



Creative Arts Month – Festival Plan

Kickoff Weekend (Main Festival)

- Opening Ceremony at the New Boardwalk – Live music, ribbon cutting for Creative District and 250 Years. Time Capsule Picture at Boardwalk or arch and the first passport stamp.
- Artist Vendor Market – Booths for local & regional artists (paintings, crafts, jewelry, sculpture, photography, poetry and prose, culinary).
- Workshops & Demos – Painting, pottery, chalk art, cooking demos, photography basics. Creative writing, kids activities, community mural, and youth stage.
- Performances – Live music, dance, story telling, theater, and buskers downtown.
- Food & Drink – vendors or trucks, certain vendors or restaurants offering their festival dish tied to the passport.
- Passport Launch – Visitors start collecting stamps at art booths, food stops, and pre-established installations.

Semiquincentennial Sculpture (250th Anniversary)

In advance of the festival, we will announce a special call for artists inviting submissions for a commemorative sculpture, mural, and written work (poetry/essay/short story). The winning pieces will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the United States and will be installed in Long Beach near the festival time capsule, which will be sealed and opened 50 years from now. This work will serve as a permanent legacy project, tying the Creative Arts Festival directly to a national milestone.

Storefront Exhibits (Passport Experience) - additional artworks submitted, purchased, or leased from the festival will be selected for display in downtown storefronts. These displays will be part of the month-long passport scavenger hunt, encouraging visitors to explore shops, restaurants, and galleries while collecting stamps. This not only highlights the artists but also draws customers into local businesses, creating an interactive downtown art walk.

There will be judged categories & awards alongside the sculpture competition and storefront displays, where winners may be awarded prizes, purchased for display, or adopted by businesses. An example category would be Pelicans – signature Long Beach icon, celebrated through sculpture, painting, or mixed media.

Month-Long Festival Extension

Scavenger Hunt / Passport Trail – Guests continue visiting storefronts, restaurants, and public art displays all month to get stamps.

Community Voting – People vote on their favorite artwork with ballot boxes or QR codes. Winner announced at the closing weekend.

Restaurant Features – Special menus and dishes available throughout the month.

Art in Storefronts – Featured pieces rotate in downtown shops for visitors to discover.

Weekly Spotlights – One small event each week (art walk tour, open mic, chef demo) to keep buzz alive.

Closing Weekend (Wrap-Up)

- Passport Deadline – Collect completed passports for prize drawings.
- Time Capsule Ceremony – Seal capsule with art, letters, and memorabilia.
- Awards & Recognition – Artist prizes and People’s Choice award announced.
- Final Celebration – Live music and food tastings to wrap up the month.