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# Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

## Why Choose Chicago for Your Wedding? Here's Why This City Has It All

Our Friends · Thursday, October 31st, 2024

When it comes to saying “I do,” the location can make all the difference. With its iconic skyline, world-class food scene, and endless charm, Chicago has become the ultimate wedding destination for couples across the country—whether you’re local or flying in from the other side of the globe. And why not? This city offers a vibe that’s hard to beat. From stunning lakefront views to architectural wonders, Chicago has everything to create a wedding experience that’s more than just a one-day event. If you’re on the hunt for a location that combines beauty, style, and unforgettable moments, Chicago might just be your perfect match.

### The Unbeatable Variety of Chicago Wedding Venues

Let’s start with the star of the show: the wedding venue. **Chicago wedding venues** are in a league of their own, and the sheer range of options means every couple can find something that matches their vibe. Want an urban rooftop overlooking the city lights? Got it. How about a charming historic mansion or an intimate art gallery for a more personal touch? Done. Chicago’s venue options are as diverse as the city itself, letting you choose between grand ballrooms, chic industrial lofts, lush gardens, and, of course, those stunning waterfront views along Lake Michigan.

What sets Chicago apart is its mix of modernity and tradition. One day, you’re at a sleek downtown spot with panoramic views; the next, you’re at a vintage, jazz-era landmark with endless character. And even with all these options, Chicago makes it easy to bring your vision to life, no matter what style you’re after. Each neighborhood adds its own flavor, from the glitz of the Gold Coast to the artsy vibes of Pilsen. Bottom line? Chicago offers unparalleled flexibility, so you’re never short on style.

### A Food Scene That Dazzles Your Guests

Food can make or break a wedding, and Chicago’s culinary scene is a match made in heaven for food-loving couples. With some of the best chefs in the country calling Chicago home, you’re in for a feast that your guests will be talking about long after the last dance. Forget standard wedding fare; Chicago takes dining to the next level. You can go full-on gourmet with a five-course meal, keep it casual with a food truck serving local favorites, or even do something funky like a brunch wedding with Chicago-style pastries and Bloody Marys. The city is known for its deep-dish pizza, craft cocktails, and creative fusion foods, so if you want your menu to have personality, Chicago’s the place.

Another advantage? Many venues partner with top-tier catering services, so you get access to the city's finest without having to dig too deep. And if you want to show off the local flavor, consider adding a Chicago food tour to your wedding weekend festivities. Your guests will experience everything from iconic Italian beef sandwiches to avant-garde molecular gastronomy, giving them a taste of what makes Chicago's food scene unforgettable.

## Breathtaking Views for Unforgettable Photos

There's no wedding without photos, and in Chicago, the city itself becomes a part of the magic captured in each shot. From stunning architecture to lakeside vistas, this city offers endless backdrops that elevate any wedding album. The skyline is always picture-perfect, whether it's set against the afternoon sun or lit up at night. Millennium Park and Grant Park provide some of the city's most iconic spots, with the famous Bean (Cloud Gate) sculpture adding a fun, reflective twist to your photos.

For those who want something a little different, Chicago's neighborhoods bring a whole new level of charm. The cobblestone streets of Old Town, the murals of Logan Square, or the scenic Riverwalk can all add that little extra something to your photos. Imagine your wedding portraits with the city's landmarks in the background, blending urban edge with romance. Plus, with a city as big as Chicago, there's no need to deal with the hassle of [planning a beach wedding](#); the city's stunning lakefront and waterfront views give you all the beauty of a seaside backdrop without the sand or seagulls.

## Endless Activities to Make It a Wedding Weekend

These days, weddings are more than a day-long event these days—they're weekend extravaganzas. Chicago makes it easy to keep the party going for days, with endless activities to keep your guests entertained and relaxed. Start off with a welcome dinner at one of Chicago's legendary steakhouses, like Gibson's or Prime & Provisions, to give your guests a warm Windy City welcome. For those looking to get a taste of the city, organized tours, like the architecture river cruise, are both iconic and highly recommended.

If you're thinking of a longer stay, Chicago's museum scene is hard to beat. Your guests can explore the [Art Institute of Chicago](#) and the Field Museum or spend a day at Navy Pier for a more casual experience. The shopping along Michigan Avenue, known as the Magnificent Mile, is also a great option for anyone who wants to explore a bit of the city's luxe side. Chicago's vibrant nightlife and incredible dining options offer all the ingredients for an unforgettable wedding weekend that stretches beyond the ceremony and reception. It's a chance to let your guests experience the city's culture and energy, turning your wedding into a truly immersive experience.

## Accommodation Options That Fit Every Budget

One of the many perks of getting married in a big city like Chicago is the endless variety of accommodation options. Your guests, whether coming from down the road or across the country, will have no trouble finding a place to stay that suits their style and budget. From high-end hotels with skyline views to cozy boutique stays, Chicago has it all. If you're aiming for luxury, the Ritz-Carlton and The Peninsula offer an experience that's as glamorous as your wedding day. But there are also more budget-friendly options that still put your guests in the heart of the city, making it easy for them to get around without breaking the bank.

Beyond hotels, Chicago also offers a great selection of vacation rentals, allowing families or groups to stay together in spacious, homey environments. Staying at a stylish Airbnb in the neighborhoods surrounding downtown can give your guests a unique, more personal experience. So, no matter your guests' travel style or budget, everyone can enjoy a comfortable stay, which makes planning a lot less stressful for you.

## Four Seasons of Vibes: Why Chicago Shines Year-Round

While summer weddings might be popular, Chicago is a year-round stunner. Each season brings its own magic, making it possible to plan your dream wedding at any time of year. Spring brings blooming flowers and sunny days that are perfect for garden ceremonies. Fall paints the city with warm tones, making outdoor photos pop with color. If you're daring, a winter wedding in Chicago can be nothing short of enchanting, with snow-covered backdrops and cozy, intimate venues.

Chicago's ability to shine in every season gives couples flexibility when it comes to planning. Many venues offer both indoor and outdoor options, so you're covered no matter the weather. And because there's so much to do indoors, your guests can stay entertained even if the weather doesn't fully cooperate. So whether you're a fan of summer warmth or winter wonderlands, Chicago offers a backdrop that's ready for every season's charm.

## The Perfect Place to Say "I Do"

A wedding in Chicago is more than just a ceremony; it's an experience. With the city's stunning variety of venues, a food scene that's tough to top, and endless ways to keep your guests entertained, Chicago becomes the wedding destination that's easy to fall in love with. No matter where you're from, the Windy City offers something special that leaves you and your guests with memories that'll last a lifetime. Whether you're drawn to the urban edge, the historic charm, or simply the thrill of a city that never sleeps, Chicago delivers a wedding experience that's as unforgettable as the love you're celebrating.

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## Is Blockchain the Best Thing to Happen to Art? Here's the Good News

Our Friends · Thursday, October 31st, 2024

Art is experiencing a revolution, and blockchain is at the heart of it. From creating new ways for artists to share and sell their work to offering unprecedented control over intellectual property, blockchain is reshaping the art world in ways that once seemed impossible. For those

interested in how technology is impacting the creative landscape, these developments are more than just trends—they represent a shift in how art is created, distributed, and valued. Here are five ways that blockchain is providing good news for artists, each offering a glimpse into the future of art in the digital era.

## Digital Art and Social Media Are Changing the Art World

The combination of **digital art and social media** has opened up entirely new ways for artists to connect with audiences. As artists increasingly move their work online, social media platforms provide a space to showcase digital art, reach new fans, and build communities around their creative practice. This shift has allowed artists to transcend geographical boundaries, making it easier to gain recognition and sell their work to a global audience.

With the help of blockchain, artists are finding even more ways to leverage this digital landscape. By using blockchain to record ownership and transactions, digital artworks can be verified as originals, even in a medium that is often copied or shared freely. This gives artists the ability to prove authenticity and value, creating a new sense of scarcity and uniqueness for digital creations. The combination of digital art and blockchain offers artists a way to capitalize on the digital shift, while also protecting their creative rights in an online world.

## Asset Tokenization is Helping Artists Monetize Their Work

Among the most significant breakthroughs in the art world's adoption of blockchain is **asset tokenization**. This concept has brought a fresh approach to how artists can monetize their creations, making it possible to break down a single piece of art into digital tokens that represent shares in the artwork. These tokens can then be sold to collectors, allowing multiple people to own a part of a piece of art, while the artist retains control over the original.

Asset tokenization creates new opportunities for artists to generate income, as they can sell digital shares of a painting, sculpture, or digital artwork without parting with the entire piece. This is especially appealing for artists who want to retain ownership or display their work while still benefiting financially. Tokenization also allows for a broader base of investors to get involved in the art market, making it more accessible to people who may not have the resources to purchase an entire artwork.

## NFTs Redefine Ownership in the Digital Art World

Non-fungible tokens (NFTs) are a **hot trend in the art world**, and for good reason. They represent a new way for artists to secure and sell their digital work, using blockchain to create a unique digital signature that verifies ownership. Unlike cryptocurrencies, which are interchangeable, each NFT is unique, representing a one-of-a-kind digital asset.

For digital artists, NFTs offer a way to solve a long-standing problem: how to maintain the value of digital art in a world where images and audio files can be easily copied. With NFTs, artists can sell digital originals, offering collectors a chance to own the verified version of a work, even if copies continue to circulate online. This creates a sense of scarcity that adds value to digital art in the same way that a signed physical painting or sculpture might.

## Blockchain is Improving Copyright Protection for Artists

Copyright issues have plagued the art world for decades, with artists often struggling to protect their work from unauthorized use. Blockchain is offering a new solution to this problem by creating a permanent, tamper-proof record of ownership. When an artist registers their work on a blockchain, they create a timestamped record that serves as proof of creation, making it easier to resolve disputes about who owns the rights to a piece of art.

For digital artists, this is particularly valuable. In an online world where images and videos can be copied and shared with a click, having a verifiable record of creation and ownership provides a powerful way to protect their intellectual property. It also means that artists can license their work more easily, offering digital rights to collectors or brands while maintaining control over how their creations are used.

## Digital Marketplaces Can Expand Artists' Reach

One of the most significant benefits of blockchain for artists is the rise of digital marketplaces where they can sell their work directly to collectors and fans. These marketplaces use blockchain to verify the authenticity of artworks, ensuring that buyers know they are purchasing original pieces or limited editions. This transparency builds trust between artists and collectors, making it easier for artists to reach a larger global audience without relying on traditional galleries or auction houses.

Digital marketplaces also allow artists to keep a larger portion of the sale price, as they eliminate the need for intermediaries. This can significantly boost an artist's income, especially compared to the high commissions taken by traditional art markets. For many artists, the ability to set their own prices and engage directly with buyers is a liberating change, providing more control over their career and creative output.

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## What Are the Best Dog Breeds for Busy Pros? Find Your Perfect Work-Life Companion Here!

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Let's face it—life for a busy professional can be a whirlwind. Between work, social commitments, and that much-needed downtime, finding a dog breed that fits your lifestyle isn't just a bonus; it's essential. The right dog can offer companionship, emotional stability, and even a bit of motivation to stay active. Some dogs just seem to understand the hustle, thriving alongside you without demanding every spare second of your attention. Let's dive into the top breeds perfect for busy people, along with what makes each so well-suited for those on the go.

## French Bulldog: Low-Energy, High Love

If you're looking for a buddy who's big on personality but won't need a marathon walk every day, the French Bulldog could be your match. Frenchies are known for their affectionate nature and low-energy lifestyle, making them one of the best dogs for apartment dwellers and those with packed schedules. This breed is a master at adapting to your pace—if you're up for a quick play session, they'll join in, but if you're having a quiet evening, they're just as happy lounging by your side.

Beyond their easygoing vibe, French Bulldogs don't experience intense separation anxiety, a huge plus for anyone with long hours. Their love for their humans means they'll be there, waiting at the door with wagging tails, ready to lift your mood after a stressful day. Frenchies are affectionate, compact, and resilient little companions who adapt incredibly well to a bustling urban life, making them ideal for high-paced lifestyles.

## Cavalier King Charles Spaniel: All the Emotional Support, None of the Demands

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels are the ultimate comforters. Known for their gentle and empathetic nature, they're pros at sensing emotions and providing comfort without making a fuss. Whether you've had a rough day or are celebrating a win, Cavaliers somehow know just how to be there for you. And, as an added benefit, they don't require hours of intense exercise, meaning you can still fit in a few short walks and call it a day.

These dogs offer an especially unique perk for busy professionals: they exemplify **how pets provide emotional support**. Cavaliers are known for connecting with their people on an emotional level, helping you feel centered and calm after a busy day. They're also perfectly happy to curl up on the couch with you during your downtime, making them both emotionally intuitive and physically low-maintenance. If you're looking for a true friend who intuitively 'gets' you, a Cavalier might just be the dog that keeps you grounded through every deadline and project.

## Boston Terrier: Fun-Loving Yet Independent

If you want a dog with a big personality but minimal maintenance, Boston Terriers are a top pick. Known for their spunky and social nature, Boston Terriers love to play but won't sulk if you need a day to yourself. They're small, adaptable, and easy to train, making them well-suited for urban environments and busy schedules alike. Boston Terriers have an almost human way of showing affection—expect some serious eye contact from these little charmers. And since they don't need much exercise, they're easy to please with just a couple of walks or a quick playtime session.

One disadvantage with Boston Terriers is that their digestive systems are sensitive, but **kangaroo dog food** has been shown to help with this breed's issues like skin irritations and allergies, which can be common for Boston Terriers. Adding this type of food to their diet not only keeps their tummies happy but ensures they stay comfortable and healthy. With their unique blend of independence and love for social interaction, Boston's strike the perfect balance for those who need a loyal yet low-key sidekick.

## Greyhound: The Surprisingly Laid-Back Athlete

Greyhounds might be known for their racing skills, but when it comes to their day-to-day

demeanor, these dogs are famously calm and relaxed. In fact, many Greyhound owners jokingly refer to them as “45-mile-per-hour couch potatoes” because, after a quick sprint, they’re more than content to snooze for hours. Their energy levels are relatively low, meaning they don’t demand constant action, making them fantastic for people who want a larger dog without the endless energy of a lab or retriever.

Greyhounds thrive in routine and are known for their loving yet reserved temperament. They’re independent and don’t suffer from separation anxiety, which is a huge bonus for those with variable schedules. Plus, their short coats mean minimal grooming. A few brisk walks and a comfy bed to stretch out on, and you’ve got yourself a happy Greyhound. For anyone needing a little peace and quiet after a long day, Greyhounds offer the ideal blend of calm companionship and low-maintenance care.

## Chihuahua: Big Personality in a Tiny Package

Don’t let the Chihuahua’s size fool you; these dogs are packed with personality and resilience.

**Chihuahuas are intelligent**, fiercely loyal, and adaptable. Whether you’re living in a small apartment or a suburban home, this breed can make any space their own. They’re easy to carry, low-maintenance, and don’t need long walks—just enough activity to keep them happy, which is perfect for professionals who may only have pockets of time throughout the day.

Chihuahuas are also known for their strong bond with their owners, which is great for anyone who wants an affectionate pet without the hefty physical demands. Because of their size and loyalty, Chihuahuas can comfortably tag along to certain workplaces, especially in pet-friendly settings, or simply enjoy the routine of waiting for you at home. They’re alert, affectionate, and deeply loyal, which can bring a nice contrast to the often chaotic lives of busy pros.

## Finding Your Ideal Four-Legged Companion

For busy professionals, finding the right dog breed means more than just picking a cute face—it’s about choosing a companion that aligns with your lifestyle, energy level, and daily routine. These five breeds offer a mix of loyalty, low-maintenance needs, and adaptability, making them ideal for high-paced, urban lives. So, if you’re ready to bring a dog into your life, consider one of these top breeds and discover how a well-matched pet can turn even the busiest of days into something to look forward to.

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## How Cultural Perceptions Influence Our Approach to Health

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Health beliefs aren't shaped in isolation. They're molded by the environments, communities, and histories we're exposed to from childhood. Different cultures develop unique ways of viewing health care, from preventative practices to healing methods.

What might seem normal or essential in one region could be considered unnecessary elsewhere. These contrasts often arise due to societal values like collectivism versus individualism or long-standing traditional systems.

To fully understand global approaches to wellness, this article explores how culture affects individual mindsets, choices, and behaviors in healthcare.

## Western Beauty Standards and the Rise of Medical Aesthetics

Western cultures often promote youthfulness and symmetry as benchmarks for beauty. The pressure to meet these ideals has driven many to explore medical aesthetics, from Botox injections to fillers.

A significant increase in **demand for non-invasive procedures** highlights a cultural shift. More individuals prioritize cosmetic enhancement not just as luxury but as self-care, boosting mental well-being alongside physical appearance.

Social media platforms play a massive role in spreading aesthetic trends globally. Influencers popularize procedures like facial contouring, making them more accessible and desirable across different demographics and age groups today.

## Eastern Approaches to Holistic Wellness

In many Eastern cultures, wellness focuses on balance between mind, body, and environment. Traditional practices like acupuncture or Ayurvedic medicine emphasize prevention over treatment by aligning energy flows within the body.

Rather than isolating physical symptoms, Eastern health systems aim for overall harmony. For instance, Chinese herbal remedies are often paired with diet adjustments to restore internal balance before medical interventions become necessary.

This holistic view extends into mental well-being, too. Meditation techniques from traditions such as Zen Buddhism encourage mindfulness as part of daily life to reduce stress while improving focus and emotional stability.

## The Influence of Social Media on Global Health Perceptions

Social media platforms have a massive role in shaping health trends. Instagram influencers, TikTok creators, and YouTubers frequently promote wellness products or routines that influence millions worldwide.

Health messages spread quickly across these networks. From diet fads to workout programs, users often turn to social feeds for advice instead of consulting professionals, blurring the line between informed decision-making and misinformation.

Cross-cultural exchanges are also common. Yoga practices rooted in India or traditional remedies from Asia gain global popularity through viral content, impacting how individuals perceive



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healthcare choices outside their native environments today.

## Traditional Healing Practices and Modern Medicine: Bridging Gaps

Traditional healing methods, such as herbal medicine or energy therapies, have long histories in many cultures. As modern medicine evolves, healthcare systems **increasingly recognize** the value of integrating these approaches.

Hospitals worldwide now incorporate acupuncture, yoga therapy, and mindfulness techniques alongside standard treatments. Such collaboration aims to fill gaps where conventional treatment may fall short.

For example, acupuncture is often used to manage chronic pain when opioids or surgeries aren't effective. These hybrid strategies foster more personalized care plans that consider the patient's physical and emotional needs while respecting cultural heritage.

## The Cultural Impact of Weight Loss Drugs Like Ozempic

Weight loss drugs, especially Ozempic, have sparked cultural debates around body image and health. In some regions, slimming medications are praised for helping people reach societal beauty standards quicker than traditional dieting or exercise.

However, critics argue that over-reliance on these drugs promotes unhealthy expectations. Social media has also raised awareness about side effects like Ozempic butt. Typically, **what Ozempic butt** does is create a hollowed appearance in the skin due to rapid weight loss.

Despite these concerns, the demand for weight management drugs continues to grow. Many see them as game-changers in battling obesity-related conditions such as diabetes or heart disease.

## Parting Shot

Health is more than just medicine or treatment; it's a tapestry of traditions, beliefs, and innovations. When you embrace diverse cultural perspectives on wellness, you open doors to richer insights and transformative approaches.

Consider the wisdom in balancing modern techniques with age-old practices. Integrating varied health paradigms unlocks new potential for holistic well-being. This journey invites curiosity and collaboration, encouraging us to learn from each other's paths to health.

So, feel free to explore this global conversation further—who knows what unique remedies or understandings might enhance our lives? Health isn't static; it evolves with every culture we engage in.

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## When What's New is New Again

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, October 30th, 2024

Led Zeppelin and Wu Tang-influenced dance in Hollywood and downtown; elegant craftsman mansion goes site specific in Pasadena; triptych of new work fest downtown; museum garden under surveillance in Culver City; ballet on skid row; Stephen Sondheim with three choreographers in Little Tokyo; contemporary dance in Santa Monica, Atwater Village, and Venice; opera choreographer moves into the director's chair downtown; more SoCal dance this busy week (to November 7), and a peek at next week (to November 14).

### *Live This Week*

#### Doing it in threes

This year's three-week **New Original Works (NOW) Fest** opens with three performances over three nights. Choreographer **Bernard Brown** turns his attention to the Black Gay bar as a haven, taking his title from the disco-era ballad *Sissies: Something Perfect Between Ourselves*. The cast of seven are backed by live DJ Defacto X. In the second performance, **Meena Murugesan's** *Dravidian Futurities: Chapter II*, draws on movement, visual art, and music to ponder a sunken land mass underneath the convergence of the Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean, and Arabian Sea that once linked South India with Africa. The third part of the triptych gathers Eliza Bagg, Rohan Chandler and George Miller to essay Alban Berg's *7 Early Songs*. Next week it's Tijuana Dance Company, Ajani Brannum and Sophia Cleary. Week 3 brings Bret Easterling and Kensaku Shinohara. Full festival info at the website. REDCAT, Disney Hall, 631 W. 2nd St., downtown; Thurs.-Sat., Nov. 7-9, 14-16, & 21-23, 8:30 pm, \$25, \$20 students. [REDCAT](#).



Bernard Brown. Photo by Steve Rosa

## Off the street

The dancers of **Hollywood Ballet** continue their efforts to bring ballet to non-traditional venues with another show *For Skid Row*. On the classic side, co-artistic director Petra Conti dances *Dying Swan*, while Emily Van Citters and Chris Flores essay *Diane and Acteon*. In a contemporary mode, a new work by Natalie Palmgren features Lena Harris and a new work by Lisa Ritter showcases Katherine Thomas. The afternoon performance is free with reservation. Midnight Mission, 601 San Pedro St., downtown; Thurs., Oct. 31, 2:30 pm, free with reservation at [Hollywood Ballet](#).



Hollywood Ballet's Petra Conti. Photo by Reid Hutchinson

## Watching in the garden

The garden of this museum becomes the stage as **Heidi Duckler Dance** explores the role of surveillance in societal control. Choreographed by HDD artistic director Heidi Duckler, the site-specific event, *What Remains Un/Seen*, references themes in the museum's current exhibition *Counter/Surveillance*. A self-guided gallery tour at 4 pm precedes the first show. A second tour at 7 pm follows the second show. The performers include dancers Alejandro Perez, Sasha Rivero, Joseph Stevens, and Kayla Gabrielle. Singer Dwight Tribble and his LA-based band Cosmic Vibrations provide the music, and Efren Delgadillo Jr. designed the scene in the garden. Wende Museum, 10808 Culver Blvd., Culver City; Sat., Nov. 2, 5 & 7 pm, self-guided tour at 4 or 7 pm. free w/reservation (\$20 donation suggested) at [Heidi Duckler](#).



Heidi Duckler Dance. Photo courtesy of the artists

## Airborne

More than ten Led Zeppelin songs provide the title for *LedZAerial Symphony* as **Luminario Ballet** brings its signature blend of aerial and ballet to this performance and fundraiser featuring 11 dancers and aerialists, plus a 12-member orchestra. The Avalon Hollywood, 1735 N. Vine St., Hollywood; Sun., Nov. 3, show 8 pm, \$40-\$125, pre-show gala 5:30 pm, \$400-\$600. [Eventbrite](#).



Luminario Ballet. Photo by Ted Soqui

## Digital/analog

The solo **Vanessa Hernández Cruz** premiered at last year's REDCAT NOW Festival, *Exhale Static, Inhale Fumes*, opens this two-part show considering the search for community in a hyper-digital age. The second work, another premiere, *Rain Glass Vortex*, involves the

choreographer/dancer on stage with a live-streamed quartet of Queer, BIPOC, disabled artists. The four dancers are Em Waters, Ande Diedjomahor, India Harville, and Lu Chen. Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., Santa Monica; Fri.-Sat., Nov. 1-2, 7:30 pm, \$25, \$20 students. [Highways](#).



Vanessa Hernández Cruz. Photo by Angel Origgi

## Time travel

Venture back from the 1950's to 1999 as the dancers and storytellers of **Lineage Dance** unveil a site-specific performance series at the historic Pasadena edifice known as the Gamble House. In *A Matter of Time*, the audience follows the dancers through the house, as each room tells a tale of that era's important cultural, political and historical events. The Gamble House, 4 Westmoreland Pl., Pasadena; Fri.-Sun., Nov. 1-3, 7 pm, \$75, \$45 students & seniors. [Lineage PAC](#).



Lineage Dance Company. Photo by Steven Hwan

## Enter through the alley

Opening its third season, *Work in Progress LA* spotlights **Marissa Brown** and **Daria Kaufman**. Organized by choreographers Kate Wallich, Stephanie Zaletel and Belize Wilhelm, this artist-run collective partners with this venue to “stir up deep dance discourse” in the LA dance community. The changing line up for the monthly Monday events run through next April, each providing a peek and preview of what some of LA’s cutting-edge choreographers are up to. G-Son Studios, 3218 Glendale Blvd., Atwater Village (enter through the alley); Mon., Nov. 4, 7:30 pm, \$15. [WIP LA](#).



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Marissa Brown. Photo courtesy of the artist

## 50 years behind the masks

For five decades, the Swiss phenomenon **Mummenschanz** has enchanted and mesmerized audiences with its distinctive combination of movement, puppetry, and comedy. Simply titled *50 Years*, this show promises a curated compilation of the troupe's best. The Soraya, Cal State University Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge; Sat., Nov. 2, 3 pm, \$43-\$95. [The Soraya](#).





Mummenschanz. Photo by Marco Hartmann

## Opera dances

Known for her contemporary troupe *Hysterica*, dance films among other projects, Kitty McNamee

also has been a frequent choreographer for **LA Opera**, including the 2005 and 2011 productions of Gounod's *Romeo & Juliet*. This time McNamee is directing that opera and has set chorus and leads dancing as well as singing. Music Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 N. Grand Ave., downtown; Sat., Nov. 2 & 23, 7:30 pm, Sun., Nov. 10 & 17, 2 pm, Thurs. Nov. 14 & Wed., Nov. 20, 7:30 pm, \$33.50-\$400. [LA Opera](#).



LA Opera's "Romeo and Juliet." Photo by Robert Millard

## Back to the overture

When **East West Players** chose Stephen Sondheim's *Pacific Overtures* for the 50th anniversary of the show's Broadway premiere, it also back former artistic director Tim Dang who directed the show when EWP moved to its current mid-sized theater in Little Tokyo. Dang not only brings a background in dance, he brought in three additional choreographers — Broadway dancer/choreographer Yuka Takara, Kabuki consultant Kirk Kanesaka (aka Ganky? Nakamura), and fight director Amanda Noriko Newman. The show continues EWP's long history presenting Sondheim in a theater sized to allow audiences to see the full show and still hear every precious lyric. David Henry Hwang Theater in the Union Center for the Arts, 120 Judge John Aiso St., Little Tokyo; opens Thurs., Nov. 7, 8 pm, then Thurs., Fri. & Mon, 8 pm, Sat. 2 & 8 pm, Sun. 5 pm, thru Dec. 1. \$15-\$74. [East West Players](#).



East West Players' "Pacific Overtures." Photo by Teolindo

## Ballet through mud

Choreographer Yusha-Marie Sorzano and her **Sorzano Dance Works** join Wu-Tang Clan mastermind **RZA** in a one-night only concert performance of his album *A Ballet Through Mud*. Conducted by Oliver Zeffman and performed by USC Thornton School of Music students and alumni, the concert blends hip hop and classical music with dance. Los Angeles Theatre, 615 S. Broadway, downtown; Mon., Nov. 4, 6:30 pm, free w/reservation at [Tickets](#).



RZA and dancers. Photo by Danny Hastings

## All electric

For the November edition of **High Voltage**, this mostly monthly event offers an eclectic blend of *World Music & Dance*. Timed to coincide with the First Friday on nearby Abbot Kinney Blvd., guests can check out the food truck and open galleries before heading to the show. Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Fri., Nov. 1, 8 pm, \$10 pre-sale, \$15 at door. [High Voltage](#).



Max 10. Photo courtesy of the artists

## It's a 10

The mostly monthly program **Max 10** gives ten performers ten minutes each onstage. Hosted by venue director Joel Shapiro and curated by the staff, dance is a mainstay in the lineup of performances. A post-show reception gives a chance to chat with the artists. Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave., Venice; Mon., Nov. 4, 7:30 pm, \$10. [Electric Lodge](#).

## Back on the Beach

The granddaddy of all the cirques, **Cirque du Soleil**, returns with its signature tent and the show *Kooza*, brimming with acrobats and clowns. The two month run offers lots of time to catch the show, maybe more than once? Under the Big Top at Santa Monica Pier, 1550 Pacific Coast Hwy., Santa Monica; thru Sun., Jan. 5, \$58-\$344. Details on the many dates and times at the website. [Kooza](#).



Cirque du Soleil. Photo courtesy of the artists

## Last blood

The immersive rock musical **Blood/Love: A Vampire Popera** winds up its run at the aptly named Crimson, a Hollywood pop up gothic nightclub. The vampire-meets-rock-star event injects a devilish romance into the spooky season. The Crimson, 6356 Hollywood Blvd., First Floor, Hollywood; thru Sat, Nov. 2, 7 & 9:30 pm, \$59-\$119. *Blood/Love*.



*Blood/Love*. Photo by Graham Washatka

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## Teasing

The title says it all: *The Empire Strips Back: A Burlesque Parody*. The show returns after its 2022 run at this venue. The Montalbán Theatre, 1615 Vine St., Hollywood; Opens Thurs, Oct. 11, 7:30 pm, then Thurs., 7:30 pm, Fri., 7 pm, Sat., 7 & 9:30 pm, Sun., 4 pm, thru Dec. 1. \$44-\$109. [The Empire Strips Back](#).

### ***A Peek at Next Week (November 8-14)***

**A Day of Simone Forti** at Highways Performance Space, 1651 18<sup>th</sup> St., Santa Monica; Sun., Nov. 10, 3 pm, \$25, \$20 seniors/students. [Highways Performance](#).

**MashUp Contemporary Dance Company** — *Choreography Open Mic Night* at The Pickle Factory, 2828 Gilroy St., Frogtown; Sat., Nov. 9, 7 p.m., \$15. [MashUp Contemporary Dance Company](#).

**Volta** — *Ocean Ions* at Laguna Art Museum, 307 Cliff Dr., Laguna Beach; Sat., Nov. 9, 4 p.m., free w/reservation at [info@voltacollective.com](mailto:info@voltacollective.com).

**Sergio Bernal Dance Company** at Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; Sat., Nov. 9, 7:30 pm, \$44.07-\$134.47. [SCFTA](#).



Backhausdance. Photo courtesy of the artists

**Backhausdance** at Old Town Temecula Community Theater, 42051 Main St., Temecula; Sat., Nov. 9, 8 pm, \$25. [Tickets](#).

**The Hip Hop Nutcracker** at Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, 18000 Park Plaza Dr., Cerritos; Fri., Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m. \$40-\$90. [Cerritos](#).

**New Original Works (NOW) Fest** — *Ajani Brannum, Sophia Cleary, Tijuana Dance Company* at REDCAT, Disney Hall, 631 W. 2nd St., downtown; Thurs., Nov. 14-16, 8:30 pm, \$25, \$20 students. [REDCAT](#).

## Dance News of Note

Those looking forward to the annual **World Ballet Day** scheduled for November 1 with its world-wide livestream peek at ballet company classes and rehearsals sadly will have to wait until next year. San Francisco Ballet, Britain's Royal Ballet, and the Australian Ballet who organize and finesse the logistics of the 24-hour, world-wide event each fall, announced recently that this year's event will be postponed until next year. Limited info on the reasons at [World Ballet Day](#).



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## 6 Ways Poetry Addresses Societal Challenges After Tragedy

Our Friends · Wednesday, October 30th, 2024

In times of collective pain, art often steps in where words fall short. History shows how creative expression offers solace and clarity after tragic events.

Poetry, in particular, taps into shared emotions and gives a voice to the unheard. From personal grief to societal upheavals, it reflects on suffering while offering hope for healing.

To highlight its unique power, this article explores several ways poetry addresses societal challenges in the aftermath of tragedy.

### Inspires Resilience and Hope

Poetry becomes a lifeline after collective tragedies. Its words carry emotions that can't be easily spoken, creating shared spaces for people to reflect on their strengths. Survivors find a sense of connection when they see their struggles mirrored in verses.

For instance, Maya Angelou's "Still I Rise" has long been a powerful anthem for overcoming adversity. Its rhythm of defiance lifts spirits in times of despair, reminding communities that strength comes from standing tall together.

The beauty of poetry lies in its ability to reframe difficult experiences. Instead of lingering solely on pain, it transforms wounds into stories of resilience and survival, offering hope for the future.

### Fosters Collective Healing

Communities may turn to poetry as a tool for coming together after tragedy. Whether read aloud in public gatherings or shared online, poems become touchpoints for communal grief and understanding.

In the aftermath of disasters like 9/11, works such as **Billy Collins' "The Names"** allowed audiences to mourn collectively while recognizing individual losses. Public readings offered catharsis, transforming solitary sorrow into shared moments of connection.

Poetry's universal themes transcend cultural barriers. That makes it accessible to everyone, regardless of background or personal experience. People bond through emotions, finding common ground in their shared humanity.

### Offers a Means to Process Trauma

Trauma can leave survivors of tragedy feeling overwhelmed and unsure of how to process complex emotions. Poetry offers a safe framework for organizing those thoughts into words and structure.

Writing or reading poetry gives individuals a controlled space to explore their pain without feeling consumed by it. It transforms emotions into something tangible, allowing for reflection rather than chaos.

For some, poems can serve as an emotional **death checklist** for systematically acknowledging loss and sorrow through metaphor and imagery. These art pieces often take readers on a journey from shock to acceptance.

## Honors and Memorializes the Lost

Society may use poetry to honor those lost in tragic events. Poems could be a permanent record, preserving the memory of individuals and communities who might otherwise fade from public consciousness.

During moments of grief, poets write to keep the stories of the deceased alive. Poetry distills their essence into lines that resonate far beyond personal grief or local tragedy.

Such works might discuss the deceased's contributions, character, or even their unfulfilled dreams. These poetic tributes often become timeless memorials, allowing future generations to engage with history on a personal level.

## Challenges Social and Political Injustices

When tragedies expose system interruptions, poets often step forward to confront the underlying causes. Through sharp, poignant verses, they highlight societal inequalities or political failures that contributed to collective suffering.

Poetry's concise nature gives it power in protest movements. Whether recited at rallies or shared online, it amplifies voices that demand justice and change after a tragedy.

Amiri Baraka and Claudia Rankine have both used poems to highlight racial injustice and systemic violence. Their work demonstrates how poetry becomes more than just art, transforming into activism that pushes for accountability.

## Bridges Generational Gaps in Experience

Poetry can help **connect generations**, especially after a tragedy when different age groups experience grief differently. Older individuals may have faced similar struggles before, while younger ones may be encountering deep loss for the first time.

Through poems, elders pass down their reflections and lessons learned from past events. Younger voices then add fresh perspectives and new insights into ongoing challenges. This exchange of thoughts fosters mutual understanding.

## Parting Shot

Poetry's power lies in its ability to speak directly to the heart, cutting through chaos and pain after tragedy. As society continues to navigate hardships, poetry will remain a constant companion, challenging systems while offering hope and reflection.

Whether quiet whispers or bold declarations, these verses become both mirrors of reality and

beacons for change in uncertain times.

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## Strengthening Cultural Ties with Artistic Immigrants

Our Friends · Wednesday, October 30th, 2024

Local communities and artistic immigrants who join those communities can mutually enhance one another through vibrant cultural exchanges. The infusion of diverse artistic talents can act as a bridge to connect varied backgrounds.

This article examines several ways in which the arts can serve as a cohesive force.

So, discover actionable strategies for cultivating inclusive environments where creativity flourishes – and communal bonds are strengthened in the process.

## Understanding the Role of Artistic Immigrants in Cultural Exchange

Artistic immigrants can enrich communities with fresh perspectives and diverse expressions.

Their unique cultural backgrounds can bring a vibrant array of ideas to local arts scenes. By embracing their talents, communities can benefit from rich cultural tapestries.

Through the arts, they can communicate shared experiences and bridge gaps between cultures. This interaction not only fosters understanding but also creates a space where both immigrants and locals grow through mutual learning.

As communities recognize this valuable exchange, support networks will form around those artistic endeavors that celebrate diversity while strengthening community bonds naturally.

It's all about uniting artistic individuals – regardless of their backgrounds.

Therefore, communities shouldn't only form ties with artistic immigrants but also those artists from other countries who have work visas.

For example, those who have **eligibility for an O-1A visa** (which is a non-immigrant visa) can bring their expertise to the U.S. job market. The visa is for people who stand out in their professional field.

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## Community Engagement Through Shared Art Projects

Shared art projects offer a meaningful way for communities and artistic immigrants to connect.

When people collaborate on creative initiatives, they form bonds over shared experiences and mutual interests. This engagement helps everyone involved feel more invested in the community's cultural landscape.

Consider mural projects or musical ventures in public spaces where locals and immigrant artists work side by side. Such collaborations can transform public spaces into vibrant showcases of collective expression.

These endeavors also create dialogues between diverse groups, fostering understanding and acceptance.

By prioritizing inclusive projects, communities become welcoming places where every voice is valued, enhancing both social cohesion and cultural richness organically.

## Supporting Local Artists from Immigrant Backgrounds

Communities grow richer when they uplift local artists with immigrant backgrounds. After all, these individuals bring unique skills and stories that broaden the artistic landscape.

Providing platforms, like galleries or open mic nights, helps these artists share their work widely. Such support not only nurtures creativity but also promotes cultural understanding.

And offering grants or scholarships specifically for immigrant artists can alleviate financial barriers, allowing them to pursue their passions without undue stress.

When communities invest in these talented individuals, they can create an inclusive environment where diverse artistic expressions thrive.

This support empowers artists and encourages vibrant cultural exchanges that benefit everyone involved.

## Educational Workshops That Foster Cultural Appreciation

Educational workshops serve as excellent platforms for fostering cultural appreciation among community members and artistic immigrants. These sessions allow participants to explore diverse art forms while learning about the cultural contexts behind them.

Workshops on traditional crafts, music, or dance, for example, encourage hands-on participation and deepen understanding of different heritages. They provide opportunities for artistic immigrants to share their expertise with locals, enhancing mutual respect.

Such programs often lead to insightful discussions and new friendships, breaking down stereotypes along the way.

By organizing arts events and workshops regularly, communities cultivate a more inclusive atmosphere where everyone feels valued and respected.

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## The Takeaway

By embracing the unique contributions of artistic immigrants, communities can foster a vibrant and inclusive cultural landscape.

Through collaboration and support, these creative exchanges will not only enrich local art scenes but also strengthen bonds among diverse populations, creating unified communities.

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## How to Make the Most of Your Time While on Holiday

Our Friends · Wednesday, October 30th, 2024

Holidays are precious times for escaping our daily routines and exploring new places. But it's easy to come home from a trip feeling you didn't make the most of your break. With some advance planning and a focus on meaningful experiences, you can ensure you get the maximum enjoyment and enrichment from your holiday time. Follow these tips to come home feeling refreshed, inspired and recharged.

### Plan Ahead for Your Holiday

The key to maximising your holiday time is planning ahead. Before you go, spend some time researching your destination and make a list of the top things you want to see and do. Look at opening times for major attractions and work out an itinerary that allows you to fit in your must-see sights. Booking tickets for big attractions in advance will also save you time queuing when you're there. Packing strategically can also help – make sure you have comfortable shoes and clothing suitable for the activities on your itinerary. And pack some Lift Glucose Activ **Energy Boost** for when you need a pick-me-up between attractions.

### Be Flexible

While advance planning is useful, don't be afraid to be spontaneous and go with the flow when you're actually on holiday. Talk to locals and fellow travellers for insider tips on hidden gems or events worth checking out. Allow time each day for wandering around and discovering things unplanned. Build in some spare time each day that can be used for either relaxing or doing an activity that takes your fancy at the last minute. Remaining flexible means you can take advantage of unexpected opportunities that enhance your trip.

### Focus on Holiday Experiences

Holidays are a time to step out of your daily routine and **create memorable experiences**. Don't just aimlessly wander around ticking off a list of sights – take time to really immerse yourself in the local culture. Join a walking tour to hear fascinating stories from an expert guide. Take a cooking class to learn about local cuisine. Seek out festivals or community events that offer insight into traditional customs and ways of life. Trying new foods, learning local skills and connecting with local people will make your holiday time more meaningful.

## Look After Yourself

It can be tempting to pack your holiday schedule full of non-stop activities and late nights. But this can easily lead to burnout, leaving you needing a holiday after your holiday! Be sure to build in ample time for relaxation. Don't feel like you have to be on the go from morning to night. Take a lazy afternoon to lounge by the pool or beach with a good book. Have an early night every few days to catch up on sleep. Stay hydrated and fuel your body with healthy food to keep your energy up. Looking after yourself will help you get the most out of your precious holiday time.

## Disconnect from Devices

It's easy to let screens suck away huge chunks of holiday time. Be disciplined about **limiting time on your phone** checking emails and social media. Disable notifications so you're not constantly interrupted.

Follow these tips to come home feeling refreshed, inspired and recharged.

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## How to Choose the Right Car for Your Lifestyle and Budget

Our Friends · Wednesday, October 30th, 2024

When you're ready to upgrade your car or buy your first set of wheels, it can be daunting trying to pick the right model for your individual needs and budget. Follow this guide to choose a car that fits your lifestyle and financial circumstances, whether you're shopping for a family estate, a hot hatch, or a luxe model.

### Assess Your Needs

Before looking at specific makes and models, consider what you will primarily use the car for. Factors like fuel efficiency, legroom, and boot space may be top priorities if you have a long commute or often carry lots of passengers or cargo. If you mostly drive locally and want something stylish, prioritise infotainment features and exterior styling.

Think about your must-have features – do you need an automatic or manual transmission? What safety tech and connectivity features are essential? This will help narrow your search.

## Set Your Budget

Setting a maximum budget is vital when buying a car. Consider not just the sticker price, but also ongoing **costs like fuel**, tax, insurance and maintenance. Running costs vary dramatically between models.

Get insurance and loan quotes before setting a firm budget – this will give you a better idea of total affordability. Be sure to factor in deposit amount and monthly repayments if financing. Leave some wiggle room for unexpected costs.

## Research Car Models in Your Price Range

Once you know your needs and budget, research models that fit the criteria. Websites like AutoTrader and Parkers allow you to search by price, body type, engine size and other filters. You can compare models side-by-side before visiting some local dealers.

Check reviews from industry experts regarding performance, comfort, running costs and reliability. Shortlist a few models for test drives. Don't limit yourself to one brand – shop around for the best value. For example, if you live in South Yorkshire, check out **cars for sale in Rotherham**, Sheffield, and Barnsley. You can compare prices and models until you narrow your search.

## Take Test Drives

No amount of research compares to actually test driving a car yourself. This is when you can assess factors like seat comfort, visibility, cabin space and noise levels. Bring any regular passengers, like family members, along for their input.

Test drive your shortlisted models on a mix of roads to gauge ride comfort and handling. Don't feel pressured into making a decision – test drives are to help you make the right choice.

## Compare Final Offers

Once you've settled on a preferred model, shop around at your preferred dealers to get the best price. Be ready to negotiate! Do your research on typical discounts for that make and model. Consider part-exchange deals, finance offers, free servicing packages and other perks that could lower total cost.

Weigh up final figures including on-the-road price, insurance, maintenance plans, finance terms and running costs. Avoid simply focusing on the lowest sticker price. The best value for you balances affordability with the right car for your needs.

Buying a car requires balancing practical needs with **emotional wants**. Following these guidelines will help any UK driver pick the ideal new car within their budget. Take your time and don't compromise on priorities. Enjoy the thrill of driving away in your perfect new set of wheels!

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## Alan Yue: Two Poems

Alan Yue · Tuesday, October 29th, 2024

### Ode to the Places I'll be Without You

Your space is empty.  
 There is no voice to hold my quiets anymore.  
 Lately, I have been reading your poetry word by word,  
     mouth bending slow and voiceless so I hear you speak.  
 Phantom limb disorder — I feel like you are still next to me, when you've left so long ago.  
     I love you.  
 Mornings fade into afternoons into nights into mornings — time is a tributary, you are the  
 widenings.  
 I will forget the pale sunlight out the window showing untainted colors of gifts — or memories  
 These walls with graffiti are hollowing — our marks are being covered — something about selfish  
 memories —  
 there are pockets of still air that once rang with music.

\*

### Scenic Route

I am in Noah's car going 60 on Main Street. We play  
     Autreche and Dolly Parton.  
     *Workin' 9 to KRRRRRRRRRR*  
 Dolly is workin' til the sound of her typewriter cracks  
     turn to the car we swerved past. I think about writing this poem  
 beat by beat. Every word alive. I can't count  
 algorithmic noise. BEEP. Gene tells me to stop switching  
     songs every 30 seconds. I decline. Noah's phone declines my fingers.  
 How dare. I turn it o and turn it on. e password is 0088. The song is electric fruit.  
     Sunny, with a chance of  
 80 Fahrenheit. *What a way to make a living.* I wish.  
 Noah slams the gas and we hurtle to the hills. I wish.  
     Noah is floating, and so is his Hyundai. I wish.  
 It's a flood. We are all the kinds of animals in the world. I wish.  
     I change the song to Gene. He tells me "keep me".  
 The song plays, we are punctually alive: Every muted thud of piano keys: heartbeats in time.



This little Toyota floats  
 and it rained for 40 seconds and 40 seconds. I wish.  
 we are all the kinds of world: Noah, Gene, Me. I kiss the window.  
 The rain presses itself into little pecks before my lips.  
 Gene is the song and he changes to Beastie Boys.  
 Rain is all the heartbeats  
 of the animals in the world. Us. I wish.  
 Gene's music taste is non-algorithmic noise. Everywhere,  
 baby! Beautiful. For 40 seconds we are awake in a blaring storm.  
 Noah's honda crashes into a blue whale. It sings a little, cries a  
 little. Ma Rainey plays through the clouds. *You can't tell the  
 di?erence*  
*when the sun goes down.*  
 Gene twists his fingers into 808s. He always was a breakdancer. Noah tells me  
 he had Eskimo blood but not anymore because Eskimo is a slur. His hair only grows thicker, not  
 longer.  
 We workin 5 till we, all the animals of the world, live on.

Posted in [Poetry](#) | [No Comments](#) »

## 18 Top Trends in Retail Store Design

Our Friends · Tuesday, October 29th, 2024

Every physical retail business should make the in-store shopping experience a part of its brand. The biggest trends in retail store design concentrate on what makes customers remember their shopping trips. There are many stylish ways to organize and design your store, but not all will increase sales. To make the most of everyone who visits your shop, you need creativity.

Here are the best trends in retail store design:

### Simplify with Minimalist Retail Design

More shoppers are comparing the in-store retail experience with what they see online. Mimic basic minimalist design principles in your layout. Reduce clutter.

### Scale Back On Product Inventory

Scale back the product inventory on the sales floor to reduce visual clutter. Provide breathing room for your merchandise to be seen and consumed visually. Keep the merchandise you need in storage, ready to pull from as sales are made.

### Integrating Digital Signage Software

**Digital signage software** included in your store layout increases customer engagement. Smaller digital signage boards can be installed throughout if a perimeter-wrapping video wall is too much.

They can advertise promotions or seasonal items, advise on brand initiatives, or be interactive.

## Use In-Store Data Collection and AI

Study the data on customer movement in-store, sales, and KPIs. Use AI to automate and process data collection. Use this data to re-engineer your store design and layout.

## Sustainable Store Design Materials

Use eco-friendly materials in your retail store's layout, such as reclaimed wood or recycled metal. Energy-efficient lighting is welcome. Build your store furniture, layout, and overall presentation from sustainable materials.

## Set Up Dynamic Window Displays

One of the **popular trends in digital signage** is dynamic window displays. Use large-format digital screens to create eye-catching window displays. Promote flash sales or new arrivals to attract foot traffic.

## Utilize Interactive Product Displays

Have customers interact with digital screens to learn more about specific products. Allow customers to try on, configure, or customize a product according to their preferences.

## Hosting Specialized Events

Special retail events and retail-related events attract customers who may never have entered your doors. This exposes your brand to entire new segments of the local population. Potential events related to your target audience include art exhibitions, live music, workshops, and demonstrations.

## Use QR Codes In-Store for More Info

Use QR codes to allow customers to scan a product and get more information. A QR code can direct to your website or a product page, where a customer can see its specifications, a how-to guide, if applicable, and other important details that may sway a sale.

## Set Up Digital Price Tags

Digital price tags automatically update based on real-time demand and pricing. If you want to utilize smart shelves, it's trendy in retail store design right now to include product information and stock levels on the same digital tag.

## Incorporate the Online with the In-Store

Create an omnichannel strategic crossover where the in-store experience is blended with the online. Offer online order pick-up and advertise pick-up times on digital signage. Show targeted promotions on signage in-store concerning your website.

## Seasonal Décor Changes

Every quarter, revitalize your retail store's aesthetic by adapting it to the season outdoors. Capture attention and keep the feel of your store lively by rotating non-product display elements.

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## App-Only Specials and Promotions

More retailers are building apps and encouraging customers to download them. They do this to access customers' phones and send notifications and marketing messages. Advertise in-app specials, discounts, and exclusives to persuade more customers to download your retail store app.

## Large Perimeter Wall Digital Signage

Large perimeter digital signage around your brick-and-mortar can showcase graphics and images like no other visual. Here, you can point to different store sections or promote specials. It's a great chance to show the logo, graphics, and branding your retail store is known for.

## Biophilic Design Replicates Nature Indoors

Biophilia brings the textures, patterns, and colours of the outdoor environment inside. This is accomplished not only through materials like natural wood grain, concrete, stone, and limewash but also with plants, greenery, and flowers.

## Custom Display Elements

Most retail stores opt for custom visual pieces, either self-made or customized through digital signage software. **Elements of a good digital display** include unique shapes, layering fabric and textiles, and establishing interesting visual patterns. Also, utilizing unique fonts can go above and beyond the feel of an 'average store.'

## Product Search Signage

A large store or retailer with a lot of merchandise can benefit from having product search signage set up. This helps customers find products quickly by searching by keyword. This type of display can also blend wayfinding and navigation assistance to help guide a customer to the exact aisle where a given item is.

## Angular Store Layout Is Curved

Consider an angular store layout with free-standing product displays. Curve and round your store layouts to create what can feel like a more organic shopping experience. Curves allow you to maintain more of your store from a person's visual perspective.

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## How to Create a Pet-Friendly Home

Our Friends · Tuesday, October 29th, 2024

Many pet owners will do almost anything for their furry family members. Like with young children, there are ways to make homes safer, more comfortable, and more enjoyable for dogs, cats, and other pets. You don't need a huge budget to achieve this. Any home can be transformed into a pet-friendly space with effort.

Here is how to create a pet-friendly home:

### Scratch-Resistant Floors Over Carpet

Carpeted areas trap pet hair and absorb odors. If your pet has an accident on the carpet, getting out the smell could prove near-impossible. If you can, choose a scratch-resistant floor, such as tile, vinyl, or laminate. They're much easier to clean.

### Choose Pet-Safe Houseplants Only

Many houseplants are toxic to pets if ingested. Lilies, aloe, and philodendron are all toxic. However, Boston ferns, bamboo, and spider plants are not. Before purchasing any plant, research if it is safe for your pet.

### Fill Your Home with Pet-Friendly Furniture

Stain-resistant fabrics should adorn your couches, chairs, and related furniture. Odors, stains, and pet hair in other fabrics will make for an unpleasant experience. Avoid velvets, silk, and tweed and use synthetic microfiber or leather materials.

### Be Careful Where You Store Food

Food on a dirty plate or display should be safe for pets. However, many human foods, such as grapes, chocolate, raisins, nuts, and avocados, are toxic to dogs and cats. Ensure that food is safe before making it available to your pet. Visit a [pet store](#) to buy the best products for your companion.

### Avoid All-Natural Woven Fabrics

As pretty as jute, sisal, and rattan are, many pets will go right for these and either sharpen their claws on them or try to bite into them. Any thickly woven all-natural materials you may end up seeing destroyed by your dog or cat if they're left out unsupervised.

### Set Up Your Pet's Feeding Area

Have a consistent place where you feed your dog, cat, or other pet. Use easy-to-clean mats placed under food and water bowls. Ensure the water is always filled. If it's a dog, that dog food is provided at specific times of day rather than always having it available. Also, pay attention to your meal rotation to [create a balanced meal for your dog](#).

### Put a Lid on Your Trash Can

A curious dog or cat sniffing around the house may eventually get into the trash. Put a lid on it so you don't wake up to Kleenex, old food, and garbage on your floor. Ideally, store your trash can in a closed-off pantry or cabinet.

## Move Medications to a Safe Place

If you have any vitamins, supplements, or medicines you take, many of these substances are deadly to animals if consumed. Be sure to place them on a high shelf.

## Install Screens on Windows

Cats, dogs, and other pets love to sit in windows and watch the outside world go by. Ensure you have a secure screen on your window to prevent a cat, dog, or pet from accidentally falling out.

## Provide Your Pet Their Own Space

A cat or dog needs space to relax, with a bed and blanket, in a private area. The area does not need to be elaborate, but a designated area can be helpful to truly make your pet feel at home, especially if it's shy. Plus, when you **work at home with a puppy**, this area helps you set physical boundaries.

## Create a Play Area with Toys

Your pet wants to relax, but it also wants to play. Create an area with their favourite toys to play with and entertain themselves. This should be a zone rife with toy storage and covered in durable mats or rugs to protect the floors.

## Store Pet Food Safely in an Airtight Container

Dog or cat food can spoil if exposed to moisture and time. It's also not uncommon for a dog to search for its food. Unsecured dog food out in the open is bound to be found. Store pet food in an airtight container where your pet cannot sniff it.

## Keep Cords and Wires Out of Reach

If they see one around, young cats and dogs will at least consider going after a cable, cord, or wire. This could mean chewed-through earbuds, broken HDMI cables, and mangled smartphone charging cables. Keep these items out of reach of any pet. For wires and cables that have to remain where they are, secure them along the wall or floor using cord covers and concealers.

## Be Ready to Clean Accidents and Messes

When caring for a pet, you will want to use many removable fabrics that are easy to remove and wash. Accidents happen, too, so be ready with stain, odour, and pet-safe cleaning supplies to take care of anything that may happen easily.

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## Medical Negligence in Birth Injury Cases: What Are Your Options?

Our Friends · Tuesday, October 29th, 2024

The last thing you want as a parent is to realize that your child suffered a injury during the birthing process. Birth injuries can have seriously devastating consequences for families, both physically and emotionally, that can leave lasting scars. Understanding your legal rights and options is crucial if you suspect that medical negligence was to blame for the birth injury that your child suffered. Learn everything you need to know in order to determine whether pursuing a medical negligence case is right for you.

### Understanding Medical Negligence in a Birth Injury Case

For those unfamiliar with the term, medical negligence, sometimes better known as medical malpractice, is when a healthcare provider fails to provide the standard of care they had a duty to perform. Generally, this needs to be care which another reasonable and prudent professional would not have provided under similar circumstances for it to qualify as medical negligence. In regards to birth injuries, medical negligence can arise from a variety of situations including:

- **Failure to diagnose or treat prenatal conditions:** This could include conditions such as gestational diabetes, preeclampsia, or fetal distress
- **Improper use of medical instruments:** Errors in the use of forceps, vacuum extractors, or other medical devices used during the birthing process can lead to birth injuries
- **Errors during labor and delivery:** Mistakes during labor and delivery, such as improper positioning of the mother or failure to respond to fetal distress, can also contribute to birth injuries

Unfortunately, **determining negligence in a birth injury** case can be quite the challenge, especially if you missed the signs that it was occurring during the birthing process. In court, expert medical testimony will almost certainly be required so that a reasonable standard of care can be established to show how your healthcare provider breached that standard.

### Your Legal Rights and Options in a Birth Injury Case

In the event you feel certain that the injury your child suffered while being birthed was due to negligence on behalf of your healthcare provider, there's a chance you have legal rights to seek compensation. Consult with an attorney as soon as possible as you may live in a state which has a short statute of limitations to file a lawsuit. Examples of **compensation you may be able to receive**, though, include:

- **Medical expenses:** This includes past and future medical treatment, rehabilitation, and assistive devices your child may need due to their injury
- **Lost wages:** If the child is unable to work due to the birth injury, lost wages may be recoverable

- **Pain and suffering:** Compensation for the physical and emotional pain, as well as suffering, experienced by the child and your family, could be justifiable
- **Future care costs:** This includes projected expenses for long-term care and support services if the injury impacts your child's ability to live a normal life

To have the best chance at recouping some compensation in a birth injury case, it's best to hire a lawyer who specializes in birth injury cases. These types of attorneys have both the experience and expertise to help guide you through the complex medical evidence, the negotiation process with insurance, and simply advocate for your rights.

## The Legal Process: What to Expect

Should you go down the path of pursuing a medical malpractice lawsuit, the below steps are what you can expect from the legal process:

1. **Filing a complaint:** The lawsuit is initiated by filing a complaint with the court against your healthcare provider
2. **Discovery:** During the discovery phase, **both sides gather information and evidence** that may include depositions, interrogatories, and requests for documents
3. **Trial:** If the case cannot be settled out of court through arbitration or mediation, it will proceed to trial where a jury or judge will determine whether the healthcare provider was negligent
4. **Appeal:** If either party is dissatisfied with the trial court's decision, they may file an appeal after a period of time

## The Role of Insurance Companies in Birth Injury Claims

You may potentially be considering relying on insurance to seek reparations if your child suffered a birth injury rather than pursuing legal options. While you can certainly lean on insurance, it's important to note that they likely will not cover any expenses in the future related to that injury, rather only expenses incurred during the birthing process itself. They may also handle birth injury claims differently than the legal system and utilize tactics to minimize payouts. These tactics can include:

- **Denying liability:** Insurance companies may argue that the healthcare provider was not negligent or that the injury was not caused by their actions to avoid paying as much
- **Disputing the extent of damages:** Insurance companies may attempt to minimize the amount of compensation by disputing the severity of the injury or the future costs associated with it
- **Delaying claims:** Insurance companies may delay processing claims or make it difficult for claimants to obtain information or documentation

Naturally, given this, it is crucial to have your own legal representation to protect you and your child's interests so that you receive fair compensation. A skilled birth injury attorney can help you navigate these complex legal and insurance processes. If you don't have counsel though, here are some quick tips you can use to deal with insurance adjustors:

- *Avoid making statements that appear to admit any type of fault on your behalf that may have led to the birth injury*
- *Document anything and everything during the birth process so that you can reference it if need be or if a birth injury occurs*

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- *Contact an attorney who can help you understand your rights and navigate the insurance process*

Beyond the legal aspects of your potential birth injury case, don't forget to acknowledge the broader impact that this may have on your family. These types of cases can have a profound emotional and financial toll on you or caregivers of your children. Ensure you have a support system in place to help you navigate the difficult times following a birth injury.

### **Lean on birth injury support and resources if you've been affected**

The emotional impact of a birth injury on families is no small one, but support groups and counseling can provide much-needed support and resources. There may also be organizations in your area that offer financial assistance to families affected by birth injuries. If you suspect that medical malpractice had something to do with your child's birth injury, don't hesitate to seek out legal advice and support from an accredited lawyer. This will help you to put your child's best interest first and to seek justice for what happened to them.

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