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LILLIE'S IS AN ELEGANT  
NOD TO A HISTORIC HOTEL

CREATIVE ART STOPS IN  
JOSHUA TREE

GREEN WEDNESDAY  
GIFT GUIDE

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## BROADUS FAMILY AFFAIR

INSIDE SNOOP DOGG AND HIS BOSS LADY'S GROWING FAMILY EMPIRE

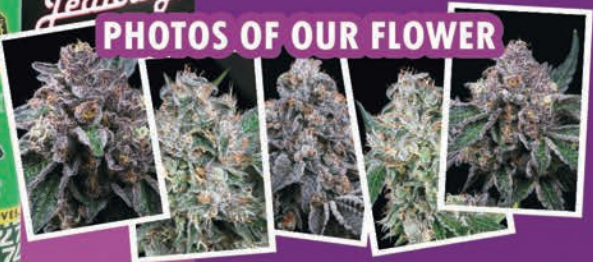
BY LINA LECARO



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FOOD

# LILLIE'S IS AN ELEGANT NOD TO CULVER CITY'S GRAND DAME

Historic hotel returns to its glamorous past

BY MICHELE STUEVEN



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CULVER HOTEL

Approaching its centennial in 2024, the nationally landmarked flatiron-style Culver Hotel – built by the city’s founder Harry Culver – has seen its share of drunken munchkins and disrepair. The 46-room hotel was carefully restored in 2007 and opened a new bistro and garden this month. Lillie’s, named in homage to Culver’s wife Lillian, takes shape across three spaces within the property – the grand lobby, a romantic European-style dining room and an outdoor garden.

Ground zero of downtown Culver City, Lillie’s is a blend of French and Californian cuisine that includes an expansive raw bar program, classic and specialty cocktails and a focus on natural and biodynamic wines. For a sweet start to the evening, indulge in a Ruby Slipper from the bar: vodka, dry curaçao, market ber-

ry compote and Chambord. The martinis are perfectly shaken and chilled.


The menu mixes classics like steak tartare, French onion soup, poached shrimp and steamed mussels with saffron aioli and chicken dinner for two. In addition to a delightful butter lettuce salad with cucumbers, crème fraiche and olive dressing, Executive Culinary Director Ned Elliott and Executive Chef Diana Khngikyan have curated a friendly French menu that also includes a 12-oz veal au poivre, classic ratatouille and a wagyu Le Burger with cheese. Finish off the evening with a little bit of drama, the lime sherbet with mint with prosecco poured tableside.

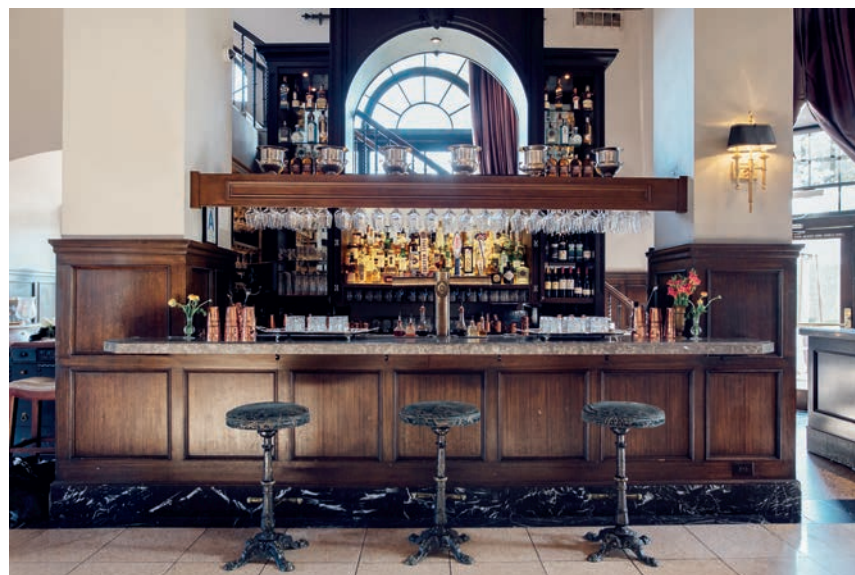
The cozy dining room and bar are punctuated with a glowing fireplace and the return of live music and the outdoor garden is in the hub of downtown Culver



City’s pedestrian district. The mezzanine Velvet Lounge speakeasy is open for private parties at the moment with plans to open to the public in the near future.

The Renaissance Revival style historic landmark was known as the “City’s First Skyscraper” and originally had 150 apartments. Owners over the years have included Charlie Chaplin and John Wayne (who eventually donated it to the YMCA) with guests like Joan Crawford, Clark Gable while he was filming *Gone With The Wind* and was home to drunk munchkins during the filming of *The Wizard of Oz*.

Lillie’s will be offering a \$75 Thanksgiving prix fixe dinner with rosemary parker rolls and whipped cranberry butter, with a choice of kale salad or butternut squash soup. Main course selections include roasted turkey breast and thigh, New York strip loin or sweet potato gnocchi. Family-style sides include Brussels sprouts, roasted carrots and potato puree with gravy. The chef’s seasonal pie with vanilla ice cream is for dessert. 



# L.A. RACE FOR MAYOR TOO CLOSE TO CALL

While most races in the Los Angeles midterm elections have been called, the race for mayor between Karen Bass and Rick Caruso has been neck-and-neck for days.

BY ISAI ROCHA



Rick Caruso and Karen Bass

In the latest ballot update for mayor of Los Angeles, Karen Bass extended her lead over Rick Caruso, as ballots continue to be counted.

On Monday afternoon, an update from the L.A. County Registrar's Office showed Bass with 354,948 votes (52.15%) and Caruso with 325,677 (47.85%), a difference of 29,271.

The lead, however, is the largest either has had since votes started being counted Tuesday, November 8. At one point Caruso held a more than 12,000 vote lead over Bass, but as the days went on, Bass gained ground on the Los Angeles businessman, eventually taking over the lead on Friday, November 11.

"I am grateful for the support we are continuing to see and looking forward to the next update," Bass said in an Instagram post of a photo with the latest vote count.

Caruso has not spoken much publicly

since the election and last made a statement Thursday, November 10, insinuating the votes may take multiple weeks to fully count.

"As predicted, this is a close race," Caruso wrote on Twitter Thursday. "There are hundreds of thousands of votes to count and as expected we are going to see different results each time. I continue to be cautiously optimistic about these numbers and look forward to the next series of results in the coming weeks."

As of this writing, the race has not been called and votes in Los Angeles continue to be counted.

## CALIFORNIA REPORTS FIRST CHILD DEATH DUE TO RSV

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) reported the first respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) death of a child under 5 years old, Monday.

No further details about the child were

given by CDPH, due to patient confidentiality, but the incident led CDPH to urge parents to get their children vaccinated against a possible coming wave of the flu and COVID-19.

"This tragic event serves as a stark reminder that respiratory viruses can be deadly, especially in very young children and infants," CDPH Director Dr. Tomás Aragón said in a statement. "We are entering a busy winter virus season – with RSV, flu and COVID-19 spreading – and urge parents and guardians to vaccinate their children as soon as possible against flu and COVID-19. It's also important to follow basic prevention tips like frequent hand washing, wearing a mask, and staying home when sick to slow the spread

of lying to federal authorities about his involvement with an illegal gambling website.

Puig, 31, allegedly lied to federal agents in January 2022 when asked about his relationship with an individual who worked for an illegal sports gambling business.

He was allegedly made aware that lying was a federal crime, and with his lawyer present, proceeded to say he only knew the individual through baseball affiliation and not gambling.

"When given the opportunity to be truthful about his involvement with Nix's Gambling businesses, Mr. Puig chose not to," said IRS Criminal Investigation Los Angeles Field Office Special Agent in Charge Tyler Hatcher. "Mr. Puig's lies hindered the legal and procedural tasks of the investigators and prosecutors."

In the agreement submitted by Puig, he said he made 899 bets on multiple sporting events from July 4, 2019 to September 29, 2019. Puig placed those bets through the individual, who was referred to as "Agent 1" in legal documents, and accrued a debt of \$282,900 in gambling losses.

The debt was owed to Wayne Joseph Nix, 46, of Newport Coast, who allegedly ran the gambling website and was previously charged for running the illegal operation that involved not only former athletes, but current ones, as well.

Nix pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to operate an illegal sports gambling business and one count of filing a false tax return, on April 11 and will be sentenced on March 8, 2023.

On June 25, 2019, Puig allegedly withdrew \$200,000 from a Bank of America branch in Glendale, California, then purchased two cashiers' checks for \$100,000 each that were made payable to a person referred to as "Individual A" in court documents.

Federal officials interviewing Puig showed him a copy of the cashiers' checks, and he continued to state that he did not know the individuals involved, saying he placed the bets on an "unknown website" with an "unknown person."

Months after the interview, Puig allegedly sent a voice message through WhatsApp, admitting to lying to the federal agents.

"Under our system of justice, no one is above the law," U.S. Attorney Martin Estrada said. "The integrity of our nation's criminal justice system depends on people telling the truth, and those who fail to abide by this simple principle must face consequences."

The charge Puig faces can lead to up to five years in federal prison, and he has agreed to pay a fine of at least \$55,000.

Puig is currently playing for the Kiwoom Heroes in the South Korean KBO baseball league. [A]

of germs."

RSV is typically spread during the winter, but cases began circulating in California in October. The virus can lead to serious disease in children and elderly adults.

On Friday, November 12, CDPH put out an advisory, warning that RSV cases were rising in California, leading to an increase in hospitalizations, putting stress on the pediatric healthcare system.

The department of health suggested healthcare facilities expand their pediatric capacity to prepare for a possible winter surge in the respiratory virus.

Most cases are treated within two weeks of infection but can lead to bronchiolitis, pneumonia and, in rare cases, death.

## EX-DODGER YASIEL PUIG WILL PLEAD GUILTY TO LYING ABOUT GAMBLING ILLEGALLY

Former Dodger player Yasiel Puig Valdes agreed to plead guilty to one charge

SPONSORED

# GREEN WEDNESDAY GIFT GUIDE

BY L.A. WEEKLY



**G**reen Wednesday – a fan favorite of all the cannabis holidays – is fast approaching this November 23. Traditionally recognized on the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving, Green Wednesday is a celebration of the familial culture of cannabis and a welcomed alternative to the hangover-inducing get-togethers revolving around holiday reunions. As one of the most popular cannabis consumption days of the year, cannabis producers, retailers, brands and distributors use the Green Wednesday holiday as an opportunity to put out killer sales and deals, ensuring everybody gets what they need to make their holiday season chill. While there are many deals to take advantage of on this Green Wednesday 2022, here are our favorite brands putting out the best:

## SEVEN LEAVES

There are many options for your cannabis wants and needs. Thank you for choosing or considering SEVEN LEAVES with your dollars. It keeps us able to produce, harvest and deliver fresh indoor flowers to hundreds of menus across the State weekly. Your purchase provides jobs for the incredibly knowledgeable, passionate and

hardworking team at SEVEN LEAVES.

The founders of SEVEN LEAVES have been in the industry since 2008. The brand was founded in early 2017. As it was at the start, it is today; still a self-funded, family-style business. Thanks to you.

[www.sevenleavesca.com](http://www.sevenleavesca.com)

## Source Cannabis



Source Cannabis is a legacy cannabis brand known for its desire to serve the highest quality cannabis products. Founded in 2003 in the bay area, and currently headquartered in Los Angeles, Source Cannabis recognizes a need for natural, organic cannabis in the market. Source leverages their Clean Green Certified cultivator's knowledge of plant

nutrients and soil sciences to grow the best cannabis in California.

For almost 20 years, Source Cannabis has been committed to instilling compassion into society through the unwavering quality of our offerings, service, and ethos. As legacy cultivators, they are dedicated to impacting change and sharing their expertise with those most impacted by the war on drugs.

[www.sourcecannabis.com/locations](http://www.sourcecannabis.com/locations)

## Linx Vapor



The Linx Gaia is an award-winning portable convection dry herb vaporizer, designed with a pure quartz chamber and variable temperature control. The Linx Gaia's compactness, simplicity, and premium materials make it a great choice when you are looking for

a portable flower vape that will give you quality vapor every time. The Gaia was named "Best Portable Vaporizer" by High Times, and "Best Dry Herb Vaporizer for Beginners" by Herb.

[linxvapor.com](http://linxvapor.com)

## Canna River



New from LA-based Canna River is a collection of tinctures called Ultra that feature a unique, high potency 20,000mg cannabinoid blend of CBD, CBG or CBN aimed to potentially relieve aches and pains and improve sleep. The premium quality cannabinoid brand, which offers everything for \$100 or less, developed Ultra for those looking for relief without breaking the bank. Visit [www.cannariver.com](http://www.cannariver.com) or @cannariver on Instagram for more. 🍷

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF BROADUS



# BROADUS FAMILY AFFAIR

Inside Snoop Dogg and his Boss Lady's growing family empire.

BY LINA LECARO

Long Beach's own Snoop Dogg is legendary for his laid-back yet biting flow, which makes any music he puts out or guests on ooze with languid cool. Snoop has always brought the badass without the belligerence, the hype without the hurry, allowing his words and vibe to glide and shine on record and on stage in a way that seems effortless yet fully expressed. This, coupled with his smooth persona and style, has made him one of the most iconic figures in hip-hop, a steady and seductive voice in a sea of bodaciousness that's remained relevant for over three decades. But there's one thing the D-O-Double GG has never, ever been chill about: his brand. Fo shizzle (we had to use it once!), Snoop Dogg, whose real name is Calvin Broadus, might be the busiest, most influential – and inspirational – hip hop mogul out there, with so many grassroots endeavors, companies big and small, high-

profile collabs, diverse endorsements and novel ideas under his belt, it's almost impossible to keep track, especially lately.

In the past few years alone, Snoop and his "Boss Lady" wife Shante Broadus – mother of his kids Corde, Cordell and Cori – have launched The Broadus Collection (a line of silk headscarves), Broadus Foods breakfast products (Snoop Loopz cereal and Mama Snoop pancakes), a TV show "Doggyland – Kids Songs and Nursery Rhymes," and opened a store, Snoop Dogg's Clothing (Snoopy's Clothing on Instagram), just down the street from the Forum, home of his beloved Lakers and across the street from SoFi stadium, the new base for the L.A. Rams. After playing what many felt was the proudest Los Angeles music set ever at this year's SuperBowl at SoFi, his legacy was cemented in a new way, even garnering an Emmy. If he wasn't iconic already, he sure was after

doing his "crip walk" alongside Dr. Dre, Enimem, 50 Cent and Mary J. Blige, clad in that snazzy blue and gold bandanna-print sweat suit (the actual get-up is on display at his store, and various versions of it are available for purchase).

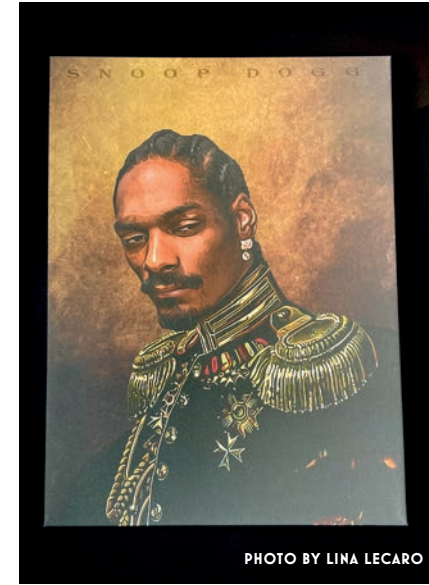
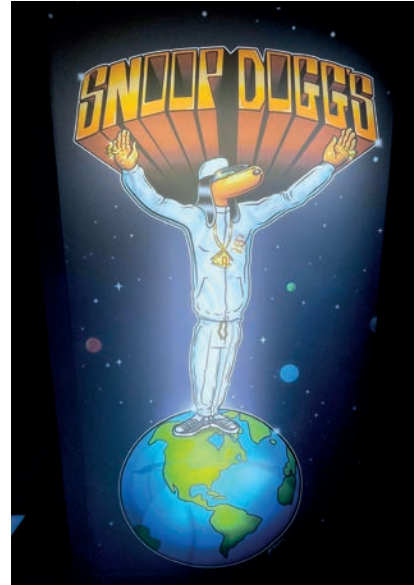
Snoop and his fam also bought Death Row Records – the label where his music first took off – this year, and they did it not too long after he announced an executive role at Def Jam Records as an artist mentor and investor. Both labels' merch are represented in his store alongside stuff emblazoned with Snoop's likeness, Doggystyle album art and his Dr. Bombay cartoon character. He's constantly releasing new designs on clothing and home goods, available at the Inglewood store and online at Snoopermarket.com.

And then there's NFTs. With help from his son Cordell, Snoop was an early adopter of web3 images via their Bored

Ape non-fungible token designs including Bombay (Snoop) and Champ Medici (Cordell). Singapore's Golden Equator Group just teamed up with the Broadus's for a web3 fund dubbed "Welcome To The Block (WTTB)," which aims to raise \$40-\$50 million to invest in early-stage businesses in the blockchain. Cordell was introduced to crypto by the late Nipsey Hussle in 2017, and he got his dad into it soon after, debuting his first NFT collection on Crypto.com. It was a huge hit and kickstarted Snoop's digital presence – he's currently developing the "Snoopverse," a virtual world on The Sandbox metaverse platform with his son's help.

Cordell likens the NFT scene to "the birth of hip hop – everybody with each other and just freestyling and making beats, and everything was just fun and new," so it makes sense for his dad to have a big presence. The pair are also working with Sotheby's auction house around NFTs for Death Row, hoping to make it "the first NFT music label in the metaverse." Snoop and Shante's vision for Death Row branding continues to grow in other ways too, such as 19 Crimes, his wine line, which just released a collab with his homegirl Martha Stewart and announced an upcoming Death Row flavor and label. He and Martha also worked together on a Bic lighters cam-

Cordell, Cori, Shante, and Corde.



paign this year.

We first met Snoop at an Adidas Coachella party, held at the Frank Sinatra Estate in Palm Springs, back in 2012. It was the night before his famous headlining set with Dr. Dre at the festival, the one that brought us the Tupac hologram. He was shockingly mellow heading into what would be one of the biggest historical pop culture moments of all time, but the joints he was smoking probably had something to do with it. We should probably add here that Snoop's celebration and normalization of cannabis has been one of the most significant forms of activism in entertainment, and it surely helped the movement toward legalization.

Getting an actual interview with the man has been on our bucket list ever since we had that brief meeting. We've come close a few times, when he was promoting his gig as host of a new *The Joker's Wild*, for example, but it never came to fruition. We finally got the opportunity at the

launch party for the scarf line last month, held at the Broadus family's salon Chateau Beauty Bar in Santa Monica. We got a few scoops from Snoop that night too, one of which just became public just last week: a Snoop Dogg biopic to be written by Wakanda Forever's Joe Robert Cole and released by Universal Pictures, is currently in the works. When we ask who might play him, Snoop reveals, "I don't know, it's my life story... we gonna have to do a casting call," getting closer to our phone mic and adding, "He's out there, though. I know you're out there little homie!"

The biopic comes on the heels of another big announcement last week: he just signed with William Morris Endeavor for representation in all areas of his career. "WME is the only place that can handle the career I've built and grow it even further," Snoop said in a press statement. "I look forward to gettin' it with the WME team to continue innovating across music, film, TV, business, and digital and break

barriers across entertainment."

Snoop's no stranger to Hollywood of course. He's been in several films and TV shows over the years, and we just saw him in the Netflix Jaime Foxx vehicle, *Day Shift*, earlier this year. Before that, he hosted "Snoop Dogg's 'F\*cn Around' Comedy Special" as part of the Netflix *Joke* festival in L.A. We'll see him next as a star and producer in the MGM's comedy *The Underdoggs*, due out this time next year in conjunction with his Death Row Pictures banner. It tells the story of a former NFL superstar who, after a run in with the law, agrees to coach a youth football team in lieu of prison. Drumline's Charles Stone is directing with the screenplay is being written by scribes from *Grown-ish* and *#BlackAF*.

The story is inspired by Snoop's own work in youth sports. He started a youth football team in 2005, and just announced a basketball league based in the LBC this year. And there's even more on his plate:

if you watch sports on TV you've surely seen him as the new face of Corona beer (he jokes there's now slim cans should be "Snoop cans"); Funko figures in his likeness are about to drop hot very soon; and a Sketchers collab is in the works (as hinted in his IG recently). There's surely more to come, too, as the Broadus empire continues to explode.

As his once-wild gangsta life has settled and his entrepreneurial hustle continues to get honed and elevated, the one thing King Snoop emphasizes most when we finally get to chat is his Queen, whom he officially announced as his manager last year. The long time love he and high school sweetheart Shante share has had its challenges over their 23 years of marriage – they even separated and talked divorce at one time – but their relationship has not only endured, it's more solid than ever. He insists she is why he is where he is today, and it's downright heart-warming to hear him talk about his woman and

their family.

“She’s the backbone to the man,” Snoop shares with us as he gives his wife a squeeze. “I can’t do what I do unless I have stability and I have somebody who understands and gives me the room to be creative. Like, this is my wife and my friend. She’s allowed me to become Snoop Dogg and become the businessman I am, to be able to stretch out into the things that I do, without complaining. Holding my family down despite all the shit I did that was fucked up in the past. She remained solid and was there for me. So it’s only right that I say she is the backbone, not just by the side of me, but the backbone.”

The grounding influence of family inspires most of Snoop’s business decisions as of late. He sees the foods brands in particular, which he got into thanks to his pal Master P, as “something that will be here generation after generation, something that inspires my kids and my wife and my grandkids to continue to keep this legacy alive, and celebrate this family – The Broadus family,” adding a little louder, “Broadus, Broadus!... we want the name to live on and on and on.”

According to the couple, familial love and struggle was the catalyst for the headscarf business. Snoop and Shante’s daughter Cori was diagnosed with Lupus at 6 years old, and when she began to lose her hair because of it, she wore scarves often. In solidarity, the whole Broadus family sported scarves along with her. Snoop has rocked locks, braids and an array of headwear over the years, and with his son and daughter opening the hair salon last year, the foray into head fashion was the next logical step. It’s one more thing that strengthens the Broadus business bond.

“The whole mission was inspired by my daughter, but we wear scarves all the time,” Snoop says. “We wanted to make something that was symbolic to us that we could wear. Not just sell, but be able to say I’m wearing some shit that’s cool and fly and meaningful.”

So what’s Snoop Dogg like as a dad you might wonder? “I mean, he was a cool dad,” Cori tells us via Zoom after the party. “We had our rules, we had our boundaries, we had consequences. And I always say, we grew up like regular kids, we just had the finer things in life. We still had our punishments, we still got our phones taken away... you know what I mean? I have a summer birthday, but if I had D’s or F’s, guess what? You done for summer. Consequences and discipline is everything, because that’s how you become grateful and appreciative of things that others may not have.”

Cori admits that living in Snoop dad’s shadow wasn’t always easy in terms of finding her professional path, but she is driven to prove herself on her own terms right now. “My mindset is always okay,



PHOTOS BY LINA LECARO



how can I be successful in my own way? My dad is successful in his way. We’re all successful in our own way. So I think, instead of trying to be just like him, and do exactly what he did, I try it my way,” she shares. “One thing he always told me was, ‘you got to be your own luck. I can’t be your luck.’ So I think you just got to work, work, work. You can’t expect nothing to come without putting work into it. And that’s what I learned growing up.”

In addition to being an aspiring singer, Cori has a makeup line called Choc Factory, and runs the salon with her brother. She also works on the social media pages for the Broadus Collection and the salon as well as her own brand. She’s always been into lip products and lip care so that’s her line’s focus, and it’s all marketed from the perspective of self-love, body acceptance and inclusion. Her message is uplifting and of course, much needed in the beauty industry.

Seeing her dad’s success and her mother helping it all, has got to be inspiring too. Shante founded Boss Lady Entertainment (BLE) a few years ago, but her workload is busier than ever. In addition to managing her husband’s music career and brand, she’s working on a memoir

offering advice to enterprising women focused on the value of family. She also supervises the Compound, the family events space in Inglewood, which features music recording and studios, plus a basketball court and a room full of collectable cars (we got to see it firsthand at Snoop’s last listening event). The official announcement for Boss Lady’s latest role states that she’ll also “cultivate and fortify all upcoming partnership deals across the cannabis, spirits, gaming, music, brand partnerships, touring, licensing and TV/film space” and “oversee the media arm of Snoop Dogg’s empire, diGGital doGG – home to exclusive mobile apps, video games and a proprietary animation pipeline.”

Zooming with Shante a couple weeks after meeting her, she reflects on her long relationship with her husband and how he always had something special that brands wanted to tap into. “You know, Snoop was hot when he first came out. A lot of people wanted to work with him,” she shares. “I remember Carl from Cross Colors used to send so much stuff to us for Snoop to brand and he started paying him to wear his stuff. And I remember the Saint Ides beer brand started working with Snoop to brand rep. Tommy Hilfiger was another one. In the early days, they all came for Snoop to represent their stuff. And we thought, why don’t we just start branding Snoop himself? That’s when we came out with the Snoop Dogg clothing.”

While many in the media focus on Snoop’s cannabis consumption and he was one of the first to tout delivery services and the merits of daily smoking, Shante says they are stepping back right now with their weed brands, likely due to the industry’s current challenges. “We were in the business really deep,” she explains. “We’re pausing it right now, but it’ll be back soon.”

Over the years, Snoop has worked

with and made commercials for everyone from Burger King and T-Mobile to Tostitos, Pepsi and The General Insurance company. Like another marketing-savvy family – The Kardashians – the Broadus’ realized early that they could endorse other people’s products (for the right price) and their own, too. Also, like Kim K and co., Snoop realized the power of social media early on. He is actually credited by the creators of Instagram as one of the first music figures to highlight the platform, helping make it the powerhouse forum it is today.

As other hip-hop moguls make moves high (Dre, Jay-Z) and low (Ye), Snoop remains a solid and aspirational Black business force who somehow keeps his vibe more accessible, his humor and current family man guise leading the way. His focus on the L.A. community where he came from is a big part of it too. The Doggfather is obviously very proud of his local legacy and how his kids are continuing to make it grow. “They didn’t get handed a green card that said ‘here, you in the game automatically,’ they had to do it on their own for a while,” Snoop tells us. “It’s fun watching them go through the struggle in the business and then put product in the business. Now I can just sit back and just watch and enjoy it.”

But he’s not sitting for too long. It all began with the music and the rap superstar, thankfully, shows no sign of slowing down in that arena, even with so many projects and plans to keep him busy. Dogg has continued to release new music consistently the past few years and a huge new collaboration was just announced last week: the West Coast’s very own supergroup, Mount Westmore – featuring Snoop, Ice Cube, E-40, and Too \$hort. They just dropped their first official single, “Too Big,” a few weeks ago and will release their new album on December 9. Live shows are in the works, too.

L.A. fans can also see Snoop share a bill with Megan Thee Stallion on Dec. 10 at the LA3C Festival (a two-day music, art and food festival celebrating “the rich culture and immense creativity of Los Angeles” at Los Angeles Historic State Park). And with the holidays in full swing, he’ll also be out there celebrating like only he can with a “Holidayze of Blaze” tour featuring guests T-Pain, Warren G and the Ying Yang Twins on select dates. Oh, and if you’re looking for unique Christmas gifts, his store has got you covered, with new drops every weekend. We’re on the waiting list for “Snoop on a Stoop,” his version of Elf on a Shelf that sold out immediately after he posted a photo on IG. For Snoop and his brood, it’s a wonderful life indeed.

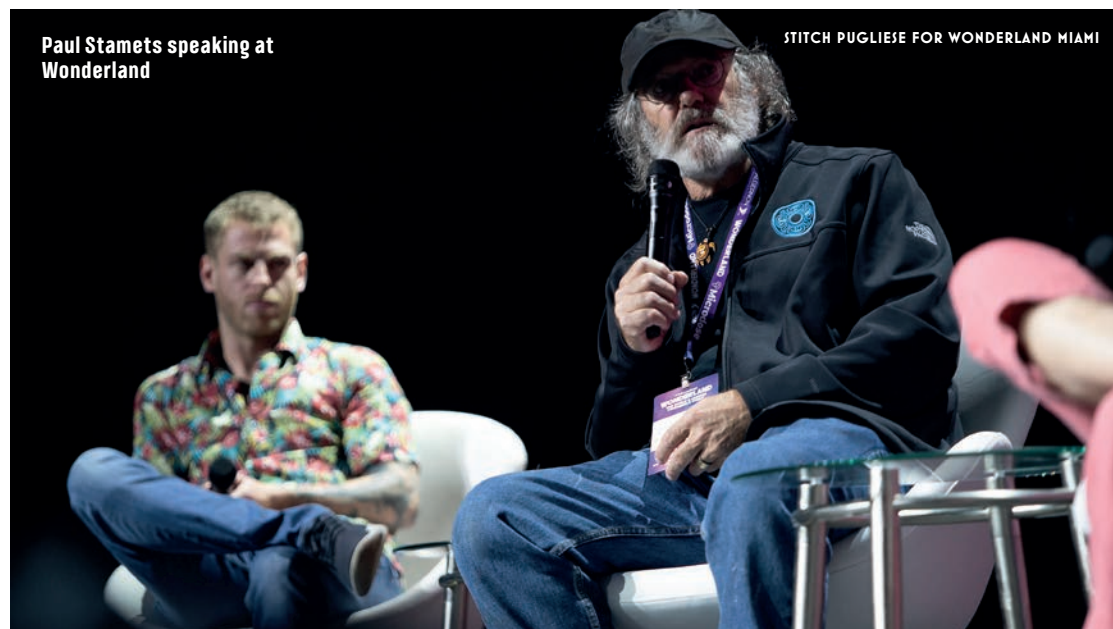
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# THE NORMALIZATION OF PSILOCYBIN

We sat down with the godfather of mushrooms to get his take on this wild moment in psychedelic history.

BY JIMI DEVINE



When we sat down with Paul Stamets in Miami, the godfather of psilocybin advocacy gave us his take on the increasing normalization of the mushrooms he's dedicated his life to.

The conversation took place the afternoon prior to Stamets winning Microdose's Pioneer Award at its Miami mega-conference Wonderland. The conference was the biggest gathering of psychedelics-meets-pharma yet and Stamets was one of the stars of the show.

He started our chat by noting we have entered into a new cultural revolution.

"A revolution is based on the fact that psilocybin is a medicine for the masses," Stamets told L.A. Weekly. "Multiple meta-studies are out, and increasingly more clinical studies show that one experience with psilocybin is associated with a reduction of violence. It's the only psychedelic associated with a reduction in opioid use disorder."

The research is getting pretty wild and it's easy to understand Stamets en-

thusiasm after the decades he put in. A 2020 John Hopkins psilocybin study of 24 people with a history of depression found 67% of the group showed more than a 50% reduction in depression symptoms at the one-week follow-up and the number bumped to 71% after a month. The researchers noted that one month after treatment, 54% of the group was considered in remission from their depression and no longer qualified for that diagnosis.

Stamets would expertly flow through other various medical and societal conditions that have been found to have positive results from psilocybin. He offered a quick encapsulation at the end saying, "Psilocybin makes nicer, healthier people."

One of the things Stamets was most excited about was the microdosing possibilities for seniors. There is increasing evidence of psilocybin's impact on brain health. Last year, Research from Yale found a 10% increase in the number of neuronal connections after dosing mice.

"We not only saw a 10% increase in

the number of neuronal connections, but also they were on average about 10% larger, so the connections were stronger as well," Alex Kwan, associate professor of psychiatry and neuroscience, noted at the time. Kwan was the senior author of the paper.

There are obviously some pretty heavy implications at scale in an era where we better understand neurodegeneration.

"Think about our elders. If they could be at the top of their game cognitively at the end of their lives, the knowledge they can pass to the next generation is huge," Stamets said. "We lose our body and the knowledge is being eroded. Not

only from age-related diseases like Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and Dementia, not only from accidents like traumatic brain injury and concussions, now we have neurotoxic viruses and it looks like repeated exposure to coronavirus shrinks your brain."

Stamets argues all of this is addressed by psilocybin.

"All these neuropathies, psilocybin addresses them. So this is truly a medicine

for the masses. What government official does not want to reduce crime? What position does not want to reduce dementia?" Stamets asked.

This led to our next question. Stamets has been at it a long time. What's it like dealing with the policymakers of today compared to his many years of activism through the heart of the war on drugs?

"Before it was standoffish: 'Stay away. I don't want to hear it,'" Stamets said, impersonating the politicians of the past. "Now it's like a light bulb goes off. Because there's so much research by respected clinical institutions like Harvard, Stanford, Columbia and Imperial College. It's phenomenal."

Stamets said the combination of those factors has put us at another cultural tipping point reminiscent of the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s and the sudden availability of new powerful psychedelic drugs.

"We were kids in the playground doing powerful drugs, psychoactive substances, without the guardrails that so many indigenous cultures ritualized,"

Stamets said.

He called the rituals themselves very practical in maximizing benefit and minimizing harm. He feels combining the psychedelic medical principles of the last few thousand years with this moment in medicine is where we are going to see a lot of benefits.

"We are now benefiting and this concept of two-eyed seeing, which is really important, is an indigenous-originated concept," Stamets said, explaining it's when you use one eye for indigenous knowledge and one for modern knowledge.

The discussion of where indigenous meets pharma was a popular one in Miami. We asked Stamets about equity in whatever is to come for tribes and peoples sharing their knowledge. Especially given that many of the traumas those people are trying to heal are a direct result of colonization.

"We need reconciliation. There is multi-generational trauma and there's no doubt about that," Stamets said. "Rather than reading the observations, let's build a circle around building bridges. We're all a community of one on this planet. We're made up of diverse sub-communities."

He emphasized that we have our mutual health in common and that of our descendants.

"I think the concept of seven generations really hits with the psychedelic community. We have a responsibility beyond our own self-enrichment. We have a responsibility to leave this planet in better shape than we inherited. And we have a lot of work to do in that regard," Stamets said.

The conversation moved back to the power of potential and hope leading to this moment. Stamets noted he was both a pragmatist and an idealist but had the fortune of being an idealist first.

"We have to have something economically sustainable and ecologically rational," Stamets said. "When I say ecologically rational I'm not just talking about the ecology of the environment, but also your ecology of consciousness. And we're gonna have a deliverable of these medicines to benefit the common people and survive in a capitalistic system. I think, fundamentally, our bill of rights should include the freedom of consciousness."

Stamets would go on to speak to some of the biggest roadblocks in the movement toward that freedom of consciousness. The biggest was people contacting their politicians. He noted that since there are currently 21 states exploring psychedelic medical and decriminalization bills or ballot initiatives, people have the opportunity to be more involved than ever. ■

## ART

# ART DESERT HIGHWAY: CREATIVE STOPS IN JOSHUA TREE

Ten offbeat spots for high desert culture in nature.

BY SHANA NYS DAMBROT

AutoCamp Joshua Tree



It's no secret that the string of high desert towns along Highway 62 – Pioneertown, Joshua Tree, 29 Palms, Morongo Valley, Yucca Valley, Landers, Wonder Valley, and environs – has long been home to an eclectic, prolific, and constantly evolving community of artists and independent creative explorers. The area's visionary cultural bent finds expression in everything from land art and open-air installations to maker boutiques, craftspeople, architectural confections, gallery spaces, artist residency projects, and many more unconventional, undefinable offerings. Like every once-sleepy enclave of immense natural beauty currently withstanding an influx of recovering urbanites, Joshua Tree's cultural landscape is a fascinating mix of stalwarts and new arrivals, with expanding L.A. connectivity and deepening regional identity.

Shari Elf's landmark Art Queen & World Famous Crochet Museum is one old school landmark that has held its own, looking as inviting and iconically eccentric as ever. One of the most recognizable artsy outposts in the region, the intimate architectural entropy, mixed media installations, enchanted doll trailer, and hand-embellished slow-fashion boutique compound is surrounded with other favorite local art destinations. This micro-arts dis-

trict includes La Matadora Gallery, The Station's quirky souvenir site in a vintage gas station and garage, Space Cowboy Bookstore, and the artist-run gallery and bookish collectibles emporium, Hey There Projects.

Opened by Colleena Hake in summer 2017, La Matadora's program embraces the ornate, gothic, folkloric rococo of ritualistic found-object assemblage, as though all the world were an altar being built. Their current (through December 4) exhibition Holy Relic features work by artists Alea Bone and Shrine – two artists who each elevate the choreography of found-object arrangement to fresh heights of spirit-infused, meaningful mosaic.

Hey There Projects was founded in 2019 by artists, friends, locals, and sometime Angelenos Mark Todd and Aaron Smith, with the simple goal to showcase emerging and established artists in a broader regional discourse, specifically in a setting of natural beauty instead of concrete jungle. It further includes a retail space which features folk art, books, zines, wearables, collectibles, ceramics, and sundry "desert lifestyle supplies" like the ubiquitous inventively scented candles that are somehow literally everywhere. Think of the Wacko/La Luz de Jesus arrangement, but



Noah Purifoy Desert Art Museum

PHOTO BY JND

less Lowbrow and more dusty trails. They are currently exhibiting a two-person show featuring new portrait-based works and sculptures by Ryan Heshka and Rob Sato; next up is the annual print show in December, just in time for giving the gift of art.

More or less across the street, weekend mornings are well spent wandering the wonderland that is the Sky Village Swap Meet – a truly trippy fabricated ghost town that plays host to a panoply of vintage, estate, tag sale, salvage, and straight-up curiosity sales, as well as several slightly inexplicable, quasi-immersive, extremely photogenic, interpretive architectural concoctions that are their own reward quite apart from the epic treasure bargains. A giant chicken, a faux stained glass citadel, a handmade crystal cave, some last chance saloon-type Dada, and weathered wagon wheels are festooned with vintage appliances, estate china, handmade jewelry, curious ornaments and rescued art.

There's a new gallery and bookstore at Joshua Tree Retreat Center; the 29 Palms Art Gallery is thriving and continues to offer community-based arts and education programming; and the Yucca Valley Art Center which was forced to close during covid has reopened post-pandemic as the Joshua Tree Gallery of Contemporary Art and is presenting some really interesting local and international programs.

Heading north up toward Landers, the internationally known mecca of sound-frequency based chakra alignment, ley line-enhanced waters, and extraterrestrial wisdom that is the Integratron is very much still functioning as intended. The intimate meditation yard and sculpture garden of its grounds are free and open, but you'll want to book your sound-bath

session tickets ahead, it fills up fast. The sessions are accompanied by informative lessons on the site, the structure, and the broader bohemian history of the project, but simply put, it's pretty much the ultimate sound-bathing and consciousness-attuning experience everyone says it is.

Off another long and winding road toward the north, and if you're willing to quickly scale a lowkey mountain, British land artist Andrew Rogers' Rhythms of Life is a two-part petroglyphic sculpture perching atop a rocky ridge. Meant to be physically experienced up close but only fully optically perceived from the air, like all of Rogers' work around the globe, it blends historic research into regional civilizations with a modern take on the meaningful monument.

While you're out Landers way, besides attempting to eat at La Copine, whose legendarily elusive seasonal schedule and interpretive reservation system is a bit of an experiential art piece in itself, check out the fairly new artist-run Goat Gallery. They are currently showing an exhibition of text-based mixed media works by Atwater/Whitewater resident Bettina Hubby, whose love of enlightening puns is only exceeded by her love for wild desert vistas and sacred rocks.

Noah Purifoy also loved a pun and the desert, and the late artist's greatest work, the Desert Art Museum, is still out there doing amazing. After the LACMA show of several years ago, certain of the site's largest works were returned to the parcel of land, a bit tidied up from the experience, and indeed the whole site seems neater than before, for better and worse. Entropy and erosion are being kept at bay, but one misses the sense of the desert sands being in a slow-motion battle to reclaim the art-



ist's found-object monuments for its wind-swept oblivion. But its commentary on reclamation and repurposing materials, re-envisioning what art and the art world can be, sustainability and skepticism are as poignant – maybe more so – than ever.

Down the road from this historic site, sculptor, storyteller, and one-man imagination Eames Demetrios' Krblyn Jihn Cabin is also somehow still standing. Purpose built as a ruin, a disrupted intrusion into our plane of existence from a neighboring nested reality, the site draws on the harsh, hardscrabble balance of freedom and exile that informs so much of the western mythology. Its vibe is both secular and consecrated, inviting the wind and sun inside its abandonment, carving out a moment in the shape of a place for a story that did not need to have taken place in the desert, but could not have happened anywhere else.

If you're looking for a specific occasion to take this particular road trip, the BoxoPROJECTS 10th anniversary festival Boxo10x10 kicks off on November 19, and its artist residency-derived site-specific projects, performance events like opening night at the Integratron, and other public programs, most free, some ticketed, continue through December 31.

Ten artists who have participated in residencies at BoxoPROJECTS over the past ten years are featured in Boxo10x10, a 10th anniversary exhibition and celebration of exploring "contemporary art at the new frontier." The milestone offers a moment to reflect, celebrate, and look ahead. The residency, which launched in 2012, provides artists from a range of disciplines with an inspirational space outside their everyday experience, as well as an extended family of artists, experts in a range of topics from ecology and land use to indigenous history and geology, and independent thinkers from across art theory, philosophy, and social practice. To date, Boxo has hosted and presented nearly 50 residencies, visiting and studio artists, 15 exhibitions, and three editions of the conceptual and convivial sculptural installation mini-land art festival, the Joshua Treenial.

For Boxo10x10, artists Eli Hirtle, Heather L. Johnson, and Jim Toia return to Josh-

ua Tree to create installations that advance their previous residency projects. Kelly Berg and Ben Cuevas will present work updated or completed since their time on site, while Megan Evans, William Lamson, and Ana Sanchez-Colberg reprise aspects of their projects from afar. Caroline Par-tamian and Ethan Primason, who settled in the area following their residency, will produce a sound installation and performance at the Integratron.

One of the messages of BoxoPROJECTS – and indeed all these high desert projects and many more like them – is to absorb, honor, respect, and reflect on the natural landscape. To that end, remember that one more special thing about the area is its immediate proximity to the glorious Joshua Tree National Park. Branching off from its main north-south route is an east-west semi-circle with entrance/exits along Highway 62 in Joshua Tree and 19 Palms. Whether you're pressed for time or just not feeling like a proper hike, this loop takes about half an hour to cruise, moving through several miles of stunning, continually changing terrain. Tip: like everything, it looks its best at magic hour.

A spectacular way to scratch your itch to be in nature without giving up hotel-style creature comforts completely is to stay at a place like AutoCamp Joshua Tree. A gated community of sleek, shiny, superbly out-fitted, full mini-kitchen, cozy and comfy AirStreams (and a few tiny houses) with a charming clubhouse, 24-hour glamping-themed general store, s'mores kits, wine fridge, outdoor dining rooms and wood grills, and even some music and wellness activities on site, centrally located Auto-Camp is much less remote than it feels. It's a big enough site to rent a handful of AirStreams for a group outing, but private enough for a more romantic or just relaxing alternative to both motels and full-on campgrounds. Stepping outside into a light pollution-free view of the starry night and waking up to the big bright cloud-streaked blue sky at sunrise, at the same time being mere moments away from hipster bean-ery Joshua Tree Coffee Company and the excellent scones at Boo's Organic Oven, might just be an art-curious city-slicker's perfect high desert happy medium. 📍

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**Buyer/Planner** (New Milani Group, LLC; Vernon, CA): Support efficient and effective execution of Core product planning and procurement. Resumes: HR, New Milani Group, Inc, 10000 Washington Blvd, Ste. 210, Culver City, CA 90232.

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ous unanticipated worksites throughout the U.S.. E-mail resume: apply@ziprecruiter.com.

**Niantic, Inc. has openings for Senior Producers (various levels/types/multiple positions) in Los Angeles, CA. Some positions may allow for telecommuting. To Apply: Send resume w/ Ref# B202211B to jobs@nianticabs.com.** Define project plans with studio leadership, balancing studio priorities with team resources.

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That One Video Entertainment, LLC seeks a **Lead Developer** in Torrance, CA (Various Unanticipated Worksites) to dvp & implmt modifications to interactive multimedia entertainment prod. Reqs. Bachelor's degree or foreign equiv in Computer Science, Computer Eng'g, Software Eng'g or rel. field & 2 yrs post-baccalaureate exp. as Technical Lead, Software Engr or rel. role. Exp. must incl. React, Karma, Jasmine, Git, Jenkins, Spinnaker, SASS, Angular Vue, Node.js, Python, Java, Kafka, MongoDB, code architecture & frontend/backend coding. Position will be headquartered in Torrance, CA & allows for telecommuting from various unanticipated worksites throughout the U.S. Mail resume: That One Video Entertainment c/o J. Khalil 2459 West 208th St. Ste. 101, Torrance, CA 90501.

**Assistant Design Manager** in Los Angeles, CA: Manage ongoing conceptual development & analysis of design requirements; coordinate design development milestones. Mail resume & Ref Job#ME041: Webcor Construction LP, Attn: Recruitment Dept, 2320 Blanding Ave. Ste 200, Alameda, CA 94501

Production Manager: United FS West Coast, Inc.; Lynwood, CA 90262. Supervise & coord. activit's o/opert'g workers involv'd in process'g or manufctr'g plastic resins & additives. Req's: H.S. diploma +60 mos exp as Ops. Mngr. Knowld o/ raw materials, prodct'n process's, Q.C., & costs to max. manufctr'g & distrib't'n o/ goods. Knowld o/servic'g, repair'g, adjust'g, & test'g machines, devices, mov'g parts, & equipmnt. to operate primary o/mech. princpls. Knowld o/ISO 9000. Email CV: claudias@ufswc.com

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## SECURITY GUARDS NEEDED

Rio Gentlemen's Club - 13124 S Figueroa St, Los Angeles, CA 90061 \$18 to \$20 an hour. Outside security needed for patdowns, ID checks and monitoring parking lot of the club. Please contact Dave Carlson at [Rmckinney@jjmfirm.com](mailto:Rmckinney@jjmfirm.com)

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