

# POMONA BULLETIN

**GOOD PAYING  
JOBS FOR  
YOUTH**

**IS THE  
LIBRARY  
CLOSING?**

**CAN ART  
SAVE POMONA'S  
YOUTH?**

**THE ULTIMATE CLUCK-OFF  
POMONA'S  
BATTLE OF THE  
CHICKEN JOINTS**



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# EMBRACING POMONA: A COMMUNITY THAT SHOWS UP

## Embracing Pomona: A Community That Shows Up

This month, we're highlighting the youth and youth programs in Pomona—a city that has played a central role in my life as a father. I have two daughters: Devynn, 28, and Tuolumne, 12.

People often ask me, "Is Pomona a good place to raise children?" My answer is always simple: **I raised my children in Pomona.**

Yet, Pomona often gets a bad rap. I saw this firsthand at a recent fundraiser for the Optimist Club, where I met Tracy, the founder of **Healed Women Heal**. She was there with her daughters, and I was there with mine. Together, we spent the afternoon at the DA Center for Arts—painting, laughing, and enjoying our time as families.

As Tracy and I talked about real estate, she shared something familiar: She originally moved to Pomona because, as a single mother, it was the only place she could afford. When she told her mother she was moving here, her mom cried. I couldn't help but laugh—not because it was funny, but because I had lived the exact same experience. When I told my mother I was moving her three-year-old granddaughter to Pomona, she cried and begged me to reconsider.

This is a response I hear far too often from people outside the city. But after nearly 25 years as a Pomona resident, I just don't understand the fear. Like any city, we have our challenges, but tell me—**what large city doesn't?**

## Why I Love Pomona

Pomona is more than just a place to live—it's a **community that shows up** for its families.

I love our **diversity**. I love that Pomona **prioritizes youth and families**. Time and again, I've seen this city rally—not just for my family, but for so many others.

Pomona has **amazing parks, incredible food, and a TON of free activities** for kids and families. We care so much about youth that the city overwhelmingly passed **Measure Y**, which requires at least 10% of general funds to be spent on youth programs. That's a commitment you don't see everywhere.

So, with all that said... **why do people leave?**

## Have You Given Pomona a Chance?

- Have you taken advantage of **Pomona's free summer programs?**
- Have you visited the **Pomona Public Library** and explored its **free events?**
- How often do you attend the **2nd Street Art Walk?**
- Do you shop and dine in Pomona?

Too many times, when I ask my neighbors these questions, the answer is **no**.

## What Community Looks Like

My daughter Devynn recently got married. Her husband is in the military, so they used a **VA loan** to purchase their home. She's a proud member of the Pomona Optimist Club, even though her restaurant is in Claremont.

Around the same time she was house-hunting, we were asked to attend a **Pomona Unified School Board meeting**. A hate group was rumored to be showing up, attempting to convince the board to reject **diversity and inclusion initiatives**.

But what happened that night?

## Pomona showed up.

**Hundreds** of people—residents, leaders, and parents—came together to **defend and protect our youth**. The city spoke with one loud, unified voice: **We support our children. We will not turn our backs on any child. Not now, not ever.**

As we sat in that meeting, my daughter turned to me and said something that nearly brought me to tears: "I don't want to live anywhere but Pomona."

That's what community looks like. That's the kind of city where I raised my children. And that's the city where my daughter now wants to raise hers.

## The Challenge: Love Your City

So, once again, I challenge you—**brag about your city**.

- Visit a local park and **have a picnic**.
- Take a **free art class** at the library.
- Explore a **community garden**.
- Eat at a **Pomona restaurant** instead of driving somewhere else.
- Follow **The Pomona Bulletin** on **Facebook and Instagram** to see what's happening in our city.

Oh, and Tracy? Her mother eventually got over her fear of Pomona. After seeing her daughter and grandkids **thrive** here, she did something she never expected—**she moved to Pomona herself**.

Pomona is more than what outsiders assume. It's a place of **opportunity, resilience, and community**. And I'm proud to call it home.



**Mitchell Stein**

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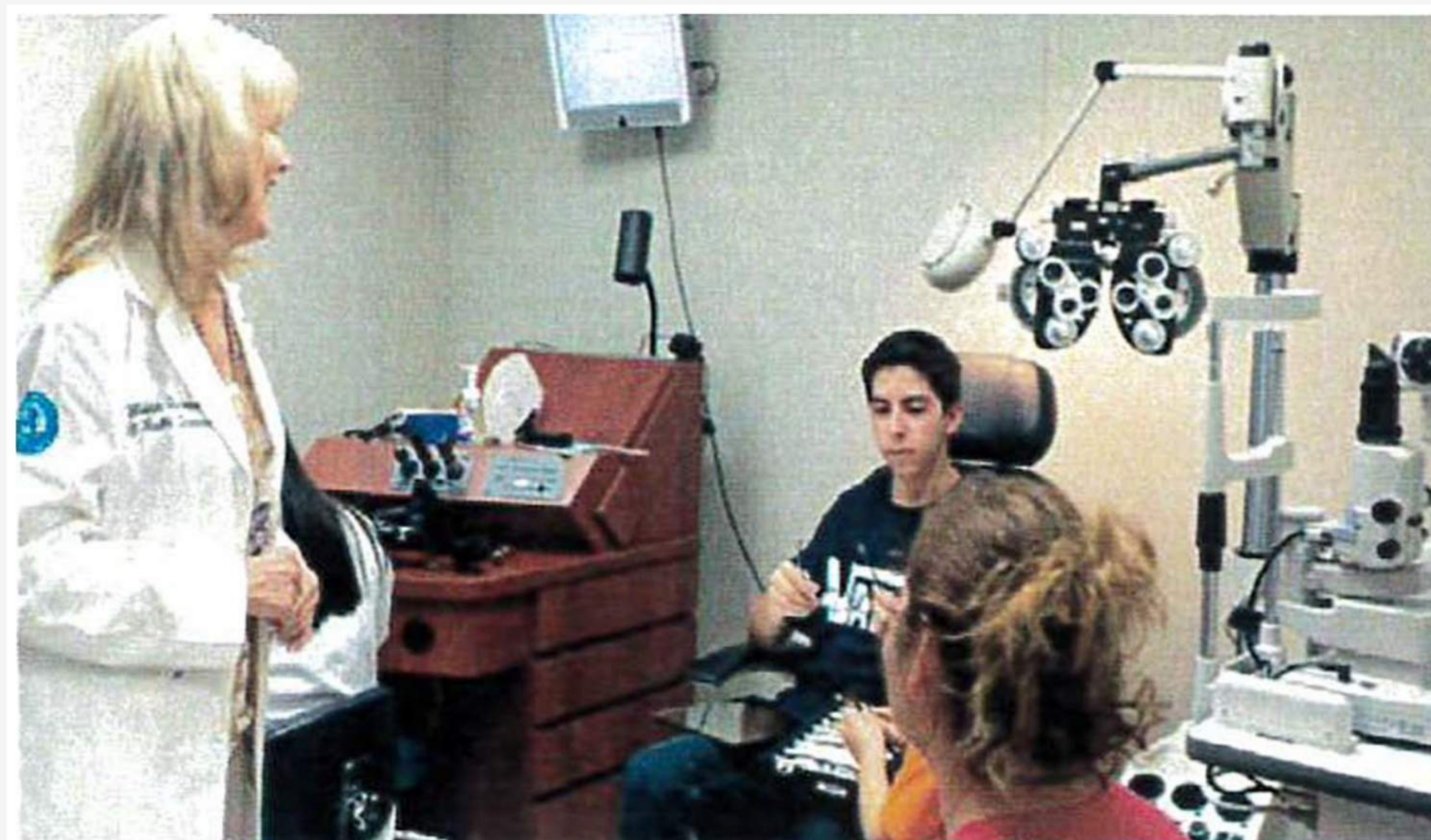


## FREE EYEGLASSES!

Free Vision Exam & Glasses for Eligible Students Provided by Western University Eye Care Institute Thanks to the generosity of the Pomona Lions Club!

### Who Qualifies?

Students who meet eligibility requirements can receive a comprehensive eye exam and glasses at no cost.



### Clinic Location & Hours:

Marshall Middle School - On-Campus Eye Care Clinic  
Wednesdays Afternoons - 1921 Arroyo, Pomona, CA

 **Medi-Cal Accepted!**

### How to Apply:

Submit your application to your school's Health Office.

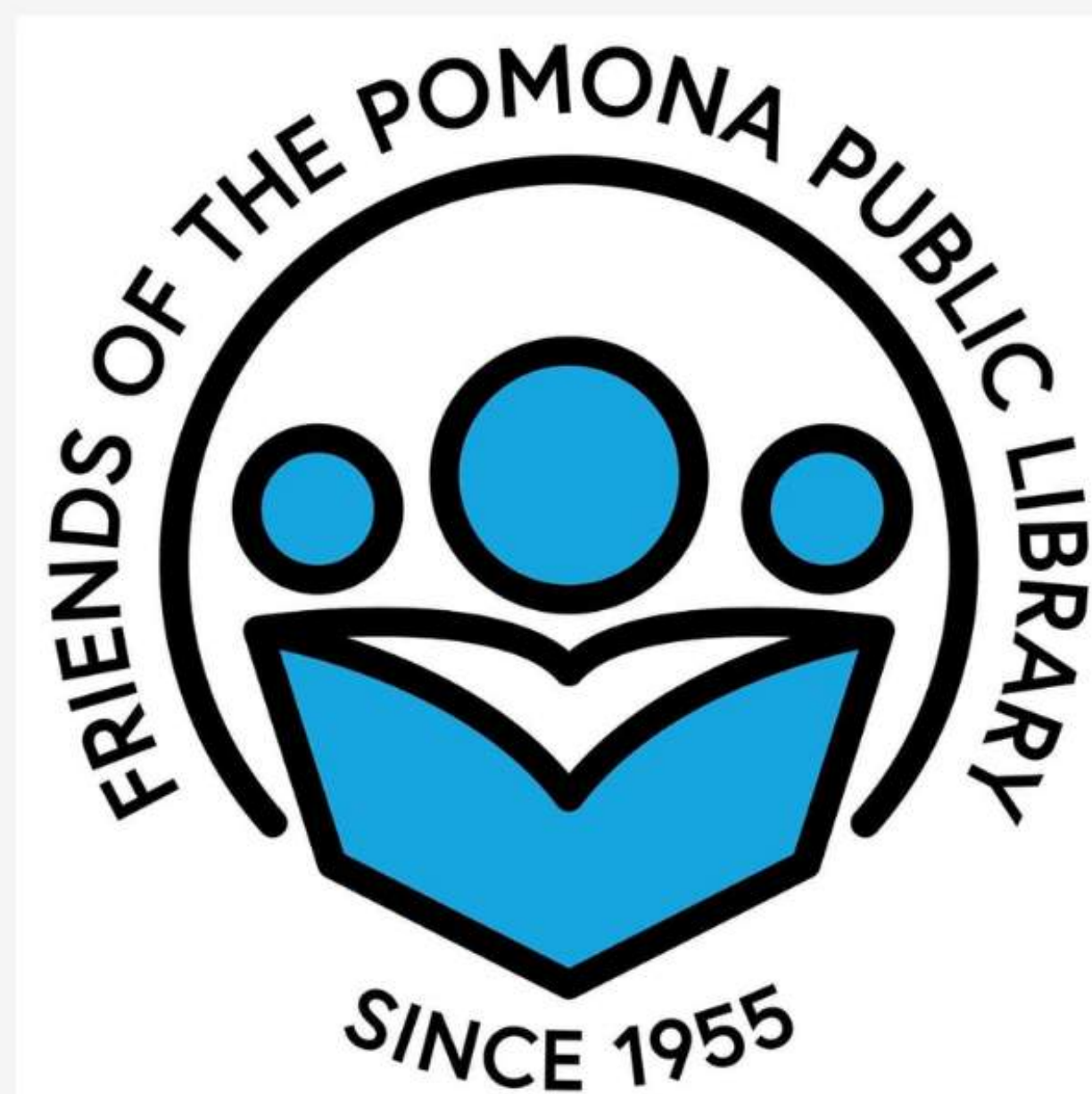
### For More Information:



Call Health Services at (909) 397-4648  
or Western University at (909) 469-8330

Pomona residents who don't attend Pomona schools—need free or discounted eyeglasses?  
Call Stein Team Realty at 909-255-1070, and we'll help you get the vision care you deserve!

# Pomona Public Library: Exciting Events & Renovations in 2025!



Big things are happening at the Pomona Public Library this year, and we can't wait to share what's in store, from milestone celebrations to exciting renovations.

## Celebrating 70 Years of Friends of the Library!

The Friends of the Pomona Public Library are turning 70! To mark this incredible milestone, we're hosting the 2025 Library Trivia Bee on April 11—stay tuned for details.

## Library Renovations & Temporary Closure

The library will be closed from mid-April through late summer for renovations. Staff will have limited access starting mid-May. A full reopening is expected in August or September. However, the Crochet Lab, Gardening Class, and Video Game Club will continue throughout the closure. The Library appreciates your patience as a better library experience for all is created!

## Spring & Summer Fun—We're Still Reading!

Library renovations won't stop the fun! Here's what's coming up:

- Storytime continues on Wednesdays at 3 p.m. in March.
- Crochet Lab will take place March 13 and 27 4:30 pm-6:30 pm
- The Video Game Club meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 4 pm



- Rec & Read at Washington Park Rec Center 2nd & 4th Thursdays through May (next up: Feb. 27, 3:30–4:30 p.m.)
- Spring Event (tentative: April 16th) and outdoor Storytime at 3 p.m. in April, weather permitting.
- The Summer Reading Program starts in June with outdoor events—more details soon!

## More Ways to Stay Engaged


While the library is closed, check out the Crochet Lab, Gardening Class, Video Game Club, and/or City of Pomona Community Services for exciting activities! From 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., MTThF and 1 p.m. to 5 pm on Wednesdays, kids and teens (ages 7-17) can participate in after-school programs at six community centers hosted by Pomona Community Services. Kids can also participate in camping trips and music classes.


Visit the city's website and follow us on social media for events, renovations, and more updates. Thank you for being part of our library family—we can't wait to grow and celebrate with you in 2025!

*Written by The Friends of the Pomona Library Board*



 friendspomonalibrary

 @friendsofthepomonalibrary

 friendspomonalibrary@gmail.com

 <http://friendspomonalibrary.org/>

# NOW HIRING POMONA YOUTH: START YOUR CAREER WITH US!



## SGVCC Corpsmembers at work

Are you a young adult in Pomona seeking **paid job training, educational support, and career development opportunities**? The **San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps (SGVCC)** is now hiring youth aged 18-26. If you're ready to gain **valuable work experience, earn certifications, and secure stable housing**, take the first step toward a successful future with us!

### Why Join SGVCC?

- **Hands-On Job Training:** Engage in projects like urban greening, park restoration, and sustainability initiatives, all while earning a paycheck.
- **Educational Advancement:** Through our partnership with the YouthBuild Charter School of California, you can earn your high school diploma while gaining practical work experience.
- **Comprehensive Support Services:** We offer free transportation passes, meals, work clothes, childcare assistance during training sessions, and help in finding stable housing.

### How to Apply

SGVCC Corpsmembers in training

1. **Visit Our Website:** Go to our [Become a Corpsmember](#) page to learn more about the program.
2. **Complete the Enrollment Interest Form:** Fill out the [Pomona Enrollment Interest Form](#) to express your interest.
3. **Contact Us Directly:** For more information, call us at (626) 655-0015 or visit our Pomona site at 540 S. Locust St., Pomona, CA 91766.

### Connect with Us

Stay updated by following our social media channels:



 @sgvccorps



 San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps



**Don't wait—start your journey today!** Apply now and join SGVCC in creating a better future for yourself and your community.

# ORGANIZATIONS YOU CAN JOIN TO HELP POMONA YOUTH



**Kiwanis International** support kids through health, education, and youth leadership, creating lasting impacts from infancy to adulthood. Make a difference for kids! Join your local Kiwanis club and team up with volunteers to change lives. Thousands of clubs, endless traditions—find yours today!

KiwanisPomona@gmail.com

- 184 West 3rd Street, Pomona, CA 91766
- 305 E. Holt Ave., United States, Pomona, CA 91767



Scan the QR code to join.



**The Pomona Lions Club** has served our community for over 100 years, supporting local causes like homelessness, literacy, vision care, and food aid. Globally, we assist with disaster relief, helping rebuild lives after natural disasters.

- Pomona Host Lions Club P.O. Box 3085 Pomona, CA 91769



Scan the QR code to join.



**The Fraternal Order of Eagles** offers a free first-year membership to active/retired Law Enforcement, Firefighters, EMTs, Correctional Officers, Active Military, Volunteer Firefighters/EMTs, and Honorably Discharged Military. We support our heroes through the F.O.E. Memorial Foundation and fund vital health research via our Charity Foundation.

- 954 W. Mission Blvd. , Pomona, CA
- 909-622-9160



Scan the QR code to join.



**Rotary International** is a global volunteer organization of 1.2 million leaders dedicated to humanitarian service, goodwill, and peace. Founded by Paul P. Harris in 1905, the Rotary Club of Chicago brought together professionals to exchange ideas and form lasting friendships.

- pomonarotaryclub@gmail.com
- 740 N. Garey Ave., Pomona, CA
- (909) 941-3769



Scan the QR code to join.



**Optimist International** champions local businesses, fosters community growth, and promotes our "City On The Move." We connect, advocate, and drive progress for a thriving Pomona.

- info@pomonachamber.org
- (909) 622-1256
- 320 S. Thomas Street, Pomona, CA 91766



Scan the QR code to join.



Pomona Valley Pride

**Pomona Valley Pride** offers programs to support and connect the LGBTQIA+ community, including workshops, support groups, social events, and educational initiatives. Together, we foster belonging and help our community thrive!

- 235 W Mission Boulevard, Pomona, CA 91766



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# The Ultimate Cluck-Off: Pomona's Battle of the Chicken Joints

Pomona, California, is home to many great eateries, but when it comes to chicken, two local legends rule the roost: **Donahoo's Golden Chicken** and **Macho Pollo**. One is crispy, golden, and downright indulgent. The other is smoky, juicy, and a little on the healthier side. So, whether you want to be **bad** (in the best way possible) or good (but still delicious), Pomona's got you covered.

Let's get ready to rumble—or should we say, **cluck!**



## Round 1: The Crispy Classic – Donahoo's Golden Chicken

Donahoo's Golden Chicken isn't just a restaurant—it's a **Pomona institution**. This old-school, cash-only joint has been serving up **fried perfection** for **over 70 years**. You walk up, place your order, and walk away with a white paper bag **overflowing** with golden-brown, perfectly crispy chicken. No frills, no fancy decor—**just pure, greasy joy**.

Their **hand-battered fried chicken** and **famous strips** come with fluffy homemade rolls and crinkle-cut fries. And trust us—**one bite and you'll understand why there's always a line out the door**.

**Hours:** Daily, 10:00 AM – 7:30 PM

**Address:** 1074 N Garey Ave, Pomona, CA 91767

**Phone:** (909) 622-3213

**Cash Only!**



## And the Winner Is... YOU!

Honestly, Pomona wins in this **battle of the birds**. Whether you're in the mood for **deep-fried comfort** or **grilled goodness**, you've got two **top-tier** options right in town. So, next time you're craving chicken, why not flip a coin? Either way, your taste buds win.

**Are you Team Fried or Team Charbroiled? Let us know on our Facebook Page and** Let the clucking begin!



## Round 2: The Charbroiled Challenger – Macho Pollo

If Donahoo's is that **wild, deep-fried** cousin who never turns down a party, Macho Pollo is the **laid-back sibling** who just got back from the gym but still knows how to have a good time.

Macho Pollo specializes in **charbroiled chicken**, grilled to juicy, smoky **perfection**. The skin is crisp, the meat is flavorful, and the vibe is more “I'm making better choices today” without sacrificing taste. You can get your chicken with **rice, beans, tortillas, or even a fresh salad**—because, hey, sometimes we try to be good.

Hours:

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday: 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM

- Sunday: 10:00 AM – 7:30 PM

- **Closed on Wednesdays** (Because even chickens need a break!)

**Address:** 1245 E Holt Ave, Pomona, CA 91767

**Phone:** (909) 865-1422



# The Mindful Advocate

## Mindfulness with a Purpose



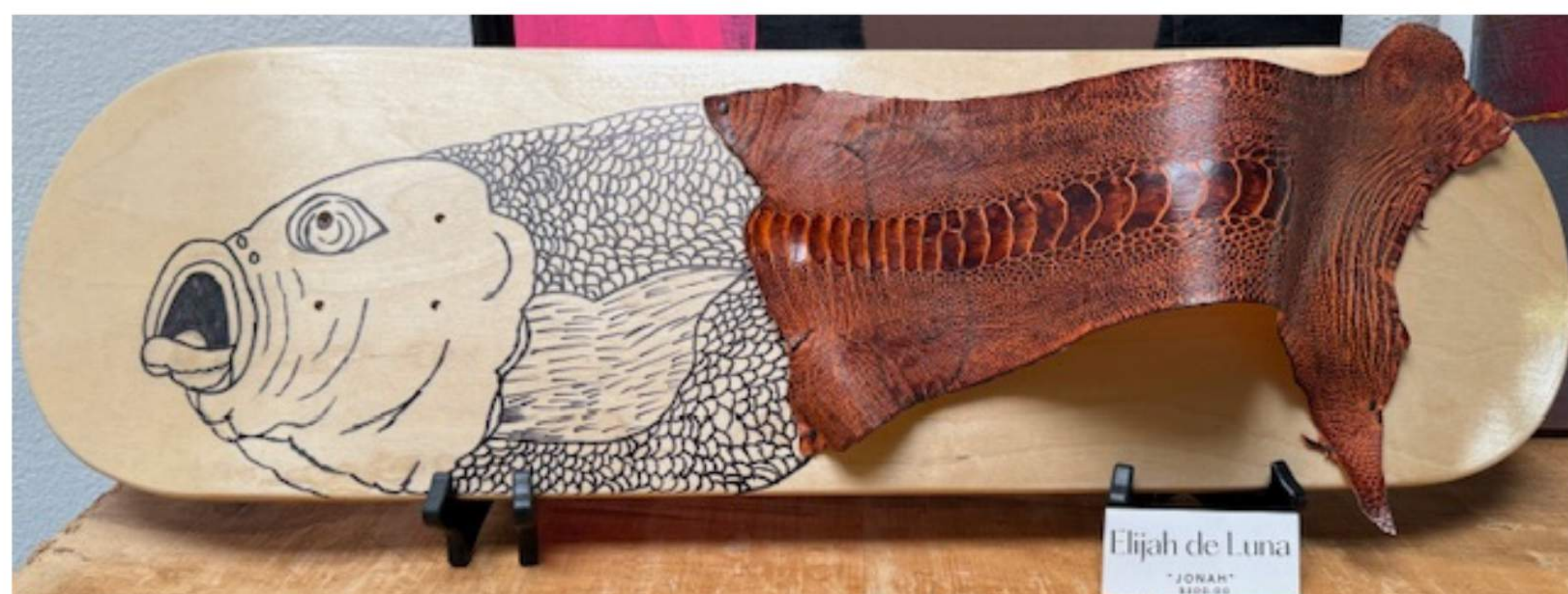
**“We are for them who we needed at their age.”**

Over 4,000 students in nearly 36 months have been supported, encouraged, and celebrated by Mia Lee and her husband John over at Conceptual Art Therapy in Pomona (<https://www.conceptualarttherapy.org/> 558 West 2nd St., Studio A). Through the creation of art using a variety of art media, Ms. Mia and Mr. John, as they are affectionately referred to by their students, have mentored teen youth and transitional youth struggling to make sense of a world that may feel so outside of themselves.

Weekly art classes, weekend workshops, and multi-week summer programs may be what you expect when registering, but Conceptual Art Therapy offers so much more. While creatively designing skateboard decks in the Art On Deck program or skillfully developing photos in the Eye Opener program, our youth gain life skills and a sense of community, all within a supportive and nurturing structure. These programs also create safe spaces for storytelling, where Ms. Mia teaches healthy coping skills for the often underestimated and overlooked stress our youth face every day.

Mia and John shared their story with me—the journey of raising six children while struggling with careers and jobs that, although provided for their family, didn’t quite bring them the deep joy they longed for. With John’s Master of Fine Arts degree and professional photography experience, and Mia’s aspiration to earn a Master’s degree in Psychology to better serve youth in her community, they combined their passions in a unique artistic fusion. Thus, Conceptual Art Therapy was born and has been fostering student growth and personal development for nearly three years.

Stepping into the art studio on 2nd St., youth will find a clean skateboard, ready to be used as their canvas for unrestricted creativity.



They will be guided and encouraged to carefully design what they wish to create on their 'canvas' before implementing it. Or, they may find themselves looking up to a tall gentleman with cool, thick-rimmed black professorial glasses, ready with cameras and film to teach them how to capture the perfect shot—one that quickly becomes a window to the soul. After completing their works of art, students are given the opportunity to showcase and sell their creations, as entrepreneurship is another skill taught in these classes.



This month, the Lees are launching a new program titled **Youth Art Week & Craft Fair**. What began as an idea for Youth Art Month (March 2025) quickly grew into an emphatic YES! from the Downtown Pomona Owners Association, along with encouragement to make it a year-round initiative. Young people ages 6-24, through Conceptual Art Therapy, will be offered individual spaces along the ArtWalk corridor to create and sell their art. Spots may be limited, so contact Conceptual Art Therapy to register today! (909-929-1022 | [mia@conceptualarttherapy.org](mailto:mia@conceptualarttherapy.org)).

Twenty-five percent of Pomona's population consists of youth and children under the age of 18. The city has committed a portion of its annual budget to the Children and Youth Fund, which began in 2022 and increases by 1% each year until it reaches a 10% goal. The City of Pomona has put its money where its mouth is, demonstrating its commitment to serving youth and children. These funds help make many activities and programs for young people absolutely **FREE!**

Check out some of those programs below:

Pomona Pathfinders Nature Club (ages 10-17) - Inspiring passion for the outdoors

Rec & Read: Storytime & Recreational Activities (ages 4-6) - Encouraging fun with reading

Youth Sports (For PUSD students only) - Opportunities to join citywide team sports

Pomona Skateboarding Beginner Class (ages 7-17) - Teaching the fundamentals in safe and fun ways

After School Program (ages 7-17) - Homework help, arts & crafts, sports

Serving Together,  
Brian S. Symonds, M.Div.



Find and register for these **FREE** programs and so many more at [bit.ly/pomonarecreation](https://bit.ly/pomonarecreation).



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