

GREAT PARK GROUNDBREAKING • GOOGLE DOODLE WINNER • SHAKE SHACK COMES TO OC

IRVINE

WEEKLY

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AN ART ADVENTURE

COMES TO LAS VEGAS



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CONTENTS

NEWS: 2

Irvine student ranks in Doodle for Google contest.
BY EVAN J. LANCASTER

NEWS: 3

Irvine breaks ground on new development at Great Park.
BY EVAN J. LANCASTER

ARTS: 4

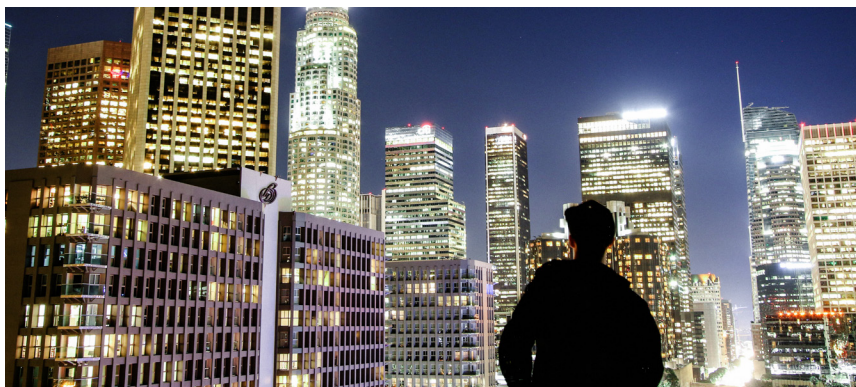
TRANSFIX: Las Vegas welcomes a massive art park.
BY SHANA NYS DAMBROT

FOOD: 7

Shake Shack comes to Irvine Spectrum.
BY EVAN J. LANCASTER

FOOD: 8

New "ever changing menu" at Irvine's Porch & Swing.
BY EVAN J. LANCASTER



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IRVINE ELEMENTARY STUDENT RANKS NATIONALLY IN DOODLE FOR GOOGLE CONTEST

ALLISON RHEE WAS SELECTED AS ONE OF THE TOP FIVE SUBMISSIONS IN THE NATION.

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER

Inspired by a family trip to Joshua Tree, Irvine Elementary student Allison Rhee's submission for the 15th annual Doodle for Google student contest was ranked in the top five nationally.

This year, Doodle for Google challenged thousands of students across the country with the prompt "I am grateful for..." In response, Rhee, a third grader at Irvine Elementary School, illustrated the memory of a camping trip with her family.

Featuring a starlit night sky, a campfire, and her stargazing family, Rhee's artwork titled "Joshua Tree" incorporated the visual elements of her family's trip to spell out the word "Google" – with a roasted marshmallow on a stick to signify the "L" in Google.

"I was grateful when I went to the Joshua tree with my family. I loved seeing the stars and making smores," she said. "It made me realize how small we are compared to the universe. I was thankful that I was brought into this world from the best family in the whole wide world. My mom and I talked about the stars all night long. It was a memorable night."

For Rhee, inspiration comes from spending time with her family and watching the stars.

"I thought about what I like and love the most. I love looking at the stars at night,

camping, and spending time doing everything with my family. I thought about going camping with my family and looking at stars at night."

Rhee added that she wanted to enter this year's Doodle for Google contest because she loves art, but had no intention of being recognized.

"I love arts and drawing, and Doodle for Google was another fun experience for me," Rhee said. "To be honest, I didn't enter to win, let alone make it to the top 5. This was another great chance for me to draw and enjoy, and that's why I entered."

While Rhee is excited about having her Google Doodle ranked nationally, she is more grateful for her family.

"I love my mom, dad and my older brother Jacob so much (and my latest little brother puppy Maru). They take care of me and they are very special to me. Without them I wouldn't be out in this world."

Asked about what being 'grateful' means to her, and why it's important, Rhee said she hopes being humble and trying to understand everyone's perspective is something that demonstrates gratefulness.

"Being grateful means we are humble. You can't do everything on your own in your life," she said. "Being grateful for the love and help from others will make you and your loved ones feel good and happy, and bring smiles."

IRVINE BREAKS GROUND ON FIRST PHASE OF NEW DEVELOPMENT AT GREAT PARK

AS IRVINE PREPARES FOR ITS NEXT PHASE OF NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THE GREAT PARK, THE CITY HAS ALSO INTRODUCED AN INTERACTIVE WEBSITE DEDICATED TO PROVIDING UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT'S TIMELINE.

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER

Touting a price tag of \$1 billion, the city of Irvine took the first steps in development of the Great Park's new framework plan with a groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, May 23.

Local residents, city leaders and community groups attended the event, which included the live demolition of an old hangar at the former Marine Corp Air Station El Toro, now known as the ARDA site.

Irvine Mayor Farrah Khan said the city has been working on bringing this project into the public scope for decades, and was excited to begin the city's next phase of development.

"As Mayor of Irvine, it is very fulfilling to see a long-time promise come to fruition through today's groundbreaking ceremony," Khan said. "The community has helped guide the park's development since 2005, and I am pleased to be able to bring that vision to life."

Great Park Chairman Mike Carroll expressed his excitement for the \$1 billion project, adding that he is optimistic this project will become recognized as one of the most successful municipal projects in the nation.

"The groundbreaking of the next phase



COURTESY CITY OF IRVINE

of development at the Great Park is just the beginning," said Carroll. "The next phase not only brings 300 acres of incredible amenities and services for Irvine, Orange County, California, and beyond, it takes the city of Irvine to the next level. I am ecstatic to lead this

unique and innovative charge and I believe that the Great Park will be one of the best metropolitan parks in the world."

The first 300 acre phase of the project includes the demolition and site remediation of the ARDA site. The site, formerly

MCAS El Toro, is slated to become the Botanical Gardens and Veteran's Memorial Park.

The city also introduced a new interactive website dedicated to providing community updates and general information on the Great Park Framework plan. The site offers visitors an in depth look at the Great Park's history and what is expected moving forward.

Additionally, the website includes a Great Park development timeline for the various regions of the park – the Veteran's Memorial and Botanical Gardens, Cultural Terrace West and the Heart of the Park.

The city of Irvine anticipates working to complete the demolition and grading of the ARDA within two years, with construction beginning in June 2025. As demolition gets underway, the city will be working weekdays and weekends to complete the site remediation of the ARDA more than five days per-week.

"Demolition work will occur outside of typical commute hours – between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays – and should not impact Great Park neighborhoods, motorists, or the use of the Great Park sports fields after school," the site reads.

City staff estimate that Veteran's Memorial Park and Botanical Gardens will be completed by 2028.

The Great Park Framework plans anticipate construction beginning on Cultural Terrace West in June, with venues expected to open in Summer 2027. Construction on the Cultural Terrace West is expected to be complete by 2029.

Irvine will complete the first phase of the Great Park Framework plan with the completion of the Heart of the Park, which has plans for lakes, a great meadow and a \$130 million outdoor amphitheater. Construction is expected to begin in August 2024, and has an estimated completed date of 2030.

Kristina Perrigoue, Irvine Public Information Officer, explained that while the city has provided timelines for the build out of the Great Park Framework, they aren't meant to be exact.

"The timeline is an estimate that is contingent upon negotiations with external entities," she wrote in an email to *Irvine Weekly*.

ARTS

TRANSFIX LAS VEGAS: A BIGGER, BRIGHTER ART ADVENTURE

A MASSIVE NIGHTTIME LIGHT AND SOUND
SCULPTURE PARK LIGHTS UP LAS VEGAS BLVD.

BY SHANA NYS DAMBROT

"As Above, So Below" by Kate Raudenbush



COURTESY THE ARTIST AND TRANSFIX

Everything's bigger in Vegas—and blingier and brighter too—and this year that goes double for experiential art as TRANSFIX opens a choose-your-own-adventure concourse of more than 50 interactive light, sound, video, lasers, digital media, and occasionally fire-based sculptures and installations face to face with the Strip.

The spectacle's presence is announced by the towering, benevolent glow of artist Marco Cochrane's *R-Evolution*—a 45 foot tall, gently kinetic and luminous woman staring across Las Vegas Blvd. at the Wynn and Encore properties. She is made of light but remains a monumental, statuesque presence throughout the day as well, guiding the curious toward the Resorts World Las Vegas. The

Hilton folks have turned over a 200,000 square-foot (nearly five acres) parcel of land to a team of creatives with big ideas. The leadership includes architecture and events professionals with a collective background from the clubs of New York City to the burns of Black Rock City—but the brilliant family of artists and builders is in the hundreds.

The results combine Burning Man with



PHOTO BY CHELSA CHRISTENSEN

"AXION" by Christopher Bauder and KINK

EDM/EDC aesthetics in an elevated production that's by turns psychedelic, ancestral, futuristic and folksy, funny and spiritual, participatory, photogenic, optimistic, analog and tech-forward, and above all full of surprises. It's no small thing to balance the hyperstimulation of Vegas-bound audiences' expectations with the meaningful and ultimately personal journey of thoughtful works of art. Perhaps the biggest surprise of all—and the greatest testament to the talents of the entire staff and crew—is how well TRANSFIX pulls it off.

Co-founded by Michael Blatter and Tom Stinchfield, with a cohort of partners that includes architect Marc Dizon, experience producer Heather Gallagher (the executive leader of technology and design services for Burning Man for 17 years), and curator and experience designer Meranda Carter (who, fun fact, once interned at the *L.A. Weekly* before going on to become one of the most sought-after experts in this emerging art genre), TRANSFIX exists with the goal to "foster a global creative economy, build a strong community, and support innovative artists of all backgrounds, while encouraging participation and personal creative discovery.

Stinchfield in particular likes to say that instead of a dance party with some art, it's art with a little dance party. Central to this is the inclusion of music and sound in many of the individual works, as well as a towering "stage" called Axion—a

"Petaled Portal" by David Oliver



massive, temple-like scaffold of sacred geometry by light artist Christopher Bauder and composer KiNK—which in addition to its own psychedelic respite for audiences, serves as a platform for the show's occasional dance parties.

So just how did this team of Super-friends come together? Stinchfield was running marketing for a big company and his mentor introduced him to Michael Blatter. "What I didn't know is on the other side of that, she was calling Michael and saying, Hey, you need to take this guy to Burning Man, he needs to reset himself creatively," he tells *L.A. Weekly*. "This is 10-11 years ago, we became fast friends—and we were both so inspired by the heart that goes into the art at Burning Man and we wanted to see a way we could support that and bring that level of experience to a wider audience—and get the artists paid for their work! TRANSFIX is not a gallery, it's not a museum—there are too many gatekeepers when it comes to how art is valued."

At the same time, they're also elevating the conceptual and innovational aspects of what "immersive" can mean. "Touch the art, climb on top of it, become part of the art! That's what immersive is, or can be," says Stinchfield. "It's just not seeing things around you. It's actually having to use your body and physically engage with a piece to actually complete it."

Examples of this interactive activation dynamic abound. For example, Todd Moyer's *Fluidic*, a projection-mapped video artwork in which viewers' motions churn digital lava lamps on a screen; Pablo González Vargas' 37 foot tall interactive light and sound sculpture *ILUMINA*, which is powered by the collective energy and flow of its participants; HYBYCOZO's delightful light-casting lanterns that love it when you spin them; and Gabriel Pulecio's *Lustix* which generates seductive pattern-based illusions with light nodes and motion inside a shipping container. One piece that is not interactive is Duane Flatmo's absolutely legendary art car, *El Pulpo Magnifico*, whose celebrity status was cemented in *The Simpsons'* Burning Man episode; it spits fire and you should definitely not touch or climb it.



"El Pulpo Magnifico" by Duane Flatmo

PHOTO BY CHELSA CHRISTENSEN

ARTS



PHOTO BY CHELSEA CHRISTENSEN

"DragonO" by LedPulse

music, and light show that intentionally reorients your perception and grounds you in the new place you are about to enter. Like fresh ginger, this cognitive palette cleanser helps you shake off the casino energy just enough, and sets you up for a more pure mental flow within the experience to come.

"No one has actually done what we've done," Meranda Carter tells *L.A. Weekly*. "We wanted it to be a celebration of life. We've learned a lot, and we've really had to assemble a smart and incredible team in order to get this done. Our artists coming in, trusting us for up to three years for some of their projects is remarkable. I started my time at the company by just calling every artist I could think of and just having open conversations with them about their work and where they're at in their careers. I talked to over 400 artists in the last two years! This kind of work needs to be seen by so many more people, because it's impactful and not only in scale but in their stories and approaches," she says.

"Seeing folks wander around and experience the art gave me chills," Carter says, in a sentiment echoed by every team member and artist we spoke to. "I was very excited to see that open engagement and play and curiosity, because that's what we're all about."

TRANSFIX remains installed through September, with special events planned throughout. For more information visit transfixart.com, and follow the journeys it inspires at [instagram.com/transfixart](https://www.instagram.com/transfixart).



"R-Evolution" by Marco Cochrane

COURTESY THE ARTIST AND TRANSFIX

Christy Corda/Playmodes designed the TRANSFIX entry portal, a Tron-like illuminated tube the size of a small airplane hangar and with the energy of a space station transport (it's actually called *Stellar*), which all visitors must enter and pause within for a short sound,



"R-Evolution" by Marco Cochrane

O.C.'S FIRST SHAKE SHACK NOW OPEN AT IRVINE SPECTRUM

WITH A HOUSEWARMING EVENT ON THURSDAY, MAY 25, SHAKE SHACK'S NEWEST LOCATION IN ORANGE COUNTY IS NOW OPEN AT THE IRVINE SPECTRUM.

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER

After months of anticipation, the first Shake Shack in Orange County opened its doors at the Irvine Spectrum on Friday, May 26, at 11:00 a.m. Shake Shack's Irvine Spectrum location offers both indoor and outdoor seating, and is located near Regal Irvine Spectrum 21 RPX & IMAX. While Shake Shack fans are undoubt-

edly excited about the new opening, Shake Shack Irvine Spectrum is offering a unique OC Dreamsicle Shake which features vanilla frozen custard hand-spun with orange soda and topped with whipped cream and orange candy sprinkles.

Shake Shack has committed that 5% of sales of the shake will benefit the Califor-

nia Department of Parks and Recreation. Managing more than 280 park units, the California Parks and Recreation Department provides care and maintenance for the finest and most diverse collection of natural, cultural, and recreational resources to be found within California.

Founded in New York in 2004, Shake Shack has expanded internationally,

now operating in Hong Kong, London, Shanghai, along with several other countries. They currently operate 26 locations in California and more than 430 stores globally.

Well-known for its Angus beef burgers, crinkle cut fries, crispy chicken thick, hand-spun shakes and beer menu, Shake Shack has gained a cult-like following in its near two-decade existence.

Andrew McCaughan, Chief Development Officer at Shake Shack expressed his excitement about bringing the "first O.C. Shack" to the Irvine Spectrum.

"We are so excited to bring Shake Shack to Orange County," McCaughan said. "We see Orange County as a huge opportunity for the company and we can't wait to serve our delicious burgers and shakes to the community. Irvine Spectrum has been a great partner for our first O.C. Shack, and we are looking forward to growing our presence in the market with further planned Shacks in Costa Mesa and Huntington Beach."

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FOOD

NEW "EVER CHANGING MENU" TO IRVINE'S PORCH & SWING

WITH A SUMMER THEME BRUNCH, A TRIO OF ARTISAN SPIRIT FESTIVALS AND A MENU DESIGNED TO CHANGE WITH THE SEASONS, PORCH & SWING IS INVITING GUESTS TO EXPERIENCE THE UNIQUE, ELEVATED CONCEPTS FOUND WITHIN SOUTHERN CUISINE IN IRVINE THIS SUMMER.

BY EVAN J. LANCASTER

Paying homage to the unique culinary scene found in Charleston, South Carolina, Irvine's Porch & Swing is showcasing a new, ever-changing menu concept that will allow guests to experience the versatile concepts found within Southern cuisine.

Porch & Swing's Executive Chef Alan Sanz says he is excited and ready for the challenge.

Sanz has spent several years cooking under internationally renowned chefs – at Boragó in Chile, Parcela in Mexico City, Epicure in France, and Mugaritz in Spain. While Sanz's tenure as an international chef has taken him around the world, he says the flavors of Charleston-inspired cooking are one-of-a-kind, as the dishes provide bold flavors by way of global cooking techniques.

Sanz explained that his experience as an international chef has given him a unique perspective of cooking styles from around the world. Now, he's leveraging that experience to help guide Porch and Swing's farm-to-table approach for his fluid menu.

"Our ever-changing menu began as a training exercise for our culinary team, but it proved to be a true representation of Charleston's effervescent global dining scene," Sanz explained. "Our menus showcase the flavors of the

world while staying true to the ethos of Southern cuisine. Porch & Swing celebrates the beauty and versatility of local, seasonal ingredients through dishes that capture the Southern soul and global flavors of Charleston."

In order to provide guests with an array of culinary experiences, each month Sanz will be offering a curated dinner menu that will include only a few appetizers, main courses, and desserts that will focus on peak of the season ingredients.

Helping Sanz deliver this farm-to-table experience is Porch & Swing's long time Beverage Director Andrew Parish. As a native of Charleston, Parish says he feels connected to the concept, given his familiarity with the regional cuisine.

"Porch & Swing is an homage to my hometown, the port city and culinary epicenter of Charleston, South Carolina," Parish explained. "Our goal is to re-frame the generalized understanding of Southern cuisine while upholding its unparalleled standards for warmth and hospitality."

While both Sanz and Parish are excited to share the ever changing menu experience with guests, they're making room for tradition at Porch & Swing. During the last week of each month, guests can experience some of Porch & Swing's most memorable dishes during "Classics Week," when Sanz will be recreating unforgettable dishes like yuzu-cured hamachi, beef carpaccio seasoned with chimichurri and dukka, pork jowl with grits and pineapple or slow-cooked short rib with au jus and sweet potato.

Porch & Swing also offers a \$35 prix-fixe menu during lunch, along with tasting menus that range between \$75 - \$125. Additional events include a series of unique artisanal spirit festivals, including the Porch & Swing Rum Festival on Sunday, June 11, and the Porch & Swing Beer & Whiskey BBQ on Sunday, July 2.

Brunch is also in season, as Porch & Swing will host a weekend brunch titled "Around the World in 12 Brunches" beginning on June 4.

Visit porchandswing.com

