

A BREAK-DOWN OF THE BEST DESSERTS · OC STEAM FEST PROVIDES KNOWLEDGE AND INSPIRATION · A PASSION FOR THE ARTS: OC MUSIC AND DANCE

IRVINE

WEEKLY

APRIL 03, 2019 · NO. 12

**POEMS
WITHOUT WORDS**
CALIFORNIA IMPRESSIONISM AT IRVINE MUSEUM

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THE POOL AT SUNDOWN · JOHN FROST

CURATION AS AN ART FORM

IRVINE MUSEUM'S UPCOMING SHOW "POEMS WITHOUT WORDS" HIGHLIGHTS CALIFORNIA IMPRESSIONIST PAINTINGS.

BY: LIZ GOLDNER

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: FEATURED ARTIST

The exhibition, "Poems Without Words," opening at the Irvine Museum on April 6, running through August 10, will include 42 California impressionist paintings, which the director/curator

refers to as visual poetry. Or as Greek biographer and essayist Plutarch (46-120 AD) wrote, "Painting is silent poetry, and poetry is painting that speaks." The artists to be exhibited include Franz Bischoff, Anna Hills, Joseph

Kleitsch, Guy Rose, Edgar Payne, Granville Redmond and William Wendt. In advance of the opening, the museum's Executive Director Jean Stern, who curated the show, waxed poetic in an interview. He talked about how

the tones, moods, colors and forms in the paintings can evoke emotions in viewers. **Q:** Please explain how this exhibition is unique and different from the Irvine Museum's other shows over the years.



THE SPANISH BOAT - ARTHUR G. RIDER



CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPE - REDMOND, G.

Stern: This exhibition will feature many paintings of California, which – because they are borrowed from private collectors – may not have ever been available for public viewing. We will also display works from our own collection that have not been shown for the past several years. We strive to offer works that have not been seen in our museum, as well as exhibit paintings that, over the years, have proven quite popular with our visitors.

Q: What style of paintings will be in the exhibition?

Stern: Most of the paintings are landscapes with a few figurative works and several still-lives. We will display three wonderful bird paintings by Jessie Arms Botke. As an Art Deco artist, she often used gold leaf to heighten the effect of her elegant works. As many impressionist artists came to California for the landscapes, that subject makes up most of the museum collection.

Q: Your metaphor that the paintings are like visual poetry is fascinating. Can you describe one of your favorite paintings?

Stern: The theme of the exhibition is that painting is poetry with brush and paint. The feelings of delight and sensuality from reading a well-written poem can be experienced in visual terms from a masterful painting. One

example is “The Pool at Sundown” by John Frost, painted in 1923. Here, the careful balancing of form and color convey more to the viewer than any written description of the painting. The artist seduces the viewer with soft, gentle natural light. That light in nature would be fleeting, but here it is preserved forever and can be experienced anytime the painting is viewed. There is the subject, structure and rhythm, but the content and message are encountered all at once, and immediately upon looking.

Q: Since poetry can elicit emotions, can you explain how a few paintings in this show can elicit emotions, reminiscences, feelings of joy, sadness and/or longing?

Stern: When one looks at “In Laguna Canyon,” by William Alexander Griffith, painted in 1928, the tone and the mood are immediately absorbed by the viewer. The artist uses color and form to reach the emotions of the viewer. Because the visual approach is immediate, a great amount of emotional material is engaged. “Mystical Hills” by Hanson Puthuff, painted circa 1925, reaches the viewer through the gentle treatment of contrasting light effects and the use of specific colors. The subject is the beauty of sunlight breaking through clouds, but the tone

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**Graduate of Northwestern University
& Faculty Member at USC**





SPRINGTIME, BANNING - ANNA HILLS

is strongly dependent on the colors used by the artist. The blues of the mountains are there to set a scene of gentle calm, and are contrasted with the yellow of the sunrays and with the landscape scenes that are illuminated by the rays. The setting is beauty and quietude, with the suggestion of the imminent end of the day.

Q: How long did it take you to curate the “Poems Without Words” exhibition? Did others help in obtaining the artworks?

Stern: Our exhibitions are planned months in advance. This amount of time is needed to choose the works from our own collection and to locate pertinent paintings from private collections. Having been involved with the visual arts for over 60 years, I am able to locate specific paintings that I feel will enhance the exhibition. My family of art dealers is also important in helping us locate important works in private collections. And my lifelong

friends, Ray Redfern and De Witt McCall, also longtime art dealers, greatly aid in the search for art that normally could only be seen at dinner parties in private homes. My own experience as an art dealer in the 1970s and 1980s allows me to call former clients and

then install the incoming show. Having produced over 80 exhibitions in the 27 years since we opened, we have professional, experienced art movers and installers do the job.

Q: Do you decide in advance where you will hang the pictures, or do you

shadow anything hanging nearby. We usually display each of these next to another intense work or on a wall by itself. These decisions are made by myself and by Dora James, our curator of education. She is important to this phase, in part because she writes the curriculum for our educational programs. Each exhibition must flow in an orderly manner to allow our docents to properly educate the many school children who visit our museum, as well as the numerous adults who tour our shows.

UCI Irvine Museum Collection
18881 Von Karman Avenue, Ste. 100
Irvine, CA 92612
949-476-0294
www.irvinemuseumcollection.uci.edu

Tuesday – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Upcoming exhibition: “Poems Without Words” – April 6, 2019 to August 10, 2019

“WHEN ONE LOOKS AT ‘IN LAGUNA CANYON,’ BY WILLIAM ALEXANDER GRIFFITH, PAINTED IN 1928, THE TONE AND THE MOOD ARE IMMEDIATELY ABSORBED BY THE VIEWER. THE ARTIST USES COLOR AND FORM TO REACH THE EMOTIONS OF THE VIEWER.”

-JEAN STERN

request the loan of specific works that I have sold to them.

Q: How long does it take to hang the show?

Stern: The museum closes for a week or so between exhibitions to allow us to de-install the last exhibition and

decide as they are being hung?

Stern: I must admit that one of the most difficult parts of putting an exhibition together is deciding where a particular painting will hang and what artwork will go next to it. Some paintings are so intense that they over-



MILKY BUN • AFTERS ICE CREAM

DESSERT DELIGHTS

A BREAK-DOWN OF THE BEST SWEET TREATS IN AND AROUND IRVINE.

BY: ARIELLE ROUDE

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: FEATURED RESTAURANT

I am a sucker when it comes to dessert. As much as I love salty food, you can always catch me craving a cupcake, ice cream or even a slice of cherry pie. So, I have made it my mission to break down some of the best dessert spots in and around Irvine to help you satisfy all of your sugar cravings!

Afters Ice Cream

Afters Ice Cream combines my two favorite loves: Doughnuts and ice cream. What sets Afters apart from

most ice cream joints is two key things. One is their signature milky buns. Milky buns are handcrafted glazed dough buns that act as the perfect vessel for your ice cream. They are always fresh and hot, providing a nice compliment to the cold sensation of the ice cream. The second is Afters unique flavors of ice cream. These range from milk and cereal flavored ice cream to a twist on a classic flavor like Madagascar vanilla. A fan-favorite at Afters is their Cookie Monster flavor which is blue-dyed cookie chunks. Another is favorite is

Cookie Butter which tastes exactly like the Cookie Butter you might find at your local Trader Joes.

**2738 Alton Pkwy
Irvine, CA 92606**

85 Degree Bakery

85 Degree Bakery is a great spot to pick up tasty and delicious pastries. The concept of the store is a self-serve bakery that offers a vast variety of baked goods. For a sweet pastry, try their Choco bun, taro swirl bun or matcha chocolate bun. All these breads

burst with sweet flavor whenever you take a bite. They even have a fantastic selection of savory pastries to choose from. These include fun items like garlic cheese bread, sausage rolls and potato cheese buns. Locals also swear by their classic brioche bun roll and their mini cheese tarts. If pastries are not what you're looking for, 85 Degree Bakery also offers a large selection of cakes and other sweet treats. You can order anything from full-sized cakes to mango tarts, and slices of blueberry cheesecake. With so many different

FOOD

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options to satisfy your sweet tooth, it will be hard to stay away from this place.

**2700 Alton Pkwy, Suite 123
Irvine, CA 92606**

**915 Spectrum Dr
Irvine, CA 92618**

Sweet Combforts

Sweet Combforts is proving that waffles are much more than breakfast food. By making beautifully sugared hand-made waffles and putting them on a popsicle stick, Sweet Combforts has made a dessert that is portable and less messy than most. Their waffles come in a variety of eye-catching and enjoyable flavors. Try a Bam Bam waffle, their classic Belgian liege waffle dipped in white chocolate and topped with fruity pebble cereal, cheesecake bites, powdered sugar and a white chocolate drizzle. Another favorite is their Cookies and Dream waffle. Dipped in Oreo cookie butter, this waffle is then topped off with Oreo cookie crumbles, powdered sugar and a chocolate drizzle. These beautiful and sweet waffles are a pleasant new way to eat dessert. Along with their waffles, Sweet Combforts also makes fun shakes such as a Horchata shake. And to accompany their Cookies and Dream waffle, they make a Cookie Monster Shake.

**2222 Michelson Dr.
Trade Food Court
Irvine, CA 92612**

The Dirty Cookie

The Dirty Cookie is the perfect spot to pick up dessert for your next dinner



party. This place gives a whole new angle on what it means to be a cookie. The Dirty Cookie takes different flavors of cookie dough and molds them into a small cup shape. These cookie shots come in classic cookie flavors like chocolate chip, red velvet, churro and cookies and cream. They even have vegan, gluten-free cookie shot options. My favorite part about these cookie shots is that they become the best vehicle for liquid. You can pour milk or any liquid of your choice right into the middle of the cookie. For an adult party, you can even add your favorite type of liquor such as Bailey's or Kahlua!

**2493 Park Ave
Tustin, CA 92782**

SideCar Doughnuts

Visit SideCar when you want a unique spin on a glazed doughnut -- or any doughnut for that matter. With a revolving door of flavors every month it is hard to pick a favorite, but here are some of SideCar Doughnuts must-tries: For a twist on a classic flavor, grab their butter and salt doughnut. It is the perfect combination of sweet and savory which makes it hard to resist. For a fruity twist, grab their signature huckleberry-flavored doughnut. This rich pink-colored doughnut is the ideal flavor-bomb of summer in a doughnut. Lastly, a unique flavor is their basil eggs benedict doughnut. It is a savory raised doughnut filled with a poached egg, basil and a delicious sauce.

**270 E 17th St, Ste 18
Costa Mesa, CA 92627**



PINK · PHOTO BY: SØLVE

SPRING MUSIC PREVIEW: THIRD EDITION

SHOWS NOT TO BE MISSED THIS APRIL AND MAY!

BY: PAUL ROGERS

Fri. 4/5 DILLY DALLY

A welcome throwback to the angsty grunge of Hole and early Smashing Pumpkins, Canada's Dilly Dally is a reminder of why that genre, when done right, once ruled the airwaves. The quartet is all about whisper-to-a-scream dynamics: intimacy exploding into overt outpouring, with tiny sounds – often the textured murmur of chief songwriter Katie Monks – juxtaposed against tortured guitars and gangly drums. Having retreated into a time-apart hiatus following the hard-touring behind acclaimed 2015 debut "Sore," Dilly Dally returned to slobbering reviews with last year's relentlessly cathartic "Heaven"; both an unlikely continuation of its predecessor's fiery

form and a 34-minute advert for a full-blown grunge revival.

At Constellation Room at the Observatory, Santa Ana

Sat. 4/6 ANVIL

The relatively successful recent career of veteran Canadian metalheads Anvil was triggered by an immensely poignant 2008 documentary, "Anvil! The Story of Anvil," which detailed their relatively unsuccessful prior three decades. Fronted by the irrepressible "Lips" Kudlow, the tragi-comic traditional metal trio now plays the sold-out clubs and top-flight fests which largely eluded them prior to finding big-screen fame (and was the stuff of dreams during a good 20 years of numbing

obscurity). While Lips and co. can genuinely claim to have influenced the likes of Metallica and Slayer, their recent recorded output is workman-like, if brisk, fist-in-the-air metal distinguished by Kudlow's much-admired guitar work.

At The Wayfarer, Costa Mesa

Sat. 4/6 THE HAVANA CUBA ALL-STARS

There's something insanely uplifting and infectious about the Havana Cuba All-Stars – a collective of some of Cuba's most revered musicians who, for this "Asere!" ("Friendship") performance, are joined by three of that island's most accomplished dancing couples. But in fact everyone in this dozen-strong band – comprising brass, Spanish and steel guitar, electric bass and multiple types of Latin percussion – dances, and there are few in their audience who don't join in. The SoCal winter is far from frigid, but this ultra-rhythmic blast of sunny Caribbean bliss, which lovingly traverses rumba, cha cha chá and habanera, will nonetheless be a welcome escape at Segerstrom.

At Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, Costa Mesa

Tue. 4/9 BUDDY GUY

Still touring as he approaches age 83, Buddy Guy's shudderingly inspired take on rock 'n' roll blues guitar has been both a blessing and a curse. Or rather it was the other way around, as it was early in his career that conservative label execs and radio programmers stifled an ultra-dynamic take on a genre that few have explored with such wide eyes and wild ability. It was not until the late 1980s blues revival that he began enjoying consistent commercial recognition for such startling originality. A relatively gentle vocal timbre further offsetting fiery fretboard virtuosity and emotive showmanship, Guy's a national treasure best appreciated live.

At The Coach House, San Juan Capistrano

Thu. 4/11 JACK & JACK

Few acts are such products of their time as Jack & Jack, a pair of Omaha-raised pop rappers who initially earned a following through satirical

YouTube content and Vine cover tunes before, while still teens, starting to self-upload original co-compositions to iTunes. Only 22 today, these childhood buds are now big business, enjoying multiple brand partnerships which have brought further exposure to their safe, phone-ready fluff. Essentially cascades of call-and-response lyrical clichés between Jack Johnson's nasal rhyming and Jack Gilinsky's pitch-corrected croon, backed by drag-and-drop beats and bleeps, Jack & Jack are a crash course in what the uncool kids are buying.

At City National Grove of Anaheim

Thu. 4/11 JOSH ABBOTT BAND

The Josh Abbott Band's fifth full-length, 2017's "Until My Voice Goes Out" is a contemplative yet ultimately sanguine, strings- and horns-adorned contrast to its predecessor, "Front Row Seat." Whereas the latter documented the arc of Abbott's failed marriage, "Until My Voice" is an appreciate-the-moment celebration shaped by both the joy of impending parenthood and the simultaneous loss of his father. His clean-cut septet defy their (quite literal) frat boy origins at Texas Tech to produce a melodious yet earthy collision of to-be-expected Texan country and more overtly outlaw Red Dirt influences, with burbling banjo, fiddle and guitars embroidering Abbott's marvelously relatable storytelling.

At House of Blues, Anaheim

Fri. 4/12 BEN RECTOR

Over the past dozen years, Oklahoman tunesmith Ben Rector has built the type of organic music career that simply isn't supposed to exist anymore: over hundreds of shows and seven albums he's gone from part-time college crooner to Top 10 seller (with 2015's "Brand New"). Rector took his longest between-records pause yet before releasing last year's "Magic": another worthy collection of polished, mostly piano- and synth-driven pop with occasional country-ish melodies and echoes of 1990s college rock. Now 32 and a father, what this singing pianist/guitarist does so well is getting nostalgic while remaining optimistic – a emotional balancing act that resonates widely with his peers and beyond.

At House of Blues, Anaheim

MUSIC

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Sat. 4/13 PINK

When Pink's career exploded with her 2000 debut "Can't Take Me Home," she seemed destined to parallel poppy peers like Britney Spears (who she compared herself on 2001 single "Don't Let Me Get Me") and Jessica Simpson (who she mildly dissed on 2008's "So What"). But the genre- and style-hop-pin' gal born Alecia Moore wanted more, and so has co-composed, collaborated (with everyone from Linda Perry to Tim Armstrong), and lustily sung herself into a rare, two-decades-and-counting combo of artistic credibility and chart/radio ubiquity. Pink's famously elaborate – and downright athletic – live shows have only enhanced her rep as America's favorite singing tomboy.

At Honda Center, Anaheim

Fri. 4/19 AARON WATSON

Aaron Watson is a proudly independent Texas country artist who, over a 20-year career, has grazed the top of the genre – his appropriately-titled

2015 album "The Underdog" debuting at number one on the Billboard Country Albums chart – while retaining rare creative and commercial control. But that's where any "outlaw" spirit stops for this unabashedly well-balanced, mainstream family man. On 11th studio album, "Vaquero," however, Watson – intentionally or otherwise – tosses political hot potatoes on "Clear Isabel" and "Amen, Amigo", which detail the cultural and literal crisscrossing of the U.S.-Mexican border (in both directions) which is fundamental to the story of Texas itself.

At House of Blues, Anaheim

Sat. 4/20 LOS LOBOS

Incredibly, East L.A.'s Los Lobos have been exploring the music of their Mexican heritage and American lives – including rock, Tex-Mex, R&B, blues and traditional south-of-the-border sounds – for over 45 years, with four original members still aboard. From clawing their way up as a wedding band, to the years of global stardom following their international hit cover

of Ritchie Valens' "La Bamba," and lately back playing in clubs, this multi-award-winning outfit has palpably retained a passion for musical (and cultural) adventure. Los Lobos' most recent full-length, 2015's self-produced "Gates of Gold," while patchy, shows that the preceding 23 albums have barely dulled their creative curiosity.

At The Coach House, San Juan Capistrano

Fri. 4/26 and Sat. 4/27 MUSIC OF QUEEN / PACIFIC SYMPHONY

Epic rock riffs and majestic symphonic strings will come together in perfect harmony as Pacific Symphony pays tribute to one of the greatest bands of all time. Joined by high-energy band and vocalists Windborne, the symphony performs hits such as "Bohemian Rhapsody," "We Are the Champions," "Killer Queen," "Crazy Little Thing Called Love," "Another One Bites the Dust" and many more. The orchestra opens the show with Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2, Gardel's "Por una Cabeza" (the tango heard in "Scent of a Woman" and in the famous

Arnold Schwarzenegger/Jamie Lee Curtis dance scene in "True Lies") and a medley of hits by The Beatles.

Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, Costa Mesa

Tue. 4/30 SILK ROAD ENSEMBLE

Formed by celebrated Chinese American cellist Yo-Yo Ma, the ambitious Silk Road Ensemble has been a culture-straddling collaboration of diverse virtuoso musicians for the past 20 years. To mark this milestone, it's performing an entirely new concert, "Heroes Take Their Stands," conceived by kamancheh player/composer Kayhan Kalhor and folklorist Ahmad Sadri. Comprising five works from members and friends of this unique world music ensemble, "Heroes" explores how ordinary people can make a difference, from Greek mythology's Elektra to Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Expect instruments including Galician bagpipe, Chinese lute, Japanese bamboo flute and Indian tabla to come together to thought-provoking, bridge-building effect at Segerstrom.

At Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Costa Mesa



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A PASSION FOR THE ARTS

OC MUSIC AND DANCE OFFERS TOP-TIER EDUCATION AND STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES.

BY: NICK WALKER

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: OC MUSIC AND DANCE

When Pick Up Stix founder Charles Zhang moved to the United States at 23 years old, he had \$20 in his pocket, a talent for playing the clarinet and an acceptance to the Pasadena Conservatory of Music. Despite his passion for music, Zhang was forced to drop out after only one semester, as he could not afford to continue paying the tuition. He got a job as a dishwasher in

a Chinese restaurant to help remedy his financial struggles. Tragically, an on-the-job injury left him with permanent damage in his fingers, causing him to lose his ability to play the clarinet. Shortly following this unfortunate incident, Zhang shifted his focus from music to the restaurant industry. He bought a Chinese restaurant, then another restaurant, and soon enough, he had created Pick Up Stix, growing the restaurant chain to over 100



locations, before selling the successful chain to pursue other ventures. Still, after all that time, Charles Zhang's passion for music never waned, and as his success grew, his desire to give back to the community grew as well. So, in 2017, Zhang combined his passion for music with his passion for community, and he and his wife Ling created OC Music and Dance.

Barely two years later, OC Music and Dance (OCMD) is one of the only non-profit community music and dance schools in Orange County. Already serving nearly 600 students, the school boasts a broad range of classes in voice, dance and music. While its fast growth

Pacific Symphony and highly recognized philanthropist, also serves as the school's CEO.

Charles Zhang's passion and history are seen in his dedication to making sure every child and teen can receive the highest quality education in music and dance, regardless of their ability to pay. OCMD provides its students with scholarships of up to 90 percent for private lesson tuition and up to 50 percent for group lesson tuition. The vast majority of students at OCMD are on some variation of scholarship, which is based on one of two ways. The first way a student can attain a scholarship

“BRINGING IN SOME OF THE TOP EDUCATORS FROM AROUND ORANGE COUNTY, OCMD'S SELECTION OF CLASSES IS JUST AS UNIQUE AS EVERYTHING ELSE ABOUT IT.”

is impressive, it is reasonable to see such development from a company that boasts such a notable, hands-on Board of Directors, which includes notable community figures such as Pacific Symphony President John E. Forsythe and Orange County School of the Arts founder Ralph S. Opacic, Ed.D. Doug Freeman, former Board Chair of the

is if they meet California's eligibility requirement for free or reduced cost breakfast or lunch (Title I). The second is discretionary, based off a personal interview and demonstration of financial need. Zhang and his Board of Directors work tirelessly to ensure that no child is kept from pursuing their dreams, and have funded a growing endowment to ensure continuation of the scholarship program.

OCMD has created a state-of-the-art facility for their students to learn in, inside their building which they also share with the Pacific Symphony. With eight music rooms, two dance studios, a recording studio and a beautiful 150-seat black box theater, complete with state-of-the-art electronics, OCMD has more up-to-date equipment than some schools that have been around for decades longer. The school even has its own café, run by the non-profit social enterprise Monkey Business Café, which is open to the public Monday through Friday 9 a.m. – 7 p.m., and Friday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. The café even puts on live events, like open-mic nights, for the general public and students alike.

In the passions of community-building of its board members, OCMD strives to collaborate with the surrounding performing arts community. They work with local schools to help place music teachers in performing arts education classes at all levels, and rather than view other studios and schools as competition, they work to collaborate with them and help each other grow.





This summer, OCMD will also be hosting a select group of music students from China through their Steinway International Piano Preparatory Academy. Participating students will take masterclasses from renowned master teachers and participate in performances with the Pacific Symphony and Orchestra Santa Monica.

Bringing in some of the top educators from around Orange County, OCMD's selection of classes is just as unique as everything else about it. In dance, they provide classes in ballet, hip-hop and contemporary, as well as traditional Chinese folk dance, Mexican Folklorico and Indian classical dance. They are also building up new programs in jazz and tap.

In music, they provide group and private lessons for almost any type of instrument. Even more impressive, once students have gained the basic skills of their instruments and become comfortable with playing, they have the option to join musical ensembles. These ensembles teach students to not only play their instrument, but also how to play

well with other musicians and perform in front of live audiences.

OCMD also provides group and private voice lessons, musical theater classes and music skills classes for children and teens of all ages. Two of their newer programs include "The Pop Academy," an intensive workshop that takes students through all the elements of building a career in the pop music industry, including stage performance, songwriting and recording, and "Jazz 360," a comprehensive program designed to incorporate jazz music, voice and dance into one mutually beneficial curriculum.

OC Music and Dance is a state-of-the-art and well-supported non-profit music and dance school that is dedicated to nurturing, inspiring and empowering its students grow and succeed. It is an important, growing facet of Irvine, not only for kids and teens, but for the community as a whole. For more information on OCMD, you can visit their website at ocmusicdance.org.





PHOTO BY: ORANGECOAST.COM

KNOWLEDGE AND INSPIRATION ARE ABUNDANT AT OC STEAM FEST

GREAT PARK EVENT OFFERS HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES RELATED TO SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ARTS AND MATHEMATICS.

BY: RYAN NAJJAR

As spring passes by, kids are getting more and more excited about the coming summer holiday. They'll get to go on adventures with their friends, play video games for hours on end, and they won't have to learn anything for the next few months.

Educators have pondered the question for decades upon decades, and we've had the same one on our minds: Why can't learning be something kids look forward to? Why does uncovering new knowledge end up being uninteresting for so many children?

There are a lot of varying answers, but

a short and simple one is the fact that the lessons aren't always structured in an intriguing and effective way. Furthermore, the people giving them might not be great at relaying the information.

Considering that the key to getting kids to love learning is as straightforward as fascinating lessons with captivating teachers, the Irvine Public Schools Foundation decided that they needed to dedicate their energy and resources to offer that opportunity.

The result of their efforts took the form of the OC STEAM Fest.

The acronym stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and

Mathematics, and this year's attendees will enjoy the largest celebration of creativity, ingenuity and education the foundation's ever offered.

STEAM Fest will be kicking off on April 27 this year, and it'll all be going down at the Orange County Great Park, located in Irvine. People will be able to stick around between 2 p.m. – 7 p.m., although we recommend coming earlier for better parking.

Presale tickets, which are available online, are \$10 for children aged 4 to 17, while children under three and adults get free admission. You can still get tickets at the event, although they will run

you \$15 if you wait until then.

If you're bummed about admission prices, just remember that the event proceeds are going directly toward schools in the Irvine Unified School District. So, if you're a local with kids in a wonderful Irvine public school, you don't really lose money at all.

We've been talking about this event as an educational experience, but if you look at all the activities being offered, it'd be surprising if kids realize they're learning.

Activities include everything from live performances to human foosball, spin art, LEGO engineering, a prehistoric

experience called Dino Encounters, and many more.

There are also some intriguing demonstrations that the whole family will want to check out. For starters, kids will get the chance to work on building their very own mini robots, along with getting to watch bigger creations live and in action.

They'll also get to experience one of the most exciting technological phenomena to take the world by storm over the past few years: virtual reality.

That's right, courtesy of EON Reality, guests will get to step into the immersive and detailed digital realm that VR technology has made possible and accessible.

Giving kids the chance to interact with

“WE BELIEVE THAT KNOWLEDGE IS A HUMAN RIGHT, AND IT'S OUR GOAL TO MAKE KNOWLEDGE AVAILABLE, AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE FOR EVERY HUMAN ON THE PLANET.”

-EON REPRESENTATIVE

and learn about this technology in person does more than offer a new type of game to play. When we let young people work with new technology, they might end up being inspired to help create the descendants.

It's this exact mission that inspired EON Reality to become a major sponsor of STEAM Fest and offer their technologies to be demonstrated for curious youths.

It makes even more sense when you learn that this company, which has a presence all over the world, is headquartered right here in Irvine. Their work with STEAM, then, is as much about community empowerment as it is about education.

A representative of EON said as much when speaking to a crowd gathered at the event during a previous year:

“We love Irvine, and our company ... is focused on training and education, so being part of STEAM Fest is something

that means a lot to us.”

“It means a lot that we can give students, parents, children and all [other] people a chance to have an experience that has them thinking ‘Man, I wish I did that when I was in school.’”

Their commitment to spreading knowledge goes deep: If you check out the EON Reality website and read their company mission, they state the following:

“We believe that knowledge is a Human Right, and it's our goal to make knowledge available, affordable and accessible for every human on the planet.”

It's a tall order, but the people at EON believe that they've been developing the tools that'll make it happen.

As part of their effort, they've started a nonprofit called EON Reality Education, which focuses on promoting AVR (Augmented/Virtual Reality) education and research and advancing efforts in that direction.

They have four arms of this operation: Classroom 3.0, Creator AVR, VR Information Academy and EON Learn for Life.

To keep it short, Classroom 3.0 is an initiative to use the immersive technologies the company makes to add an expanded visual component to the standard in-school learning process.

The intended effect of this is to allow the brain to save energy it would normally spend toward creating mental images to complement words being spoken during a lesson, thus allowing them to take in the lesson more effectively.

Creator AVR, a complement to Classroom 3.0, gives teachers the chance to create an experience-based lesson plan that utilizes 3D models along with video and audio.

Tying in more directly to AVR itself, the VR Information Academy is a venture crafted to teach students the nuances and processes involved in this expanding technology with a hands-on approach.

Lastly, the mission of EON Learn for Life is to help those who need it most around the world to enter the job market. They'll accomplish this by utilizing developments made as a result of Classroom 3.0 and VRIA.

If you want to learn more about EON's work and support their goal to teach the world, along with educating yourself in the process, then be sure to stop by the OC STEAM Fest! Take the kids, bring some friends and get everybody in on the fun of knowledge!



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