the box. “We

realized the positive impact we could make if we were able to help those in need remove their prescription dependencies—which sadly many people around the world are suffering from—and help them be active in their lives again. . . .without meds,” Baca says.

Recently announcing the expansion of its medical division, Pideka SAS in Bogota, Colombia, Baca and Borja Sanz de Madrid, president of Ikänik International, have a lot to get excited

about. “There were a few catalysts that drove the Colombian direction. In the fall of 2018, it became evident that uniformity in municipal acceptance and implementation of cannabis policy was far from a reality,” Baca says. “We are trying to build an accelerated model in what I would call an ‘unnatural market,’ for both brand growth and overall business efficiency.”

Baca explains that local government impedances and delays inevitably cripple the growth of the industry through forced inefficiencies and broken business fundamentals, inclusive of overpriced assets and of a tax structure that is the antithesis of fostering industry growth. “It became clear we needed to reposition geographically; ensuring capital and asset efficiency along with contiguous market access was at the forefront of our thought process. The repositioning would enable us to accelerate our long-term plan of supporting the pharmaceutical industry, which requires the highest quality of finished product.”

After visiting several Latin American countries in search of the right opportunity, Baca and his team met the staff of Pideka (which they later acquired). This led to the company’s international business model. “Cultivating in Colombia provides access to the international marketplace and ability to scale our pharmaceutical model efficiently on forward contracts, mitigating risk for our investors, while growing a fundamentally sound business,” says Baca. “With over 1,200 hectares available, we aim to continue scaling with purpose and growing demand. We will be entering the market with manufactured, finished ingredient for the pharmaceutical industry.”

Ikänik International met all cannabis quality standards set forth by the Council of Europe, allowing it to grow

development and distribution partnerships later this year.

Ikänik is also conscious of the carbon footprint associated with cannabis and has a plan in place to lower its impact. The Colombia location will manage energy and water consumption through select lighting and fertigation processes, minimizing waste, and implementing a vertical model to maximize output.

Ikänik has also partnered with artist Mikey Page to create its brand art. When Baca was introduced to Page through his marketing director Brent Futagaki, the two just vibed. “He was all smiles and created mind-bending art and was naturally aligned with the company vision,” Baca says. “When you’re building a brand, it’s important for the ethos and message to be conveyed to the consumer through branding, and Mikey does a great job.”

Ikänik International is doing things differently, opening new revenue streams, smarter pharmaceutical alter-

natives, and making sure consumers have the cleanest, highest quality canna-medicine they can access. Creating a dynamic portfolio rooted in health and wellness, sports medicine, pharmaceutical demand, and an undeniable passion and commitment to supporting the industry, their business model is poised to be iconic.

“The company leadership brings decades of expertise in R&D, cultivation, retail, branding, and corporate finance with the ambition to build the nation’s most epic vertically integrated seed-to-sale, MNO (multinational operator). Ikänik’s operations are currently located in California and in Colombia, through its Pideka operations.

Ikänik Farms / Ikänik International

Seed-to-Sale Multinational
Pharmaceutical Cannabis Operator
ikanikfarms.com





MORE INFO

Besito
besito.la
@besito.la

LEFT: Image that appears on limited edition 4/20 Besito merch.
RIGHT: Founder Maggie Connors

tender collections.”

The brand also stands on the side of social justice and has aligned itself with the fight for equality, criminal justice, and the ongoing scientific research of cannabis. Besito has partnered with Equity First Alliance, a nonprofit that’s working toward repairing these harms. As of September 2019, the company has committed to donating a percentage of all profits to help support EFA’s mission for automated expungement and easily accessible health, employment, and legal resources for those in need of restorative services. “We love to bring people together and honor a community at the heart of the cannabis industry and its history of advocacy,” Connors says. **■**

Little Kisses

Besito celebrates a year of 4/20s.

TEXT ELI DUPIN

Maggie Connors and her Los Angeles-based company Besito are sharing some specialty merch for the high holiday. “To celebrate 12 months of 4/20s, we launched our Besito apparel collection on 1/4/2020, and we’re doing monthly drops all year,” Connors says.

The name *Besito* means “little kiss” in Spanish,

inspired by Connors’s Cuban heritage and the Latinx culture of LA. “I started Besito with the intention of creating a product [that was] good for beginners and experienced consumers looking for a lower dose,” Connors says. “The 2:1 ratio gives you a ‘little kiss’ of THC to make brunch a little

more fun or family gatherings more tolerable, while keeping you in control of your high.”

This month’s product release will be a custom brass pin with the signature Besito “B.” “We love the renaissance of enamel pins, and this design, inspired by our vaporizer, is especially cute for bud-



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