

Art, Music, and Culture Take Over Grand Avenue During DTLA ArtNight

BY MIC DIAZ | PUBLISHER

Downtown Los Angeles came alive during **DTLA ArtNight** as museums and cultural institutions along Grand Avenue opened their doors for an evening celebrating art, creativity, and community. Visitors explored destinations including The Broad, The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), and Grand Performances, making it easy to experience world-class visual and performing arts in one walkable corridor.

One of the evening's highlights was **Yoko Ono: Music of the Mind** at The Broad, the artist's first solo museum exhibition in Southern California. Organized in collaboration with Tate Modern, the exhibition spans more than seven decades of Ono's work as a visual artist, performance artist, musician, filmmaker, and peace activist. Visitors were invited to experience participatory works, including *Wish Tree*, where guests tied handwritten wishes to olive tree branches as a symbol of hope and peace. Another memorable installation, *My Mommy Is Beautiful*, invited visitors to write messages honoring their mothers, while video galleries featured Ono and John Lennon's iconic peace campaign, including "Give Peace a Chance," reinforcing the exhibition's enduring message of peace, love, and human connection.

Just across the street, Grand Performances presented **J. Period and Josh Kun Present: The Art of the Crossfade**, a musical lecture exploring how DJs and producers blend different genres and cultures to create new musical experiences. The program highlighted how crossfading serves as both a technical skill and a powerful symbol of cultural exchange, demonstrating how music can bridge cultures and create new artistic expression.

DTLA ArtNight once again showcased why Grand Avenue remains one of Los Angeles' premier arts destinations, giving visitors an opportunity to experience contemporary art, live music, and creative expression—all in one unforgettable evening.



Photos by Mic Diaz

CHAT WITH MIC

It's Never Too Late to Discover a New Passion

BY MIC DIAZ | PUBLISHER

After decades of caring for patients as a registered nurse, **Priscilla Villena De La Peña** is discovering a new passion—acting.

The Los Angeles-based nurse is part of the cast of *Nurse the Dead*, an iWant Original supernatural comedy series that shines a light on the lives of Filipino nurses while blending humor, heart, and the supernatural. The groundbreaking series is the first Filipino-produced television series filmed in Hollywood.

On an episode of *Chat With Mic*, De La Peña reflects on how joining the series came at just the right time in her life. As an empty nester, she embraced the opportunity to step outside her comfort zone and pursue something she had never imagined for herself.

She shares how acting challenged her in new ways and reminded her that it's never too late to discover another passion. While nursing will always be at the heart of who she is, this unexpected journey has given her the confidence to explore new possibilities and write a new chapter.

De La Peña hopes her story encourages others to remain open to life's surprises. Sometimes the next opportunity comes when you least expect it—and all it takes is the courage to say yes.

Beyond sharing her own journey, De La Peña hopes viewers will be inspired to pursue the dreams they've put on hold. Whether it's learning a new skill, exploring a creative passion, or simply taking a chance on something unfamiliar, she believes every stage of life offers an opportunity to grow, evolve, and discover something new about yourself.

Watch Priscilla Villena De La Peña's inspiring conversation on *Chat With Mic* on Youtube, where she shares her journey of reinvention, courage, and new beginnings.

DON'T MISS OUT!

Check out the full article in *In the Mix Magazine* – Issue One on Filipino Excellence.



New conversations every week on *Chat With Mic* Talk Show at Mic Diaz Presents Youtube Channel



CHAT WITH MIC Episode 70: Priscilla De La Peña

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ART & CULTURE

Eliseo Art Silva Reclaims History Through Art

BY MIC DIAZ | PUBLISHER



Filipino American artist **Eliseo Art Silva** recently showcased his work in *Self-Evident Truths*, a group exhibition at Avenue 50 Studio in Highland Park.

Silva's painting, *Sixto Lopez Crossing Manila Village in 1903*, depicts Filipino diplomat and independence advocate Sixto Lopez arriving at Manila Village, Louisiana, an early Filipino settlement in the United States. The composition draws inspiration from the iconic American painting *Washington Crossing the Delaware*, connecting two histories through a familiar image of revolution and independence.

The Manila-born Silva is known for artwork exploring Philippine and Filipino American history and identity. In Los Angeles, he is perhaps best known for *Gintong*

Kasaysayan, Gintong Pamana, his landmark mural in Historic Filipinotown. Silva also co-designed *Talang Gabay: Our Guiding Star*, the Historic Filipinotown Eastern Gateway, with architect Celestino Geronimo Jr.

Created in 2017 using acrylic on canvas, *Sixto Lopez Crossing Manila Village in 1903* reflects Silva's use of historical figures and events to explore the Filipino experience across generations.

Through his work, Silva brings often overlooked stories into public view, connecting the past with new generations.

ART & CULTURE

Dancing Under the Stars

BY MIC DIAZ | PUBLISHER



Downtown Los Angeles came alive with music and movement when we attended **The Music Center's Dance DTLA: Salsa** on July 10 at Jerry Moss Plaza.

The free summer series invites Angelenos of all skill levels to dance under the stars, with beginner-friendly instruction followed by a DJ-led dance party.

Now in its 22nd season, Dance DTLA brings a different dance style to Jerry Moss Plaza on select Friday nights throughout the summer. Following Salsa on July 10, the series continued with Reggaeton on July 17, Disco on July 24, Cumbia on July 31, Afrobeats on August 7, and Bollywood on August 14. Each free event runs from 7 to 11 p.m., giving Angelenos a chance to learn new moves and experience different dance traditions.

Whether learning new steps or simply enjoying the music, Dance DTLA offers a fun way to experience Los Angeles through movement, culture and community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 11 & 12

45th Lotus Festival at Echo Park Lake in Los Angeles
feat. host country Sri Lanka

JULY 14

Bastille Day (French National Day) Celebration at
California Plaza, DTLA

JULY 16

Garth Garcia Sings the Classics at Catalina Jazz Club

JULY 17

Miss Philippines USA 2026 Acoustic Night at Korner
Hut, Historic Filipinotown, Los Angeles

JULY 18

Rey Zipagan Art Exhibition at ROK Art Gallery, 5029 W.
Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles

JULY 18

WONDER-FULL Tribute to the Music of Stevie Wonder
feat. DJ Spinna, DJ Monalisa, Tatiana Tate and more!

JULY 19

Sunday Sessions free summer dance series at Gloria
Molina Grand Park, DTLA