‘Restaurant Row’: Belmont Shore embraces a new post-pandemic identity

By Kat Schuster

There was the now-bygone 24-hour Shore House Cafe and the faux-snow-covered North Woods Inn. There was the 1970s disco dancing craze, and then the ghost town spurred by the one-two punch of soaring commercial rent and the COVID-19 pandemic.
Belmont Shore is no stranger to change.
Now, in 2023, the seaside Second Street corridor is finally waking from its pandemic and inflation-induced slumber as it sees foot traffic grow and the lights turn on in many long-darkened buildings.

‘Restaurant Row,’ as Heather Kern has dubbed the street’s latest evolution.
Kern says that Second Street has long lacked a variety of higher-end dining options.
“As a lifelong Long Beach resident, traditionally a lot of the ‘special moment, night out’ restaurants have been in Downtown, with some in Naples,” she said.
By the end of the year, that will change as the corridor acclimates to and ushers in a mixture of 15 new and relatively new establishments, 10 of which are places where you can eat and drink.
Kern says the street is shaping up to reflect what folks want: “an elevated bar scene or elevated night out...they want to be in a nice-looking, chic establishment.” A slew of places fit for Instagram, she said.

The newly opened Viaje, Yasu and Sushi Nikkei are the evidence of that. Later this year, more eateries are expected to open: Louie’s on 2nd, Breakfast Republic, L’antica Pizzeria da Michele, South of Nick’s, Agita’s and Dave’s Hot Chicken.

Stereoscope Coffee, a burgeoning Southern California cafe chain, also opened on the street, as well as some new shops: Shara Bits & Pieces, Nu Du Salon, Hummingbird Heart, Nuyu Wellness. Plus, there is talk of a new Turkish restaurant, a macaroon shop and perhaps a small sushi place that could go into the old Z Pizza corner, Kern said.

Kern says Second Street has long lacked a variety of higher-end dining options.
“As a lifelong Long Beach resident, traditionally a lot of the ‘special moment, night out’ restaurants have been in Downtown, with some in Naples,” she said.

By the end of the year, that will change as the corridor acclimates to and ushers in a mixture of 15 new and relatively new establishments, 10 of which are places where you can eat and drink.
Kern says the street is shaping up to reflect what folks want: “an elevated bar scene or elevated night out...they want to be in a nice-looking, chic establishment.”

A slew of places fit for Instagram, she said.

The newly opened Viaje, Yasu and Sushi Nikkei are the evidence of that. Later this year, more eateries are expected to open: Louie’s on 2nd, Breakfast Republic, L’antica Pizzeria da Michele, South of Nick’s, Agita’s and Dave’s Hot Chicken.

Stereoscope Coffee, a burgeoning Southern California cafe chain, also opened on the street, as well as some new shops: Shara Bits & Pieces, Nu Du Salon, Hummingbird Heart, Nuyu Wellness. Plus, there is talk of a new Turkish restaurant, a macaroon shop and perhaps a small sushi place that could go into the old Z Pizza corner, Kern said.

Continued on page 6

The western section of Second Street in Long Beach’s Belmont Shore neighborhood.
The new restaurant is a metropolitan Mexican dining experience, a wide departure from the previous Ensenada-style taco joint.

By Kat Schuster

Five years after Julio Gutierrez closed Baja Fish Tacos in Belmont Shore, he was finally able to unveil his reimagined upscale Mexican restaurant in the same location. Viaje—which roughly translates to “journey”—was conceptualized by Gutierrez in 2018, after he realized the franchise wasn’t taking off the way his other restaurants did in Orange County. The neighborhood “needed something different,” Gutierrez told the Post on Thursday evening under amber lighting inside Viaje, which opened for business a month after his previous location closed in Long Beach.

“People think are Mexican cuisine. Viaje is a dramatic departure from the Ensenada-style taco spot. A row of cash registers has been replaced with a craft cocktail bar, and casual cafeteria dining was replaced with an experience that’s more refined. It’s "the dining experience you get when you go to a big city—Mexico City or Guadalajara," said Sergio Alvarez, Viaje’s general manager. The pandemic forced Alvarez and Gutierrez to put the new concept on hold, but ultimately it gave them years to gather all of the recipes that would define Viaje’s signature dishes.

Vivian’s bar is stocked with a wide variety of Mexican spirits, and the menu offers dishes from all over Mexico, including Mexico City and Oaxaca.

Belmont Shore’s Viaje serves ‘true’ Mexican cuisine from Jalisco to Oaxaca

The new restaurant is a metropolitan Mexican dining experience, a wide departure from the previous Ensenada-style taco joint.
Sushi Nikkei earned a prestigious distinction—and has now opened a Second Street location

By Magnolia Lefleur

After opening their first restaurant in Bixby Knolls less than a year ago, a local husband and wife team has now opened a second Sushi Nikkei location in Belmont Shore—thanks to a loyal following of customers and a write-up in the world’s most prestigious culinary guide.

Owner Eduardo Chang Ogata, who runs Sushi Nikkei with wife, Daisya Wong Ogata, said a reviewer for the famed Michelin Guide visited his Bixby Knolls establishment “enognito” in September. Sushi Nikkei didn’t earn a starred rating, but it is now one of just four establishments in Long Beach that is officially recommended by Michelin, who means the foods “above average,” according to the France-based rating organization. (The other Long Beach restaurants on the list include Chuang’s, The Athens and Heritage.)

The new location on Second Street opened Dec. 22, just 12 months after the Bixby Knolls site. Ogata said the restaurant has had nothing but busy tables and lines around the corner, and the new location is already overwhelmed with bookings of over 10 reservations some days.

Sushi Nikkei offers food lovers a blend of traditional Japanese charm and cuisine variety mixed with the colorful flair of Peruvian flavors.

Four years ago, when Ogata came to Long Beach from Peru, he was his dream and his wife’s dream to open a Peruvian restaurant on Second Street.

With 15 years of experience under his belt, including owning two restaurants in Peru, Ogata and his staff, many who are Peruvian, are excited for the quick expansion.

“We are very fortunate,” Ogata said in Spanish.

The Japanese term “Nikkei,” which means “Japanese outside of Japan,” is traditionally used to refer to Japanese people who plant their roots in other countries. In Peru in the late 19th century, a swell of Asian cultures, you truly can come up with something very tasty,” Valencia said. “Here we offer you the elegance of Japan with the home feeling of Peru. And that’s where you find the magic, so coming together.

Most dishes range from $10 to $15. Sushi Nikkei is located at 264 Second St. and on Bixby Knolls at 468 Atlantic Ave.

Yasu ties the ‘whole world’ into a single dining experience

By Kat Schuster

Anyone taking a stroll along Second Street lately may have noticed a relatively new boutique restaurant with a Japanese name: Yasu. From the hue of the “Yasu” sign that adorns the window, entering this restaurant is like stepping into a different world. And, in fact, it is.

Even the restaurant’s name has multiple interpretations—with a different spelling, “yassou” means “hello” in Greek, Stavros explained.

Anyone taking a stroll along Second Street lately may have noticed a relatively new boutique restaurant with a Japanese name: Yasu. From the hue of the “Yasu” sign that adorns the window, entering this restaurant is like stepping into a different world. And, in fact, it is.

Even the restaurant’s name has multiple interpretations—with a different spelling, “yassou” means “hello” in Greek, Stavros explained.

Anyone taking a stroll along Second Street lately may have noticed a relatively new boutique restaurant with a Japanese name: Yasu. From the hue of the “Yasu” sign that adorns the window, entering this restaurant is like stepping into a different world. And, in fact, it is.

Even the restaurant’s name has multiple interpretations—with a different spelling, “yassou” means “hello” in Greek, Stavros explained.

Anyone taking a stroll along Second Street lately may have noticed a relatively new boutique restaurant with a Japanese name: Yasu. From the hue of the “Yasu” sign that adorns the window, entering this restaurant is like stepping into a different world. And, in fact, it is.

Even the restaurant’s name has multiple interpretations—with a different spelling, “yassou” means “hello” in Greek, Stavros explained.

Anyone taking a stroll along Second Street lately may have noticed a relatively new boutique restaurant with a Japanese name: Yasu. From the hue of the “Yasu” sign that adorns the window, entering this restaurant is like stepping into a different world. And, in fact, it is.

Even the restaurant’s name has multiple interpretations—with a different spelling, “yassou” means “hello” in Greek, Stavros explained.

Anyone taking a stroll along Second Street lately may have noticed a relatively new boutique restaurant with a Japanese name: Yasu. From the hue of the “Yasu” sign that adorns the window, entering this restaurant is like stepping into a different world. And, in fact, it is.

Even the restaurant’s name has multiple interpretations—with a different spelling, “yassou” means “hello” in Greek, Stavros explained.

Anyone taking a stroll along Second Street lately may have noticed a relatively new boutique restaurant with a Japanese name: Yasu. From the hue of the “Yasu” sign that adorns the window, entering this restaurant is like stepping into a different world. And, in fact, it is.

Even the restaurant’s name has multiple interpretations—with a different spelling, “yassou” means “hello” in Greek, Stavros explained.

Anyone taking a stroll along Second Street lately may have noticed a relatively new boutique restaurant with a Japanese name: Yasu. From the hue of the “Yasu” sign that adorns the window, entering this restaurant is like stepping into a different world. And, in fact, it is.

Even the restaurant’s name has multiple interpretations—with a different spelling, “yassou” means “hello” in Greek, Stavros explained.
Aside from a roster of new storefronts, Kern said those trapping the corridor will soon see a new gateway sign, new plants in the median, possibly some new murals and hanging flower baskets. Mike Rhodes, owner of Long Beach’s oldest restaurant, Domonic’s, is among some of the street’s longest-standing business owners who have kept a watchful eye on the corridor’s ups and downs.

Rhodes says he’s seen a lot of restaurant closures over the last two decades. “Only a handful of restaurants have survived,” Rhodes, who has owned Domonic’s for 45 years, told the Business Journal. “I think the kind of personal things I feel are the key is in the community. Even the Shore’s corporate retail spaces like Gap, Banana Republic, Buffalo Exchange and Lucky Brand have folded over the last several years. ‘Restaurant Row’ and a center median lush with towering trees.

While Henley said he loves the idea’s up-and-coming dining corridor. ‘I’d love to see more individual

An aerial view of Second Street in Belmont Shore.

throughout the pandemic and keep every single one of his employees. Coming off the busiest month he’s ever had, he’s optimistic that a bustling new era could be in store for the neighborhood. ‘I’m hoping that all the activity draws more people and it becomes a hotspot for people in town,” he said. ‘For us five or six years ago, things weren’t looking nearly as good as they are now.’

Yasu

Grill and Mr. Pete’s Burgers—which have eight locations throughout Los Angeles and Orange counties. Having grown up in Belmont Heights and Huntington Beach, Stareos has warm memories of frequenting Second Street with his family. Yau was something he felt strongly about bringing to the seaside dining corridor. “You’re in a world… it’s hip, it’s chic. We wanted to make it a boutique-type restaurant that people could dress up or not, have a nice date night or celebratory family night,” he said. “It’s just something that I felt was needed on Second Street.”

Yau, at 5120 Second St., is open from 5 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday and 5 to 10 p.m. Friday through Sunday. Service will start in February on Saturdays and Sundays.

The city, with the businesses and restaurants that are coming back,” Rhodes said. “I think the kind of personal things I feel are the key is in the community. Even the Shore’s corporate retail spaces like Gap, Banana Republic, Buffalo Exchange and Lucky Brand have folded over the last several years. ‘Restaurant Row’ and a center median lush with towering trees.

While Henley said he loves the idea’s up-and-coming dining corridor. ‘I’d love to see more individual

An aerial view of Second Street in Belmont Shore.

throughout the pandemic and keep every single one of his employees. Coming off the busiest month he’s ever had, he’s optimistic that a bustling new era could be in store for the neighborhood. ‘I’m hoping that all the activity draws more people and it becomes a hotspot for people in town,” he said. ‘For us five or six years ago, things weren’t looking nearly as good as they are now.’

Yasu
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPANY</th>
<th>SERVICES</th>
<th>WEBSITE</th>
<th>STREET ADDRESS</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>EMPLOYEES</th>
<th>LEADERSHIP</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
<th>EMAIL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Toys</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>company name:</td>
<td>Eyelash Extensions</td>
<td></td>
<td>419 Shoreline Dr, (Kiosk on Boulevard)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artist</td>
<td>Lash Brow And Beyond</td>
<td></td>
<td>400 Pine Ave, Long Beach, CA 90802</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>service(s) provided:</td>
<td>Seasonal Porch Decorating and Plant Homespun Long Beach</td>
<td></td>
<td>2296 Long Beach Blvd, Long Beach, CA 90806</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>service(s) provided:</td>
<td>Professional Coaching</td>
<td></td>
<td>309 Pine Ave, Long Beach, CA 90807</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>company name:</td>
<td>Drinking Buddy</td>
<td></td>
<td>310 N. Pine Ave, Long Beach, CA 90805</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>company name:</td>
<td>Essential Studio</td>
<td></td>
<td>3600 Pine Ave, Suite 503, Long Beach, CA 90802</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>company name:</td>
<td>Fuller</td>
<td></td>
<td>3559 Long Beach Blvd, Suite F, Long Beach, CA 90807</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>company name:</td>
<td>Fuller Corporation</td>
<td></td>
<td>350 E. First Street, Long Beach, CA 90814</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>company name:</td>
<td>Flora &amp; Fauna</td>
<td></td>
<td>501B Pine Ave, Long Beach, CA 90802</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>company name:</td>
<td>Flora &amp; Fauna Management Corporation</td>
<td></td>
<td>500 E. Pine Ave, Suite 850, Long Beach, CA 90802</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>company name:</td>
<td>Flora &amp; Fauna Management Corporation</td>
<td></td>
<td>419 Shoreline Village Dr, Suite 136, Long Beach, CA 90807</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>company name:</td>
<td>First Impressions</td>
<td></td>
<td>340 E. First Street, Long Beach, CA 90814</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>company name:</td>
<td>Fine Feathers Kombucha Company</td>
<td></td>
<td>2390 Pine Ave, Long Beach, CA 90802</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>company name:</td>
<td>Finishing Touches</td>
<td></td>
<td>200 Pine Ave, Suite 503, Long Beach, CA 90806</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>company name:</td>
<td>Fights[Int] for the Bird</td>
<td></td>
<td>1200 E. Third St, Suite 203, Long Beach, CA 90802</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>company name:</td>
<td>Fulfillment Brokerage</td>
<td></td>
<td>2296 Long Beach Blvd, Long Beach, CA 90806</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>company name:</td>
<td>G. N. S. Dental Care</td>
<td></td>
<td>3600 Pine Ave, Suite 503, Long Beach, CA 90802</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>company name:</td>
<td>Glass Breton Driving Detective</td>
<td></td>
<td>3600 Pine Ave, Suite 503, Long Beach, CA 90802</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>company name:</td>
<td>Golden Corral</td>
<td></td>
<td>3600 Pine Ave, Suite 503, Long Beach, CA 90802</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>company name:</td>
<td>Gourmet Deli</td>
<td></td>
<td>3600 Pine Ave, Suite 503, Long Beach, CA 90802</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>company name:</td>
<td>Graphic Design Services</td>
<td></td>
<td>3600 Pine Ave, Suite 503, Long Beach, CA 90802</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>company name:</td>
<td>Glasses for Life</td>
<td></td>
<td>3600 Pine Ave, Suite 503, Long Beach, CA 90802</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>company name:</td>
<td>General Services</td>
<td></td>
<td>3600 Pine Ave, Suite 503, Long Beach, CA 90802</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>company name:</td>
<td>G. N. S. Dental Care</td>
<td></td>
<td>3600 Pine Ave, Suite 503, Long Beach, CA 90802</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>company name:</td>
<td>Gourmet Deli</td>
<td></td>
<td>3600 Pine Ave, Suite 503, Long Beach, CA 90802</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>company name:</td>
<td>Gourmet Deli</td>
<td></td>
<td>3600 Pine Ave, Suite 503, Long Beach, CA 90802</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Southwest to launch route from Long Beach to Kansas City

By Brandon Richardson

Southwest Airlines announced last week that it will offer daily nonstop flights from Long Beach Airport to Kansas City International Airport in Missouri beginning March 9. The daily flights will depart Long Beach at 12:40 p.m. and arrive at the Show-Me State at 6:30 p.m. Return flights will depart Missouri at 7:45 a.m., landing in Long Beach at 12:40 p.m. The March launch will coincide with the completion of a new 39-gate terminal at the Kansas City airport—the single-largest infrastructure project in the city’s history, according to officials. The $5.2 billion terminal features dedicated arrival and departure levels, an adjacent parking garage, moving walkways and consolidated checkpoints for a better passenger experience.

Construction on the roughly $1.5 billion-square-foot terminal broke ground in April 2019. “We welcome Southwest adding more flight options for LGB travelers and providing a connection between Long Beach and the beautiful new facilities being unveiled at Kansas City International Airport,” Long Beach Airport Director Cynthia Guidry said in a statement. Southwest began flying out of Long Beach in 1962 and became the airport’s largest carrier following the departure of JetBlue in 2020. Since then, the airline has continued to accrue additional flight slots and introduce new routes.

Historical Society of Long Beach to open new exhibit on Black Student Union Elders Association

By Tessa Kisseloff

Over the years, the Historical Society of Long Beach exhibitions have chronicled local traditions, the impact of World War II on the city’s residents and the formation of Long Beach’s LGBTQ community. According to executive director Julie Bartlett, the Historical Society of Long Beach contains a “treasure trove of information”—within the organization’s Buddy Knolls location. There, visitors can find a collection of California’s women’s chapter newsmen, an extensive newspaper collection, a crown from the oldest LGBTQ organization in the city, the Imperial Court, and a scrapbook documenting films produced at Long Beach’s silent film studio, which was located at the Museum of Latin American Art’s current site from around 1915 to 1930. Beginning Feb. 3, visitors will be able to discover another piece of Long Beach history through the Historical Society’s new exhibits featuring the Black Student Union Elders Association.

“It’s something we’ve been talking about since March 2020,” said Bartlett. “We’re excited to finally get to show this collection and help people to understand this history, demonstrate that we are interested in all of Long Beach history, and share this great partnership we’ve been developing.” With multiple kiosks and timelines displaying five sections of approximately 30 text items, including photographs, newspaper articles and other documents, visitors will learn about the history of both the educational opportunity program and the Black Student Union Elders Association. “It’s something we’ve been talking about since March 2020,” said Bartlett. “We’re excited to finally get to show this collection and help people to understand this history, demonstrate that we are interested in all of Long Beach history, and share this great partnership we’ve been developing.”
Uduak-Joe Ntuk resigns from CalHi position, will remain on LBCC board

By Alice Robinson

A Long Beach Community College District trustee who also oversees the city's oil and gas industry stepped down from that powerful community college board because he has resigned his city council seat.

Since 2019, Uduak-Joe Ntuk has served on the Long Beach City College Board of Trustees, where he represented the city's North Long Beach community. Ntuk stepped down because he has been appointed to the Long Beach City Council, where he will serve as a city councilman.

His tenure in both his elected and appointed positions has at times been rocky. Ntuk faced criticism last year when he accused a fellow college trustee of lying about the city's oil and gas operations.

Ntuk is stepping down from his board seat, but he will remain on the Long Beach Community College Board of Trustees, where he currently serves as the representative for the North Long Beach area.

Ntuk said in a written statement to News Watch, "As a former Long Beach City College Board of Trustees member, I am very thankful for the opportunity to serve my community in this role. I have had the privilege of hearing from many community members and learning about the many challenges they face.

"Despite the challenges, I believe that Long Beach City College has made significant progress in recent years and I am proud to have played a role in that success. I am excited to continue to support the college and its mission in my new role as a city councilman."

Ntuk's decision to resign from the board is likely to have a significant impact on the college's operations, as the board will now have to find a new member to represent the North Long Beach area.

The Long Beach Community College Board of Trustees is composed of seven members, each of whom serves a five-year term. The board is responsible for setting the college's policies, overseeing its financial operations, and making decisions about its academic programs and facilities.

Ntuk has expressed his commitment to continuing to support student success in Long Beach City College's new homebuyer assistance program, set to open to applications at the beginning of spring 2023.

"This program is a critical step in our efforts to support the city's residents who are looking to purchase a home," Ntuk said. "Through this program, we will be able to provide financial assistance to those who are facing challenges in finding an affordable home in the city.

"We are excited to work with the city to ensure that this program is successful and meets the needs of our community members. We will continue to monitor its progress and make adjustments as needed to ensure that it is successful in helping our residents achieve their homeownership goals."
LSB passenger volumes fell in November

Throughout November, 287,558 passengers traveled through the municipal airport, up 14.8% from the same last year but down 6.8% from November 2019.

By Brandon Richardson

After months of inching closer to pre-pandemic levels, passenger volumes at Long Beach Airport slipped slightly in November, according to data released Jan. 12. During that month, which typically marks the beginning of the busy holiday travel season, 287,558 people passed through the municipal airport, a 14.8% increase from the same month last year but down 6.8% from November 2019. The figure marks a significant 41.5% increase from November 2020, when 204,960 passengers were served as the coronavirus began its first nationwide surge.

Nationwide, total passenger volumes remained down 5.7% in November compared to the same month in 2019, according to Transportation Security Administration data. Across the U.S., nearly 4.4 million travelers passed through TSA checkpoints compared to nearly 6.5 million before the pandemic.

Back in Long Beach, the airport served just shy of 3.5 million passengers through the end of November, which is 2.5% lower than in November 2019. December figures have not been released, while airport staff expected strong holiday travel volume through the Christmas holiday, winter storms and the Southwest Airlines’ Seattle route, which was added over the holidays to be canceled late in the month.

The facility lost an estimated $30 million due to the mass cancellations.

Long Beach neighborhood groups will no longer be able to block a permit from being issued for a permanent parklet, after the City Council voted Jan. 17 to amend its municipal code to make it easier for an input just one part of the process, rather than the deciding factor. The council had requested the change to the code in December because the language allowed for community groups like neighborhood associations and others to block a permit from being issued by opposing a business for an application for a permanent outdoor parklet.

Changes made this month will now require the city to post public notices that a business is applying for a permanent parklet, similar to when a business is applying for an alcohol license, and any opposition received during that 30-day notice period would trigger a hearing before the City Council. The council will be the ultimate decision-maker in parklet permits that are sent to a hearing before the City Council before the old.

Community input limited in parklet permitting process

By Jason Ruiz

The facility lost an estimated $30 million due to the mass cancellations.

Long Beach neighborhood groups will no longer be able to block a permit from being issued for a permanent parklet, after the City Council voted Jan. 17 to amend its municipal code to make it easier for an input just one part of the process, rather than the deciding factor. The council had requested the change to the code in December because the language allowed for community groups like neighborhood associations and others to block a permit from being issued by opposing a business for an application for a permanent outdoor parklet.

Changes made this month will now require the city to post public notices that a business is applying for a permanent parklet, similar to when a business is applying for an alcohol license, and any opposition received during that 30-day notice period would trigger a hearing before the City Council. The council will be the ultimate decision-maker in parklet permits that are sent to a hearing before the old.

Community input limited in parklet permitting process

By Jason Ruiz

The facility lost an estimated $30 million due to the mass cancellations.

Long Beach neighborhood groups will no longer be able to block a permit from being issued for a permanent parklet, after the City Council voted Jan. 17 to amend its municipal code to make it easier for an input just one part of the process, rather than the deciding factor. The council had requested the change to the code in December because the language allowed for community groups like neighborhood associations and others to block a permit from being issued by opposing a business for an application for a permanent outdoor parklet.

Changes made this month will now require the city to post public notices that a business is applying for a permanent parklet, similar to when a business is applying for an alcohol license, and any opposition received during that 30-day notice period would trigger a hearing before the City Council. The council will be the ultimate decision-maker in parklet permits that are sent to a hearing before the old.
In 1st State of the City, Richardson vows progress on homelessness crisis, jobs

By Jason Ruiz

In his first State of the City address on the evening of Jan. 10, Mayor Rey Richardson outlined a bold agenda that included tackling the city's homelessness crisis and looking to the future of the city by rethinking its economy and investing in the community.

Richardson, who was elected mayor in November, inherited a city that has multiple active housing construction sites, but has struggled to create the kinds of jobs required to afford market-rate housing or keep pace with the number of affordable units needed to stave off a growing housing affordability crisis that city officials say has contributed to a homeless population that grew by 6% in 2022.

The City Council declared a state of emergency for homelessness earlier Tuesday, something that could allow city management to move more quickly into agreements to help provide services for the homeless who are unsheltered in the city, but could require the City Council to make tough budgetary decisions because the funding would likely have to come from within the city, not from federal and state sources like it did during the COVID-19 emergency.

“Whenever there is a priority, nothing is a priority,” Richardson said of the declaration.

While he began with the city’s efforts to battle homelessness in the city, Richardson’s roughly 30-minute address at the Terrace Theatre Downtown covered his vision for the city’s economy, climate change and how he hopes to empower communities by investing in them and their residents.

Here are some takeaways from Richardson’s speech:

“Opportunity Beach”
First, there was “Space Beach,” now there’s “Opportunity Beach.”

Richardson unveiled his Opportunity Beach Agenda Tuesday night that outlines goals for everything ranging from economic recovery to public safety and creating opportunities for youth to succeed.

A 47-page program distributed to attendees showed the numerous goals in his agenda including a new Downtown Plan that could result in more affordable housing production and partnering with educational institutions and others to create the “Long Beach Housing Promise,” which could create more workforce housing across the city and reduce displacement.

It includes plans to call for funding for the creation of a number of cultural districts across the city for the Latino, Cambodian and LGBTQ populations. The agenda also includes goals

Southwest begins service to New Orleans out of LGB

By Brendan Richardson

A New Orleans brass band greeted passengers as they boarded Southwest’s inaugural flight to the Big Easy out of Long Beach Airport on Jan. 6. The airline will operate the flight through at least July 10, making for ease travel for Long Beachers and residents on nearby cities who plan on celebrating Mardi Gras next month.

The nonstop service departs Long Beach at 3:30 p.m. every Sunday, arriving in NOLA at 6 p.m. The return flight, also on Sundays, departs New Orleans at 4:55 p.m. and arrives in Long Beach at 3:30 p.m.

The route is one of several new destinations Southwest will begin servicing this year. On Jan. 4, the carrier began daily service to Salt Lake City. The company will begin its first nonstop service to the East Coast out of Long Beach with weekly flights to Orlando on July 6.

Southwest is Long Beach’s largest airline currently holding three daily flight slots, which also will be awarded to travelers in summer 2023, which now consist of only Southwest, Delta and Hawaiian airlines.
Virgin Orbital's first international mission fails to reach orbit

By Brandon Richardson

Virgin Orbitch's first international launch this month saw the company's LauncherOne rocket reach the Earth's atmosphere and enter space, but the rocket then experienced an "anomaly" and failed to deliver its payload to orbit, according to officials. 

Cosmic Girl, the company's modified Boeing 747, took off from Spacport Cornwall in the United Kingdom before releasing the rocket shortly after 3 p.m. Long Beach time on Jan. 9. In addition to serving as Virgin Orbitch's first international launch, the event also marked the first-ever orbital launch from UK soil by any company.

"While we are very proud of the many things that we successfully achieved as part of this mission, we are mindful that we failed to provide our customers with the launch services that they deserve," said John Hart, chairman of Virgin Orbitch. "We take this seriously and believe that it is our responsibility to ensure that our customers are provided with the highest level of service possible."

The flight completed a successful stage separation before the anomaly occurred. During the firing of the second stage engine, with the rocket traveling at over 11,000 miles per hour, the system experienced an "anomaly," according to the company's statement. The mission was dubbed "Start Me Up" after the 1981 Rolling Stones song, as a joint mission between the U.S. and U.K. governments.

Virgin Orbitch had a target of delivering eight satellites to a 355-kilometer sun-synchronous orbit, including:

- IOD-3 AMBER: The first of more than 20 such satellites developed by Satellite Applications Catapult and co-funded with Airbus Defence and Space, which are also being deployed jointly with In-Space Missions.
- PrometheuS: Two CubeSats—owned by the U.K. Ministry of Defense (MOD) and co-funded with Airbus Defence and Space, which are also being deployed jointly with In-Space Missions will support the MOD's space and technology activities in orbit and on ground.
- CIRCE: (Coordinated Information and Research Environment CubeSat Experiment): A joint mission between the U.S. Defense Science and Technology Laboratory and the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory.
- DOVER: A Pathfinder for global navigation satellite systems developed by BAE Group.

"We are so incredibly proud of everything we have achieved with our partners and friends across the space industry here in the UK and in the U.S.—we made it to space, we went to orbit, we made it to space, UK first," Matt Archer, director of commercial spaceflight at Virgin Orbitch, said in a statement. "Today we inspired millions and we will continue to look to inspire millions more. Not just with an ambition but also with our fortitude. Yes, space is hard, but we are only just getting started."

Despite its recent setback, Virgin is moving forward with preparations for its next launch, the company stated, which will originate at the Mojave Air and Space Port. The company plans to return to Spacport Cornwall for additional launches as early as this year.

State of the City

By Brandon Richardson

There's a long way to go before Long Beach can truly be considered a "sustainable" city, but the city's economy is already showing gains in the right direction.

One of the bigger announcements of the past month was the announcement of Virgin Orbitch, LLC, which recently opened in Long Beach, adding to the city's new status as a hub for companies in the growing space exploration sector in the city.

The city's economy

One of the biggest announcements of the past month was the announcement of Virgin Orbitch, LLC, which recently opened in Long Beach, adding to the city's new status as a hub for companies in the growing space exploration sector in the city.

By Brandon Richardson

The last week of 2022 was not an easy time for travelers as winter storms swept across the country and airlines canceled flights on masse. Long Beach was not immune to the poor weather. The local airport had a total of 166—44%—outbound Southwest flight cancellations from Dec. 23 through Jan. 1, according to spokesperson Kathy Kuykendall. The result was high stress for workers and travelers alike, and the loss of approximately $500 million in revenue.

"We do anticipate that we will be able to recover those losses," Kuykendall said, noting that officials expect strong spring and summer travel seasons.

Airport employees did all they could, however, the losses are not "huge" significant compared to the overall budgeted costs that could have straddled in part another of the country due to inclement weather. This can cause a ripple effect that cancels or delays several other flights, as airlines scramble to adjust staff and aircraft.

In the case of Southwest Airlines, Long Beach is its largest carrier, and the airport's chain rumbled amid the disruptions, which resulted in more cancellations than other carriers with more systems. The system is typically used to track the locations of the crew and fleet. The airline canceled thousands of flights during the busy holiday travel season.

The city's economy

One of the biggest announcements of the past month was the announcement of Virgin Orbitch, LLC, which recently opened in Long Beach, adding to the city's new status as a hub for companies in the growing space exploration sector in the city.

By Brandon Richardson

The last week of 2022 was not an easy time for travelers as winter storms swept across the country and airlines canceled flights on masse. Long Beach was not immune to the poor weather. The local airport had a total of 166—44%—outbound Southwest flight cancellations from Dec. 23 through Jan. 1, according to spokesperson Kathy Kuykendall. The estimated $48.3 million in revenue, which is on par with previous holiday season levels and breaks down to an average of just over $4 million per month. The airport is one of few city departments that generates revenue—using only revenue generated through its operations as well as general government grants. The revenue is $45.3 per passenger for each ticket sold, which is less than $12 per departing Long Beach. In the event of cancellations and subsequent refunds, however, the airport loses that revenue. Other sources of revenue include landing fees, parking, car rentals and concession sales, among others. When the cancellations first started, Kuykendall said many passengers were not being notified, which resulted in long lines and frustrated customers.

"Especially in the very beginning when it wasn’t clear what was going on, passengers were being prorated—what the nation was doing—afflicting their flight in warm and sunny Long Beach," she said.

"Airport network is in place, and we have the planes and crew that is slated to fly passengers from Long Beach could get stranded in another part of the country due to inclement weather.
Recent trends in sales tax, other revenue could shrink Long Beach’s $43M budget deficit

By Jason Ruiz

URANGA RETURNS TO DAIS 4

Local officials are optimistic that the city’s budget deficit could be significantly smaller than the $43 million hole they thought they’d have to fill before approving next year’s budget in September. The City Council held a study session last week to get a high-level preview of the city’s budget outlook before it adopted a more formal report presented in March. Uranga returns to dais last week after a four-month leave.

The council had voted in October to approve a shortfall, but it will decrease from $27 million to $43 million, recent trends in sales tax and other city revenue sources suggest the deficit could get smaller.

“It is expected there will be a shortfall, but it is decrease significantly,” Yoon told the council at its Jan. 17 meeting. The city’s budget manager, said that while new contracts for the city’s police and fire personal budget bumped up by $72 million to $43 million, recent trends in sales tax and other city revenue sources suggest the deficit could get smaller.

According to a new look at sales tax and other revenue sources, the city’s revenue streams have been lagging, with the city’s budget manager, said that while new contracts for the city’s police and fire personal budget bump up by $72 million to $43 million, recent trends in sales tax and other city revenue sources suggest the deficit could get smaller.

Uranga returns to dais last week after a four-month leave.

Within a couple of years, the Historical Society’s entire collection has been archived and reboxed, Bartolotto said. “It’s been a process of professionalizing the organization all of these years and securing collections and proper locations,” said Bartolotto, who also worked to update the database system to better track items and information, as well as members and donors. While the museum has been in several locations throughout the years since its 1926 founding, the Historical Society has been in its current location in Long Beach since 2007, which has allowed the space to accept large collections, Bartolotto said.

Within a couple of years, the Historical Society’s entire collection has been archived and reboxed, Bartolotto said. “It’s been a process of professionalizing the organization all of these years and securing collections and proper locations,” said Bartolotto, who also worked to update the database system to better track items and information, as well as members and donors. While the museum has been in several locations throughout the years since its 1926 founding, the Historical Society has been in its current location in Long Beach since 2007, which has allowed the space to accept large collections, Bartolotto said.

Within a couple of years, the Historical Society’s entire collection has been archived and reboxed, Bartolotto said. “It’s been a process of professionalizing the organization all of these years and securing collections and proper locations,” said Bartolotto, who also worked to update the database system to better track items and information, as well as members and donors. While the museum has been in several locations throughout the years since its 1926 founding, the Historical Society has been in its current location in Long Beach since 2007, which has allowed the space to accept large collections, Bartolotto said.

Within a couple of years, the Historical Society’s entire collection has been archived and reboxed, Bartolotto said. “It’s been a process of professionalizing the organization all of these years and securing collections and proper locations,” said Bartolotto, who also worked to update the database system to better track items and information, as well as members and donors. While the museum has been in several locations throughout the years since its 1926 founding, the Historical Society has been in its current location in Long Beach since 2007, which has allowed the space to accept large collections, Bartolotto said.
The Aquarium on Wheels program gives youth the opportunity to experience sea life without visiting the actual aquarium, said Jennie Dean, vice president of education and conservation at the Aquarium of the Pacific.

"The students are getting to touch the animals—even the tide pool animals, including sea stars, snails, hermit crabs and mussels—of animals that they would not get to touch here at the aquarium in their tide pool and touch tanks, and just step away from their home classrooms," Dean said. The refresh of the truck comes with some needed upgrades to the truck, including the back part of the vehicle where the animals line up, along with adding imagery to its interior, which both creates the feeling of being underwater, while also identifying the sea life, according to Dean. "We turned sort of the negative of closure into a positive, by updating the life support systems and exhibit spaces," Dean said. The aquarium's educational content largely focuses on making STEM—science, technology, engineering and math—content accessible, allowing anyone of any age to feel like they're a part of the scientific process of inquiry and exploration, Dean said. "All of the lessons shown really do expose students to how to think about what they're observing in the natural world, and sort of see themselves as a scientist—not that that means that they have to go up and become a scientist professionally, but that they feel comfortable talking about those topics and seeing a part of themselves, at least, in the scientific world," Dean said.

While the program is typically for pre-kindergarteners through eighth grader, the truck does make appearances at other events that can target older audiences, including festivals, birthday parties or public libraries, Dean said.

The truck can travel up to 75 miles away from its home location at the Aquarium of the Pacific, which can mean as far as Malibu or down to Oxnard and all the way out to parts of San Bernardos, Dean said. "Being able to travel those 75 miles away, we're closer and reach students that haven't had the opportunity to visit the ocean itself," Dean said. "We do have the opportunity to, in occasions, to give students their first exposure to what live in the ocean in a more hands-on and applied way."

About 25 schools are currently booked for the remainder of the school year.

"Obviously, I love the ocean—I work for an aquarium. I want everybody to love the ocean just like I do," Dean said. "So hopefully, if they're a younger age, might inspire some future ocean professionals."

Make a reservation by calling (562) 300-3700 ext. 6.

By Tess Kazenoff

The Aquarium on Wheels program returned on Jan. 6 after a hiatus due to the pandemic. The truck, which features numerous tide pool animals including klasse winks, anemones,urchins, sea stars, snails, hermit crabs and more, can travel up to 75 miles from the Aquanum of the Pacific.

Tova Capital acquires 34,500-square-foot retail complex in Central Long Beach for $6.2M

Tova Capital, a Los Angeles-based commercial real estate company, has acquired the Central Long Beach retail complex occupied by Trademark Brewing and climbing gym Long Beach Rock Climbing in a $6.2 million off-market transaction, the company announced on Jan. 9.

The fully occupied 34,500-square-foot retail complex is located on 1030-1044 E. Anaheim St. between Long Beach Boulevard and Pacific Avenue. Trademark Brewing and Long Beach Rock Climbing, both of which occupy approximately 5,000-square-foot single-story spaces across the street from two recently completed senior and affordable multi-family housing projects and is adjacent to a future 85-unit townhome development. Tova officials said Long Beach's Midtown Specific Plan, where the complex is located, has succeeded in its goal to make the area more attractive to investors.

“The Downtown and Midtown Specific Plans have done their job ofutilizing institutional investors and developers to build much needed quality housing in the submarket including market-rate, affordable and senior housing,” said Burt Harat, president and CEO of Tova Capital in a statement. “Our tenants will continue to benefit from the new residents moving into the area.”

The Midtown Specific Plan and Downtown Plan have led to over 2,200 housing units being built over the past five years or so near Downtown. Retail rents in Long Beach have grown by 2.4% over the past 12 months, and in Downtown Long Beach in particular, retail rents are up 3.6% higher than they were a decade ago, according to Tova Capital.

“This was a tremendous opportunity to acquire a cash-flowing retail asset at a very low basis,” said Burt in a statement. “Given the challenging credit markets, we were able to secure attractive tenant financing, which allowed the deal to make sense in a market with few transactions occurring.”

Tova Capital plans a long-term hold of the retail property, which is its first investment in Long Beach. Jared Swedelson from NAI Commercial represented Tova, while the seller was represented by Sh冶a Housewirth from Coldwell Banker Commercial BLAIR.

Founded in 2017, Tova Capital focuses on rehabilitating older industrial and office buildings, as well as developing, entitling land for higher and better uses and constructing ground-up projects.

Tova manages all aspects of the development process including acquisition, construction, financing and management. •

By Tess Kazenoff

After officially opening in September, Xela Institute of Art, a gallery on Pacific Avenue that displays contemporary art, is preparing for its inaugural exhibition, which closed Jan. 8, 2023. While Alexander noted that contemporary art simply means that the artist is alive, in the art Xela’s exhibitions has a specific style.

“The idea for me is that you have to be very original,” he said. “You have to really know you’re doing, and you really have to care.”

While Alexander is currently curating some of Xela’s exhibitions, future exhibitions may utilize an invited curator.

Although its second exhibition will center artists from within California (as well as its third exhibition, which will feature Los Angeles-based artist Carla (by Harris), Alexander hopes to widen the artists’ scope as time goes on.

“It’s just a little bit of work is progress, but this first exhibition is a really incredible endeavor because it’s just one of the best exhibitions right now,” Alexander said.

Its inaugural exhibition garnered support from around the world.
First-Time Homebuyer

Continued from page 12

First-Time Homebuyer Assistance

The Long Beach Planning Commission has given its approval to the Mosaic housing project, which will replace a large part of the former City Plaza shopping center in Downtown with 500 units of housing and new ground floor retail.

The project is expected to transform the two blocks between Sixth Street and Fourth Street west of Long Beach Boulevard into three eight-story apartment buildings. For the project to move forward in the Downtown area affected by the city’s inclusionary housing zone, it will include 50 units set aside for very low-income families once the project is complete.

In Los Angeles County in 2022, half of those selling in transactional programs went to buyers with incomes above $100,000, and the median Allows Planning Commissioners voted to approve the project’s site plan, which divides the northernmost block of the project into two parcels. It also amends the city’s previous environmental impact report for the 2012 Downtown Plan, which currently re-used to turn unmanned office, retail and hotel accommodation.

Planning Commissioners approved a new housing assistance program to support the project, which will create a household of four with an income of $15,000 to be eligible.

Planning Commission approves Mosaic housing project in Downtown

The project was expected to transform the two blocks between Sixth Street and Fourth Street west of Long Beach Boulevard into three eight-story apartment buildings.

The City’s phased approach to implementing its inclusionary housing ordinance, which requires builders to include affordable units in their projects, only mandated that 5% of units be set aside for affordability. Had the developers submitted an application for the project this year, the requirement would have been 15%.

Commissioners were sympathetic with the union construction workers who showed up in support of requiring the project labor agreement the city has for its financial projects, but they ultimately said the labor agreements were reserved for approving or denying building trades, not for overseeing workplace conditions.

Planning Commission approves Mosaic housing project in Downtown

The project is expected to transform the two blocks between Sixth Street and Fourth Street west of Long Beach Boulevard into three eight-story apartment buildings.

The City’s phased approach to implementing its inclusionary housing ordinance, which requires builders to include affordable units in their projects, only mandated that 5% of units be set aside for affordability. Had the developers submitted an application for the project this year, the requirement would have been 15%.

Commissioners were sympathetic with the union construction workers who showed up in support of requiring the project labor agreement the city has for its financial projects, but they ultimately said the labor agreements were reserved for approving or denying building trades, not for overseeing workplace conditions.

Planning Commission approves Mosaic housing project in Downtown

The project is expected to transform the two blocks between Sixth Street and Fourth Street west of Long Beach Boulevard into three eight-story apartment buildings.

The City’s phased approach to implementing its inclusionary housing ordinance, which requires builders to include affordable units in their projects, only mandated that 5% of units be set aside for affordability. Had the developers submitted an application for the project this year, the requirement would have been 15%.

Commissioners were sympathetic with the union construction workers who showed up in support of requiring the project labor agreement the city has for its financial projects, but they ultimately said the labor agreements were reserved for approving or denying building trades, not for overseeing workplace conditions.

Planning Commission approves Mosaic housing project in Downtown

The project is expected to transform the two blocks between Sixth Street and Fourth Street west of Long Beach Boulevard into three eight-story apartment buildings.

The City’s phased approach to implementing its inclusionary housing ordinance, which requires builders to include affordable units in their projects, only mandated that 5% of units be set aside for affordability. Had the developers submitted an application for the project this year, the requirement would have been 15%.

Commissioners were sympathetic with the union construction workers who showed up in support of requiring the project labor agreement the city has for its financial projects, but they ultimately said the labor agreements were reserved for approving or denying building trades, not for overseeing workplace conditions.
Egg Scarcity

scrambles at Egg Heaven on Fourth Street. Rito Garcia finishes preparing three breakfast plates at Egg Heaven.

A worker cracks eggs into a large pot to be whisked and prepped for omelets and similar story. Eggs used to fetch

Pietris Greek Bakery and
said. The cafe buys eggs locally, and
helps run the restaurant, said the
coffee in beige vinyl-upholstered
Jan. 9 dug into omelets and sipped
new ownership.

Heaven Cafe, which had closed
around the country have been
dealing with right now is basically
a diverse community on our virtual
treadmills and more.

"It's an existential issue
for the poultry industry," Pitesky
said. "There are some important
differences, said Maurita Pitesky, an
associate professor at the UC
Davis School of Veterinary Medicine
Cooperative Extension.

About seven times more counties
around the country have been
affected this time around, so the
scope of the outbreak that we’re
dealing with right now is basically
much larger geographically," he said.
Also, five or six years ago, the
number of infectious disease
peaked during the warm summer
months and didn’t fade back up
until the winter, Pitesky said, but
the current wave didn’t go away in
the spring and summer.

What’s known as highly
pathogenic (very contagious) avian
influenza is typically spread by wild
waterfowl such as ducks and geese.
But recently authorities have found
the virus in numerous other bird
species as well as marine mammals
and fish, so it’s become much
more robust in the species that it’s
affecting," Pitesky said.

When the virus is found in a flock,
the fastest way to stop its spread is
to euthanize the birds, and it takes
time to replace them. Pitesky said
young hens are usually about 20 weeks old when they start laying commercial-grade eggs.

Further complicating the flu problem is volatile prices for corn
and soybeans, which are used to feed
the birds, he said. “I think this is an existential issue for the poultry industry,” Pitesky
said. “I don’t think we know what
when this will end.”

Meanwhile, Long Beach businesses
that depend on eggs continue to try
to scratch out a living, hoping their
patrons won’t fly the coop.

At Joe Jost’s, a nearly century-old
pub that sells its popular pickled
eggs by the jar, owner Ken Buck has
kept prices level but isn’t sure how
long that’s sustainable.

If egg prices increase again, and the
current wave doesn’t go away in
the spring and summer, Trejo at Egg Heaven is also hoping
she won’t have to raise prices. She’s concerned with how long that’s sustainable.

"I don’t like raising prices on
my customers, but everything’s so
expensive now, including eggs," he
said. "I’ll try to keep them the same,
but there comes a point when you
have to consider charging more.”

Xela Institute of Art

Xela Institute of Art (Continued on page 23)

Xela Institute of Art has received its California nonprofit status and expects to receive its federal status in the coming months.

As the gallery continues to develop, Alexander hopes to not only widen its breadth of artists, but also begin various art education programming and partnerships with programs such as Cal State Long Beach’s master of fine arts program and the Arts Council of Long Beach.

The institute will also offer art classes, along with art appreciation classes discovering contemporary art, which Alexander hopes will help participants learn to train their artistic eyes and understand the process of being a part of the arts, Alexander said.

“Part of the goal is making
sure that people in Long Beach,
whether it’s schools, with their art
professors,” Alexander said. “I want
to make sure Long Beach is included,
and very involved.”

Xela Institute of Art is located at 2176 Pacific Ave, and is open to the public:
Thursdays through Sundays, 12 p.m. to
5 p.m. by reservation only. Email info@xela.art to book a reservation.

Zwift to award multiple $5K microgrants to nonprofits

Zwift, which fuses gaming with
fitness, offers immersive virtual
"worlds" or platforms for cyclists and
runners, who can connect exercise
equipment such as bike trainers,
treadmills and more.

"Zwift’s work to foster and support
a diverse community on our virtual
worlds is what truly sets us apart from
all other fitness platforms," Eric Min,
Zwift co-founder and co-CEO, said in
a statement. "We’re excited to support
organizations engaged in the same
work by offering these five grants
to organizations that align with
our mission and we look forward to use
the positive impact that will result."

Microgrants will be awarded to
registered nonprofit organizations that
are aligned with one or all of Zwift’s
three social impact pillars: fitness,
technology, health and wellness, and
community. Applications will be
reviewed by Zwift’s people, growth,
and impact teams.

Local organizations must be
registered as a 501(c)(3) in the
United States. Applications are open
through Feb. 28 and grantees will be
notified in March.

Those who are interested can read
more about the available grants on their

Xela Institute of Art (Continued from page 19)

an associate professor at the UC

Brendan Richardson / Business Journal

Xela Institute of Art has received its California nonprofit status and expects to receive its federal status in the coming months.

As the gallery continues to develop, Alexander hopes to not only widen its breadth of artists, but also begin various art education programming and partnerships with programs such as Cal State Long Beach’s master of fine arts program and the Arts Council of Long Beach.

The institute will also offer art classes, along with art appreciation classes discovering contemporary art, which Alexander hopes will help participants learn to train their artistic eyes and understand the process of being a part of the arts, Alexander said.

“Part of the goal is making
sure that people in Long Beach,
whether it’s schools, with their art
professors,” Alexander said. “I want
to make sure Long Beach is included,
and very involved.”

Xela Institute of Art is located at 2176 Pacific Ave, and is open to the public:
Thursdays through Sundays, 12 p.m. to
5 p.m. by reservation only. Email info@xela.art to book a reservation.

Zwift to award multiple $5K microgrants to nonprofits

Zwift, which fuses gaming with
fitness, offers immersive virtual
"worlds" or platforms for cyclists and
runners, who can connect exercise
equipment such as bike trainers,
treadmills and more.

"Zwift’s work to foster and support
a diverse community on our virtual
worlds is what truly sets us apart from
all other fitness platforms," Eric Min,
Zwift co-founder and co-CEO, said in
a statement. "We’re excited to support
organizations engaged in the same
work by offering these five grants
to organizations that align with
our mission and we look forward to use
the positive impact that will result."

Microgrants will be awarded to
registered nonprofit organizations that
are aligned with one or all of Zwift’s
three social impact pillars: fitness,
technology, health and wellness, and
community. Applications will be
reviewed by Zwift’s people, growth,
and impact teams.

Local organizations must be
registered as a 501(c)(3) in the
United States. Applications are open
through Feb. 28 and grantees will be
notified in March.

Those who are interested can read
more about the available grants on their

By Tess Kazenoff

"They’re way too expensive," she
said. “I’ll try to keep them the same,
but everything’s so expensive now,
and there comes a point when you
have to consider charging more.”

"I don’t like raising prices on
my customers, but everything’s so
expensive now, including eggs," he
said. "I’ll try to keep them the same,
but there comes a point when you
have to consider charging more.”

Trejo at Egg Heaven is also hoping
she won’t have to raise prices. She’s con-

12-MONTH CD
4.24% APY*
New Money Only**

*Annual Percentage Yield current as of 01/06/2023 for the 12-month CD. **Funds may not be transferred from existing International City Bank account(s) to fund new CD(s). Rates subject to change at any time. A penalty may be imposed for early withdrawal. Fees may reduce earnings and principal. Minimum deposit of $1,000 required to open CD. CD renews automatically to a standard rate in effect at the time of renewal unless instructed otherwise. See associate for details.

Vice President, Community Development Officer
249 E. Ocean Boulevard
Long Beach
562-436-9800 Ext. 5207
Janet Nelson

icb.biz

icb.biz
The Port of Long Beach’s high school internship and college scholarship applications are open through March 1. Our internships cover areas from engineering to communications, and if you’re interested in a career in logistics, trade or business, check out our Port scholarships. Find out more and apply at polb.com/education.