

## LACMA Inaugurates Its New David Geffen Galleries with Celebratory Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony



(Image captions on page 3)

(Los Angeles, CA—April 19, 2026) The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) officially opened the David Geffen Galleries today, marking this transformative moment for the museum and all of Los Angeles with a celebratory ribbon-cutting ceremony. Elected officials, civic and cultural leaders, and prominent artists joined LACMA’s board of trustees at L.A.’s latest architectural icon to dedicate the museum’s new building, designed by world-renowned architect Peter Zumthor.

“I’m grateful to the whole community of supporters, from the County of Los Angeles and the City of Los Angeles to the many donors who made the David Geffen Galleries possible,” said Michael Govan, LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director. “Today marks the close of a 20-year story, but it is also the beginning of a new one. In these beautiful galleries, millions of visitors will rediscover LACMA’s globally diverse collection in conversation with the light and landscape of Los Angeles. I hope everyone will visit often and share in all the ways we bring people together with art, in the galleries and outside.”

Also participating in the ceremony were Los Angeles County Supervisor **Holly Mitchell**, co-chair of LACMA’s board of trustees **Willow Bay**, architect **Peter Zumthor**, and poet **Megan Dorame** and artist **Mercedes Dorame**, who gave a blessing.

Others in attendance included president and director of the Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County Lori Bettison-Varga, artist Mariana Castillo Deball, former Mayor of Los Angeles Eric Garcetti, artist Todd Gray, artist Shio Kusaka, director of the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture Kristin Sakoda, artist Tino Seghal, artist Pedro Reyes, artist Sarah Rosalena, Los Angeles City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, and former Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.

After the ribbon was cut, LACMA began welcoming visitors into the long-awaited David Geffen Galleries, the museum's new home for its permanent collection. The building's single exhibition floor, elevated above new outdoor park space and spanning Wilshire Boulevard, offers sweeping views of Los Angeles while enabling LACMA to present its collection free from hierarchies, without giving precedence to any culture, tradition, or era. Departing from traditional narratives, the inaugural installation uses the Pacific, Indian, and Atlantic Oceans and the Mediterranean Sea as a framework to explore migration, commerce, and cultural exchange throughout the history of art.

Today also marked the launch of Erewhon at LACMA, situated in the northeast pavilion on the W.M. Keck Plaza. Erewhon at LACMA is open 11 am–5 pm daily (closed Wednesdays).

Beginning today through May 3, LACMA members will have priority access to the David Geffen Galleries and invitations to special events. On May 3, LACMA will open the W.M. Keck Education Center on the plaza level of the David Geffen Galleries, marking the occasion by offering free museum access and a full day of events and activities for NexGenLA, a free youth membership program for L.A. County residents 17 years and younger.

Also beginning May 3, the W.M. Keck Education Center Gallery on the plaza level will host a new exhibition series devoted to working with contemporary artists. For the inaugural exhibition, LACMA will present Christina Quarles's *Now We're There (And We' Only Just Begun)* (2023). Based in Los Angeles, Quarles is known for large-scale canvases that explore what it feels like to inhabit a body shaped by identity and lived experience. *Now We're There (And We' Only Just Begun)*, recently acquired by LACMA, features luminous, shape-shifting figures that invite visitors to consider how we understand ourselves and how we are perceived by others. The presentation will be accompanied by family-friendly workshops with the artist.

Beginning on May 4, general admission tickets will include access to the David Geffen Galleries.

As part of Third Weekends at LACMA, a monthly series of programs and events, LACMA will host a block party—the first free, public event on the reimagined campus—on June 20, 10 am–7 pm. The festivities will include free admission to the

David Geffen Galleries as well as other exhibitions, along with guided gallery tours, art activities for kids, DJ sets and live music throughout the day, as well as global culinary offerings for purchase. The Block Party will conclude with [The Art Parade](#), a large-scale, celebratory public procession on Museum Row that will bring artists, musicians, performers, art students, and the entire creative community together.

**Credits:**

The Series of David Geffen Galleries opening events is presented by East West Bank. The Block Party is presented by East West Bank Foundation.



**About LACMA:** Located on the Pacific Rim, LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection of 155,000 objects that illuminate 6,000 years of artistic expression across the globe. Committed to showcasing a multitude of art histories, LACMA exhibits and interprets works of art from new and unexpected points of view that are informed by the region's rich cultural heritage and diverse population. LACMA's spirit of experimentation is reflected in its work with artists, technologists, and thought leaders as well as in its regional, national, and global partnerships to share collections and programs, create pioneering initiatives, and engage new audiences.

**Location:** 5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90036. [lacma.org](http://lacma.org)

**Image captions:** (Left to right) Congresswoman Laura Friedman, LACMA board co-chair Willow Bay, former L.A. County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, L.A. City Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, L.A. County Supervisor Holly Mitchell, LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director Michael Govan, architect Peter Zumthor, Clark Construction division president Carlos González, Buro Happold principal Ron Elad, SOM partner Eric Long, LACMA SVP LJ Hartman, SOM partner Carol Ann Ruiz, and former L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti attend the ribbon-cutting and opening day of LACMA's David Geffen Galleries at Los Angeles County Museum of Art on April 19, 2026, photo by Stefanie Keenan/Getty Images for LACMA

**Press contact:** [press@lacma.org](mailto:press@lacma.org)

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