



Los Angeles Event

What Not to Miss at the Los Angeles Design Festival

The four-day celebration of local design, now in its ninth year, will be based at ROW DTLA and span the whole city

By Jessica Ritz

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A bed designed by Meyghan Hill, one of the Edge award winners, will display work at ROW DTLA.

Photo: Courtesy of Meyghan Hill

The Los Angeles Design Festival (LADF) returns to the city for its ninth year from June 20 to 23, with more programming, community outreach, and creative interdisciplinary overlap than ever before. "In the life cycle of design festivals, [Los Angeles's \[fair\]](#) is still quite young," says event founder Haily Zaki. "But the L.A. Design Festival has hit its stride now, and it's been a behemoth group effort to mobilize around this one collective moment on the calendar."

To support the 2019 theme, Design with Purpose, Zaki notes that the LADF "is a testament to the incredibly talented and diverse creative communities of L.A." Namely, it is made possible by "all the different studios, shows, and individuals who believe in the effort and pitch in." Over a dozen temporary installations are currently underway, with a full roster of more than 100 events, panel discussions, and activations, starting with the awards night and fund-raiser kickoff at the Ace Hotel Theatre on Thursday, June 20. The [Design Block Party](#) is scheduled for the following

Friday evening. It's also the third year with DTLA serving as the festival's main hub. Designers should be sure to make the most of these experiences during the four-day event.

See Icon and Edge Award Winners' Work on Display

The festival's Edge awards honor emerging talent in the community. Architect and artist Elena Manferdini, principal and owner of Atelier Manferdini and the SCI-Arc graduate programs chair, will receive the Icon award. The Edge award honorees are glassblower Uri Davillier of Neptune Glassworks, welder Meyghan Hill of (wh)ORE HAÜS STUDIOS, Kenesha Sneed of Tactile Matter, product designer Eric Trine, and artist Cindy Hsu Zell. All will be featured in the "On the Edge" exhibition at ROW DTLA.

Hear Design Insiders Talk at Panel Series

Along with the keynote address by Angela Brooks and Lawrence Scarpa, the LADF talks at ROW DTLA include Peter Zellner of the Free School of Architecture, Jorge Garcia of Escuela Libre de Arquitectura in Tijuana, Mexico, hospitality entrepreneur Steve Fortunato, and the City of L.A.'s Chief Sustainability Officer Lauren Faber O'Connor, who will talk about Mayor Garcetti's Green New Deal proposal.

Eat Your Heart Out, L.A.

The winners of the AIA|LA Restaurant Design Awards will be announced on June 22, and other culinary-related programming includes the launch of the Design Supper Club. Following the inaugural dinner [party](#) at Assembledge+ architect David Thompson's home in Fryman Canyon on June 22, LADF will continue to partner with other local firms to host this quarterly series in new spaces.

Explore the City

Outside of ROW DTLA's offerings and exhibitions, those looking to fully experience the design potential on offer in Los Angeles need to venture to some of the festival's off-campus programming. Offsite participants such as the Henzel Studio [rug exhibition](#) at The New gallery, Mud Australia and Vitsoe's special window display, the Museum of Neon Art, and the Hem Fest (featuring a new iteration of "[Object Permanence](#)" and a raffle of reimaged Max Lamb Last Stool designs by prominent L.A. designers) will span the city with offerings and activations. View the full schedule of events [online](#).