



720 Rose Avenue
Venice, CA 90291

ARCHITECTURE • LANDSCAPE • CUISINE • PERFORMANCE
A SERIES OF SPECIAL EVENTS BENEFITING VENICE COMMUNITY HOUSING
SPRING 2015 . VENICEDESIGNSERIES.ORG



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VENICE DESIGN SERIES: ARCHITECTURE + EXPERIENCE

April 30–May 21, 2016

**Six Site-Specific Events Celebrating Architecture, Cuisine, Landscape
and Performance Will Benefit Venice Community Housing**

Venice, CA—The 2nd annual [Venice Design Series](#) begins on Saturday, April 30, and continues through Saturday, May 21, 2016.

Following a sold-out first series in 2015, this year's events are spearheaded by landscape designer Jay Griffith; VCH Board Member Dana Newman; movie/television producer Eric Newman; and community leader Linda Lucks. The series is comprised of six site-specific special events, hosted by visionary architects, artists, chefs, designers, civic leaders, entrepreneurs and performers who have rallied again to support Venice Community Housing (VCH), a nonprofit housing and community development organization.



“As Venice changes,” says event co-chair Dana Newman, “it becomes more and more important to show compassion to the most vulnerable members of our community. The Venice Design Series is a terrific way to experience L.A.'s architectural heritage, including many normally private locations — and to help solve the homelessness and housing crisis by supporting the work of Venice Community Housing.”

This one-of-a-kind design series — from the creative team behind the Venice Garden & Home Tour, which concluded after 20 successful years — includes events and tours from Bunker Hill to Topanga, offering access to homes designed by L.A.'s top

architects, artists, chefs, designers, civic leaders, entrepreneurs and performers as well as curated entertainment and dining. The events/tours are intimate and exclusive events— most can accommodate up to 40 attendees. Subscription packages are available; individual event tickets are \$500.00 per person.

Saturday, April 30 DTLA: A Downtown Experience – Celebrate the history of Downtown LA with a dynamic and exciting guided coach/walking tour of living, working and dining spaces in the Historic Core, Bunker Hill, the Arts District, and Skid Row. The tour includes lunch at the recently reopened, legendary *Clifton's Cafeteria*. Guests will enjoy guided tours of iconic L.A. sites with inspired civic leaders including Adele Yellin, from her office in the Bradbury Building, Managing Partner of Grand Central Square, that includes Grand Central Market and the Million Dollar Theater; Nelson Rising, owner/developer of the Pacific Mutual, Beaux Arts and One Bunker Hill buildings; Sharon Rising, past president, Council of the Library Foundation; and Yuval Bar-Zemer, developer of the Arts District. The day ends with refreshments at Church & State Bistro. Tour leaders: Sylvia Aroth and Becky Dennison.

Saturday, May 7 Sullivan Canyon Walking Tour (morning) – Meander through Brentwood's rustic neighborhood of Cliff May- and Peter Choate-designed mid-century ranch homes — including the former home of actress Bea Arthur — and the Jay Griffith redesigned community equestrian center. Tour leaders: Patricia Choate and Jay Griffith.

Saturday, May 7 Moveable Feast on Appleton Way (evening) – Stroll a Venice neighborhood of architectural homes and savor cuisine by outstanding local chefs — The Rose's Chef Jason Neroni and Leona's Nyesha Arrington, with desserts by Sugar Rush by iisha. Entertainment is offered at each of the four featured homes designed by Tom Carson, Dennis Gibbens, Santiago Ortiz and Sylvia Aroth. Hosts: Sylvia Aroth, Nic Bettauer & Tom Carson, Mimi Wheeler and Santiago Ortiz, Dana and Jerry Solomon.

Saturday, May 14 SWLA: The Vibrant Southwest Los Angeles Tour – Experience the rich heritage of Leimert Village, including artist Mark Bradford, philanthropist and collector Eileen Harris Norton and social activist Allan DiCastro's nonprofit Art + Practice, and a performance by jazz and blues great, Barbara Morrison. The tour includes visits to the Sanchez Adobe, the oldest building in Los Angeles, Rancho La Cienega o Paso de la Tijera, part of a Spanish Colonial era land grant previously owned by Mayor Vicente Sanchez. The property is currently owned by the Consolidated Board of Realtists, an African-American real estate group who purchased the adobe at the suggestion of the great LA architect; Paul Williams; the 1950s renovated home of Liz Gordon, owner/founder of Liz's Antiques Hardware and The Loft at Liz's; as well as private homes in the Baldwin Hills, Village Green and View Park neighborhoods — with lunch at Post & Beam Bistro. Tour Leaders: Caroll Hill, Monty DeGraff and Lynne Southerland.

Sunday, May 15 Saddle Peak Soiree – Enjoy sunset at a private hilltop home on five acres overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The event includes cocktails and hors

d'oeuvres, a performance by the principal cellist of the L.A. Philharmonic, Robert deMaine, and guitarist Mak Grgic. The home's architect Michael Sant and Kristin Sant will host.

Saturday, May 21 THE Party – Event co-founder Jay Griffith will host at his historic Pacific Palisades home overlooking Santa Monica Canyon to celebrate the success of the 2nd Venice Design Series at a party attended by event hosts, sponsors, homeowners, architects, designers and participants.

DONNA'S STORY: How Venice Design Series supports VCH

A homeless mother of a baby boy, Donna arrived at Venice Community Housing's Transitional Living Center with a long history of challenges including drug addiction and incarceration. Trained as a Licensed Vocational Nurse, her license had been taken away and she had lost custody of two children.

Determined to get back on her feet, Donna made so much progress while at TLC. Three years later, she lives independently with her three children who are thriving. She is studying for her RN at the local community college where she has earned a 3.5 G.P.A. With the help of TLC staff, she recently successfully appealed to the nursing board to reinstate her license. "I feel as if my first home will always be the Westminster TLC," she says. "I was accepted unconditionally there with no judgment about my past. They never gave up on me. Home is where the heart is. That is real TLC! And, VCH provided it."

The Venice Design Series will benefit Venice Community Housing, a 27-year-old nonprofit that has successfully developed lasting, neighborhood-based solutions for low-income children, families and individuals since 1988. The mission of Venice Community Housing is to preserve the economic, racial and social diversity of Venice and surrounding neighborhoods, maximizing affordable housing and economic development opportunities, and providing needed social services for the area's low income populations. Information about Venice Community Housing may be found at <http://www.vchcorp.org>.

For tickets, more information on the Venice Design Series, or media-ready images, visit www.venicedesignseries.org; or contact Linda Lucks at 310-526-3857 or cell: 310-505-4220 or LLucks@vchcorp.org.

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