

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

How Education Is Adapting to Support Careers That Focus on Social Impact

Our Friends · Friday, January 16th, 2026

More people today are rethinking what they want from their careers. Instead of focusing only on salary or job titles, you may be looking for work that feels meaningful, roles where you can support others, strengthen communities, and create positive change. Careers in social services, advocacy, and community-based work are drawing increased attention because they align with these values.

As this shift happens, education is changing too. Traditional learning models that require full-time, on-campus attendance no longer fit the needs of many learners, especially those already working or caring for families. People interested in social impact careers often want flexibility, practical experience, and education that connects directly to real-world challenges.

Modern education is responding by becoming more accessible, adaptable, and focused on applied learning. Programs are evolving to support people who want to build skills for helping professions without stepping away from their current responsibilities. This transformation is making it easier to prepare for meaningful careers that focus on people, communities, and long-term social good.

Expanding Educational Pathways for Social Impact Careers

Education providers are increasingly recognizing that social impact careers require pathways that reflect how people actually live and work. Many learners pursuing these fields are already involved in community work, healthcare, education, or nonprofit roles. They need programs that allow them to keep making a difference while continuing their education.

Flexible learning options are becoming essential. For individuals preparing for roles in social services, counseling, or community advocacy, pursuing an **MSW degree online** offers the ability to develop advanced skills while staying engaged with their communities. Programs like this are designed to provide structured coursework, hands-on field experiences, and academic support in a format that works around professional and personal commitments.

This approach reflects a broader shift in education. Instead of asking students to pause their lives to learn, modern programs are integrating learning into everyday reality. That alignment makes it easier to attract people who are deeply motivated by impact but also need practical, flexible options to reach their goals.

Why Social Impact Careers Require Specialized Education

Careers focused on social impact involve working closely with people during challenging moments in their lives. Whether you're supporting families, individuals, or entire communities, these roles require more than good intentions. They demand training in ethics, communication, assessment, and problem-solving.

Specialized education helps you understand complex systems such as healthcare, social policy, and community resources. It also prepares you to navigate sensitive situations with professionalism and care. Without proper training, even well-meaning efforts can fall short or cause unintended harm.

Education designed for social impact careers focuses on building both technical knowledge and emotional intelligence. It helps you learn how to listen, respond thoughtfully, and act in ways that respect individual dignity while addressing broader social challenges.

The Shift Toward Flexible and Online Learning Models

One of the most noticeable changes in education is the move toward online and hybrid learning. This shift is especially important for social impact careers, where many students are adult learners balancing multiple responsibilities.

Online education allows you to access coursework without relocating or adjusting your entire schedule. It opens doors for people who might otherwise be excluded from advanced education due to geography, work demands, or family obligations. This flexibility supports a more diverse group of learners, which ultimately strengthens the social impact workforce.

Flexible learning models also encourage lifelong education. As social challenges evolve, professionals can continue learning and adapting without stepping away from their roles. This ongoing development helps ensure that education stays relevant and responsive.

Integrating Real-World Experience Into Academic Programs

Social impact education works best when it connects theory with practice. Modern programs emphasize real-world experience through field placements, community projects, and applied learning opportunities. These experiences help bridge the gap between classroom knowledge and everyday work.

By engaging directly with communities, you gain insight into the challenges people face and the systems designed to support them. This exposure builds confidence and competence, making the transition from student to professional smoother and more effective.

Practical experience also reinforces why education matters. It allows you to see how your skills can directly improve lives, which strengthens motivation and commitment to the field.

Preparing Students for Community-Focused and People-Centered Roles

Social impact careers are built around relationships. Success often depends on your ability to connect with others, collaborate across organizations, and respond with empathy. Education plays a key role in developing these skills.

Programs focused on social good emphasize communication, cultural awareness, and ethical decision-making. They encourage reflection and self-awareness, helping you understand your role within larger systems. This preparation supports both professional effectiveness and personal growth.

When education prioritizes people-centered learning, it helps future professionals approach their work with compassion and clarity rather than burnout or frustration.

How Education Supports Career Transitions Into Social Impact Work

Many people enter social impact careers later in life, often after working in other fields. Education that supports these transitions recognizes the value of prior experience while providing new frameworks and tools.

Adaptable programs make it easier to shift careers without starting over completely. They allow you to build on existing skills while gaining the specialized knowledge needed for social services or advocacy roles.

This flexibility encourages more people to pursue meaningful work, increasing the number of trained professionals available to meet growing community needs.

Aligning Education With Evolving Workforce Needs

The demand for trained social impact professionals continues to grow. Communities face complex challenges related to mental health, housing, education, and social equity. Education must keep pace with these realities.

Modern programs are increasingly aligned with workforce needs, focusing on relevant skills and practical outcomes. This alignment helps graduates feel prepared and confident as they enter the field.

By responding to both community needs and learner realities, education becomes a powerful tool for sustainable change.

The Long-Term Value of Education That Prioritizes Social Good

Education that supports social impact careers offers value beyond job placement. It fosters a sense of purpose, resilience, and connection. Professionals trained in these programs often experience deeper fulfillment because their work aligns with their values.

Over time, this alignment contributes to stronger communities and more effective support systems. When education prioritizes social good, it benefits not only individual learners but also the people and communities they serve.

This long-term perspective helps ensure that **social impact** work remains thoughtful, ethical, and effective.

Education is evolving to meet the growing demand for careers that focus on social impact. By

offering flexible learning options, integrating real-world experience, and prioritizing **people-centered skills**, modern programs are making it easier to prepare for meaningful work.

If you're drawn to careers that support individuals and communities, today's educational pathways are designed to meet you where you are. Education is no longer just about credentials. It's about creating the knowledge, confidence, and compassion needed to make a lasting difference.

Photo: Cottonbro via Pexels.

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Small business deadlines: Key financial dates in 2026

Our Friends · Friday, January 16th, 2026

Running a small business requires much more than just a great idea and goes beyond its daily operations. The financial side to a business is a crucial element that helps a business grow and run successfully.

With 2026 in full swing, it is important as a small business owner to know the key financial dates that you will need to know throughout the year. Planning ahead can help a business owner reduce their stresses and can also help avoid any unknown penalties.

Key Dates

Knowing the key days and noting them down straight away will help you plan for all financial deadlines of the year.

Some of the key dates to note in 2026 are:

- February 2nd: The deadline for issuing the from W-2 and Form 1099-NEC to intended recipients
- March 16th: Usually on the 15th but altered due to it being a Sunday. This date is the deadline for S-Corporations and Partnerships to file (includes both the form 1120-S and Form 1065).
- April 15th: This date is the deadline for Sole Proprietors and the deadline for C-Corporations
- April 15th: This date is also the deadline for the first quarter of the years estimated tax payment.
- June 15th: Another key deadline date, this one is for the second quarter of the years estimated tax payments.
- September 15th: Another quarterly deadline, this one is for the third quarter of the estimated tax payment.
- October 15th: This date is key for those filing extensions for C-Corps and for individual returns (this includes the form 7004).

Knowing these dates within January of 2026, is key for setting up the years set tone to financial security and coordination. Using the slow period to organise records from the year that has just passed and set things in preparation for annual reporting.

It is important to check as early as possibly, the jurisdiction requirements. As many differ and can require businesses to submit annual summaries for both their employee earnings and any contractor payments early in the year.

Utilising resources will make finances easier throughout the year. These resources can help you find the **best business checks**, to helping you create a filing system to organise your paperwork. All will contribute to the smoothness of the years finances and so that deadlines are met in time and with less stress involved.

The first quarter tax payment

April is a key month for businesses and their finances. This is the month that many businesses are required to make their first quarterly estimated tax payment for the year (2026).

It can be a good time to also review your small businesses cash flow performance from the first quarter of the year. This can help an owner adjust their budgeting for the next quarter where necessary. It can point out any issues and successes and can help you prep for the remainder of the year to avoid any financial strain.

Middle of the year

June is where a small **business** will face its second round of estimated tax payments. This is a crucial deadline to help spread tax liability evenly across the year at hand. Again, this month should be used to review the overall status of the finances. As it will give a business owner the ability to make more strategic decisions to plan out the rest of 2026.

Third Quarter

The third quarter deadline comes in September and missing this payment can result in added interest or even penalties, so it is important to have advance planning with this estimated payment. This also provides the perfect time to plan for the end of the year. Having early preparation on expenses and potential tax deductions can lead to an owner facing some surprise costs and can improve flexibility in their financial department.

End of the year

In October there comes the administration deadlines in the form of business license renewals and compliance filings pending on your businesses location and industry you are in. ensure that bookkeeping accuracy is to parr and ensure that all records are up to date to make the final end of year reports much more manageable.

Come December where there is the final tax payment estimate. Utilise this time to finalize **end of year** strategies such as purchasing equipment, making any **retirement** contributions, or closing any outstanding invoices. Smarter decisions in December have a positive impact on tax outcomes and the years financial performance.

Why Tracking Financial Deadlines Matters in 2026

Missing financial deadlines can lead to fines penalties and unnecessary stress. More importantly it can disrupt cash flow and distract from business growth.

By understanding and planning for key financial dates small business owners can stay compliant make confident decisions and focus on building a successful future.

2026 should be a year where small business flourish. Ensuring that all financial deadlines are met will ensure that your small business is making every step to grow in the markets. Remaining relevant and well structured amongst their competitors. If need be, seek professional guidance and get a strategic advantage on your taxes and finances before the deadlines are here.

Photo: Freepik via their website.

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Culture In Motion: What An Igaming Software Provider Can Teach Digital Storytellers

Our Friends · Friday, January 16th, 2026

Culture doesn't live only in galleries and libraries anymore, right? I've seen teams, including **slot game providers**, design moments that feel oddly human. They tune pacing, audio, and micro-surprises so attention doesn't slip away. That same craft can help writers, curators, and artists keep meaning intact online.

Independent Voices And The Igaming Software Provider Craft

Good cultural writing sounds like someone leaning in, not lecturing from a podium. Online, even a strong idea can vanish behind tabs and notifications. Clear structure keeps the voice steady when attention starts to wander. I borrow a studio habit: make the next step obvious, then reward readers with specifics.

At NuxGame, we talk about “flow” the way a city planner talks sidewalks. You notice potholes, confusing signs, and corners that invite a pause. A cultural essay has the same issue in digital form, so I edit for smooth turns and deliberate stops. When a reader knows where they're headed, they'll follow you into harder territory.

Micro-choices That An Igaming Software Provider Obsess Over

Small choices build trust faster than big promises on a homepage. A headline that matches the body keeps people from feeling fooled. Short paragraphs give the brain a rest between ideas today. That's not dumbing it down; it's removing obstacles so the meaning can land. When you design for comfort, you're quietly saying, "I've got you," and most readers relax.

Here's the part many creatives forget: friction isn't always the enemy. A pause can signal, "Lean in, this matters," like silence before a chorus. The key is making that pause intentional, not accidental every time. If someone stops because they're moved, you've won; if they stop confused, you've lost them.

Rhythm And Restraint: Lessons From Slot Game Providers

Rhythm is the quiet engine beneath every digital story you really enjoy. It lives in load time, image order, and where your eye rests. The best pieces feel effortless, but somebody timed them with obsessive care. When timing drags or jolts, even beautiful work starts to feel like a chore.

In the body of a piece, I keep one question nearby: what's the next clear step? If that answer feels fuzzy, I rewrite until the sentence points somewhere definite. I also trim "too many options" moments, because choice overload makes readers hesitate and drift. One strong cue beats five weak nudges, especially on a phone screen.

Working alongside an **igaming software provider**, I've learned to treat drop-offs as honest feedback. People aren't lazy; they're busy and protective of their time. If they bounce, the story probably asked for too much too soon. The fix is often simpler language, stronger cues, and fewer detours.

Before I hit publish, I do a quick "culture check" on the draft. I read it out loud and listen for stiff spots and jargon. Then I ask whether a curious stranger could follow the thread. If not, I simplify the map while keeping the soul. Those tiny edits usually save a reader from clicking away halfway through.

- Open with one vivid detail, then explain why it matters right now.
- Use headings like signposts, not billboards, and keep them specific.
- Give readers one guided choice, not five options that feel like homework.
- Let images earn their place by adding context, not just decoration.
- End with an invitation to reflect, share, or notice something offline.

These checks sound basic, yet they work because they match how people actually read online. They respect attention without turning the writer into a robot. Better structure doesn't make a voice cold; it makes warmth easier to reach. On a distracted day, that difference can decide whether culture gets remembered or quietly forgotten.

Digital Storytelling With Slot Game Providers Discipline In Museums And Festivals

Museums and festivals are experts at atmosphere, even when budgets are tight. They know how lighting, sound, and pacing shape what people carry home. Digital storytelling can borrow that sensibility without copying a stage or forcing a tour-guide voice. A well-built page can feel like a guided walk, not a cluttered brochure.

Start with a narrative spine that holds everything together from the first scroll. Then add interaction only when it deepens meaning, not when it adds sparkle. A single “choose your focus” moment can be powerful for hesitant readers. It lets curiosity lead while still honoring the curator’s intent and the community behind it.

Community archives have a special challenge: they hold many voices at once. One object can carry a family story, a neighborhood change, and a hard truth. Digital formats can layer those voices gently, like transparent pages. When done well, people don’t just learn facts; they feel the weight of memory.

To keep it grounded, write like you speak to a friend. Trade abstract nouns for verbs that move, bite, and breathe. Add specifics—street names, a favorite song, a smell after rain—because specificity carries credibility. If you can picture it, readers can picture it too, and they’ll share it.

Conclusion: Human-Centered Culture Beyond The Igaming Software Provider Label

Technology will keep changing, and that’s fine for cultural writers. The bigger question is whether our stories still feel like someone meant them. A good systems mindset prizes flow, feedback, and honest correction in practice. In cultural work, that becomes empathy made visible, not just polish for its own sake.

So if you’re publishing on Cultural Daily, aim for hospitality on the page. Guide readers with rhythm, give them room to reflect, and don’t overcomplicate the path. Let structure support voice, the way a frame supports a painting. When the writing feels alive, it travels quietly through shares, conversations, and memory.

Photo: Kerfin7 via Freepik.

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How to Pick a Wig Length: Short vs. Long

Our Friends · Friday, January 16th, 2026

Wigs are a total game-changer for switching up your look and showing off your vibe. Whether you’re trying out a new aesthetic or dealing with hair loss, **choosing the right wig length** can literally change your whole face—no cap. Stuck deciding between a short cut or long locks? We got you. Let’s break down short vs. long wigs so you can choose your main character energy.

Short Wigs: Easy, Light, & Full of Attitude

Short wigs are low-key iconic for a reason. If you're all about that low-maintenance life but still want to serve looks, here's why short might be your move:

Low-Key Maintenance

Short wigs = less drama. They take way less time to detangle, style, and wash. Perfect if you can't be bothered with a whole haircare routine or if you're always on the go.

Comfy & Breathable

They're usually lighter and less bulky, so you can wear them all day without feeling weighed down. Better airflow = less sweating, which is a major win in summer or if you're active.

Style Variety is Still Big

Don't sleep on short wigs—they're not basic. Think sleek bobs, textured pixies, shaggy layers—you can even explore precise styles like [UNice bob wigs](#) for that clean, chic look. You can go edgy, soft, or cool-girl effortlessly.

Perfect for an On-the-Go Vibe

If you're hitting the gym, running errands, or just don't want hair in your face 24/7, a short wig stays out of the way. No constant fixing or tying up.

Long Wigs: Glam, Versatile, & Extra in the Best Way

Long wigs give main character energy and let you play with so many styles. Want to feel like a vibe or switch it up constantly? Long might be it:

Endless Style Options

The possibilities are kinda endless. Wear it straight, wavy, curly, in braids, a high pony, a messy bun—you name it. It's like having a whole hair wardrobe in one.

Instant Glam & Drama

Long hair has that classic glam feel—it's elegant, romantic, and can make any outfit pop. Perfect for events, dates, or just when you want to feel extra.

Adds Fullness & Length

If your natural hair is thin or short, a long wig gives the illusion of thick, flowing hair. It's a major confidence boost and can totally transform your look.

Cozy Winter Vibes

Low-key perk: long wigs can keep your neck a little warmer when it's cold. Not a dealbreaker, but a cute bonus!

How to Choose: What to Keep in Mind

Picking between short and long isn't just about preference—think about these things too:

Face Shape Matters

Short wigs often work well for round or square face shapes—they add height and balance.

Long wigs can soften longer face shapes or add framing.

But honestly, wear what makes you feel good—rules are meant to be broken.

Your Lifestyle & Patience Level

Busy schedule? Short wigs are generally easier. Love spending time styling and trying new hairstyles? Long wigs give you more to play with.

Occasion & Personal Aesthetic

Everyday casual? Short wigs are effortless and cool.

Special events or wanting to make a statement? Long wigs bring the drama.

Your personal style—minimalist, alt, romantic, sporty—should guide you too.

Comfort is Key

If you get hot easily or hate feeling weighed down, short wigs are usually more breathable. Long wigs can feel heavier, especially in heat. Always prioritize how it feels on your head!

Bottom Line

At the end of the day, the best wig length is the one that matches your vibe, life, and confidence. Short wigs are chill, practical, and still super stylish. Long wigs let you experiment, feel glam, and change your look on a whim. Maybe try both if you can! Whatever you choose, rock it like it's yours—because it is. You do you.

Photo: ima.unice via their website.

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Into LA Art Show 2

Rick Meghiddo · Thursday, January 15th, 2026

The 2026 LA Art Show annual event attracted more than 90 exhibitors from across the globe to Los Angeles. This year's principal non-commercial focus, DIVERSEartLA—"The Biennials and Art Institutions in the Contemporary Art Ecosystem"—showcased works from seven international biennials.

There were two remarkable installations: La Rueca Forest Memory, created by visual artist Graciela Szamrey and first presented in Cordoba, Argentina, in 1974, and Aguas, conceived by Eugenia Vargas Pereira and curated by Marisa Caichiolo.

The digital installation Land-Escape, which required a headset to view, was impressive. Marcos Ramirez Erre's works stood out for both their visual appeal and political themes.

Among the hundreds of works presented by the commercial galleries, there were a number that caught our attention:

1. The amazing work of Swiss artist Marck's kinetic video-sculptures, presented by the LICHT FELD Gallery, explores the metaphorical barriers faced by women under confinement. Art and technology worked in tandem. The electronics became a means to an end. The medium itself becomes the content and the message.
2. Discovering the artwork of Sonia Payes, an Australian artist recognized for her achievements in sculpture and photography, was remarkable. Her pieces often showcase a recurring female face that represents resilience and transformation, emerging from landscapes or presented as hybrid, post-human figures that evoke both ancient and futuristic qualities.
3. The few works by Israeli artist Avinadav Begin made me want to know more, and it became a discovery once I entered into his website. His work moves between sculpture, painting, fresco, and printmaking. It deals with the connection between material, time, and history in the relationship between the processes of obsolescence and decay and construction, space, and architecture.
4. Esther Mahlangu, a distinguished 90-year-old African artist, has established an exceptional career. Recognized for her striking geometric designs and precise use of color, Mahlangu's works were exhibited at the Pompidou Center in 1989. Her artistic achievements have brought regional cultural traditions to international attention within the fields of art, fashion, and design.



Gear Nerd, 2024 – Marck



Rainborn, 2025 – Yigal Ozeri



Sonia Payes



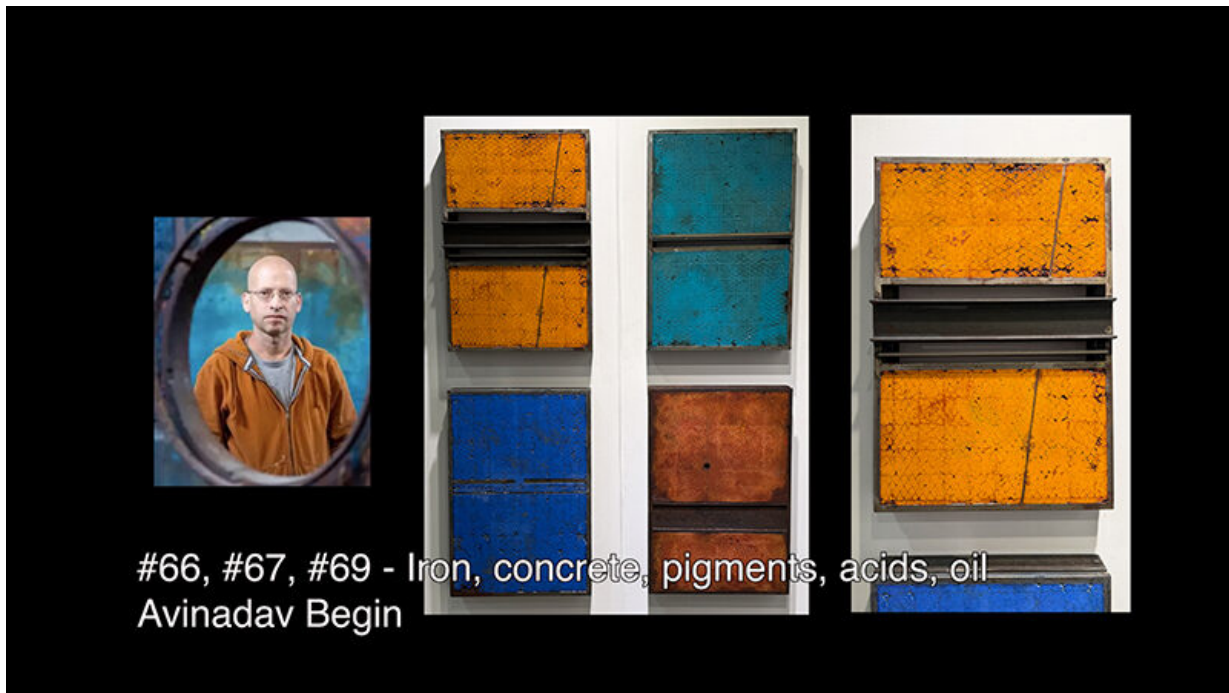
Heads – Sonia Payes



TOP DOG, 2018
Mel Bochner



Top Dog, 2018 – Mel Bochner



Colored Concrete – Avinadav Begin



Art of Contemporary Africa – Esther Mahlangu



INCLUDING YOU AND ME Moon Sang Min



Including You and Me – Moon Sang Min



CANDY BOX, 2021 Peter Anton



Candy Box, 2021 – Peter Anton



MALE PATTERN BADNESS', 1991
Sylvester Stallone

Male Pattern Badness, 1991 – Sylvester Stallone



Into LA Art Show poster

Posted in [Fine Art](#), [Visual Art](#) | [No Comments »](#)

Street Smarts

Ann Haskins · Wednesday, January 14th, 2026

Site specific dance in City Hall; LA street dance takeover in Mid-City stage; traditional dancers welcome Japanese guests in Little Tokyo; iconic LA choreographer celebrated in West LA; museum dance in Westwood; healing moves in University Park; movie ranches, rehearsal mishaps, devotion, and musical explorations in West LA dance fest; new choreography in Santa Monica; more SoCal dance this week, plus a peek at next week.

Live This Week (thru January 22)

Taking it from the street

Street dance captures the stage as **Versa-Style Street Dance Company** brings *Versa-Style and Friends — Celebrating the LA Street Dance Community*. For two decades, Jackie Lopez aka Miss Funk and Leigh Foaad aka Breeze-lee, have championed street dance and its proponents, while providing an environment that encouraged finishing school while honing dance skills. Many Versa-Style dancers and Versa-Style Next Generation dancers have gone on to prove their worth professionally and an impressive number go on to college, both evidence of Versa-Style's success. This concert welcomes the company, the Next Generation, and Legacy dancers. Other LA friends taking the stage include Boogie Frantick, Fantaye, Toyin, Femme Fatale, Gbari & Shantel, and Whacking Los Angeles. Having set the standard for staying current on the street while also translating street movement to a stage setting, Versa Style can take a deserved bow when they take the stage. Nate Holden Performing Arts Center, 4718 W. Washington Blvd., Mid-City; Fri.-Sat., Jan. 16-17, 8 pm, Sun., Jan. 18, 3:30 pm, \$30. [Versa-Style & Friends](#).



Versa-Style Street Dance Company Photo courtesy of the artists

Opening with an LA master

Regarded by many as the premiere West Coast dance film festival, **Dance Camera West** opens its *2026 Festival* with six selected short dance films from the US and the UK, but the real focus of the opening is a celebration of LA-based choreographer David Roussève. Four films he directed will screen, followed by a Q&A, then a separately ticketed, gala celebration honoring Roussève. The website [Dance Camera West](#) has full details on the jam-packed DCW festival that moves among three venues in West LA, Downtown LA, and Los Feliz over a jam-packed four days. Théâtre Raymond Kabbaz, Thurs.-Fri., Jan. 22-23, 7:30 pm, Sat., Jan. 24, 2 pm, \$27.10 (w/fees), Gala honoring David Roussève-Thurs., Jan. 22, 8:45 pm, \$158.35 (w/fees) [Théâtre Raymond Kabbaz](#). Also at Colburn Zipper Hall, 200 S. Grand Ave., Downtown LA; Sat., Jan. 24, 7 pm, \$25. [Colburn](#). Also workshop and films at Philosophical Research Society, 3910 Los Feliz Blvd., Los Feliz; Sun.,

Jan. 25, [Dance Camera West](#).



David Roussève. Photo by Rachel Keane

Behind the movie set

A former movie ranch, now a public park, inspired *Corrigan*, **Hunter Wayne Foster**'s contemplation of what happens behind the scenes of a movie set. Foster's world premiere shares the *Dance at the Odyssey* stage with *For Better or For Worse*, **Camila Arana**'s consideration of devotion from its tenderness to its brutality. Odyssey Theatre 2, 2955 S. Sepulveda Blvd., West LA; Thurs.-Sat., Jan. 15-17, 8 pm, Sun., Jan. 18, 2 pm, \$25 (+\$3 for credit cards). [Dance At the Odyssey](#).



Hunter Wayne Foster. Photo courtesy of the artist

The 'B's have it

LA-based **Kevin Williamson + Company** team with pianist Hao Huang to bring two new works to *Dance at the Odyssey*. Lester Horton Award-winning Williamson summons an array of characters in *blue* to explore Huang's evocation of compositions by Ryuichi Sakamoto. The second premiere, *beasts*, finds Divya Ahuja, Rian Alcid, and Sasha Marlan-Librett surveying movement that veers from ferocious to frightened. Odyssey Theatre 3, 2955 S. Sepulveda Blvd., West LA;

Thurs.-Sat., Jan. 15-17, 8 pm, \$25 (+\$3 for credit cards). [Dance At the Odyssey](#).



Kevin Williamson. Photo by Taso Papadakis

In rehearsal

This week's addition to the *Dance at the Odyssey* festival is dance theater ensemble **TAQ Dance** led by Sasha Marlan-Librett. She's a busy woman at this festival, returning with her own work *Cue*, just days after performing in choreographer Kevin Williamson's festival entry. *Cue* takes the audience inside a rehearsal room where four dancers capture the ups and downs of a sometimes fraught process that precedes performance. Odyssey Theatre 3, 2955 S. Sepulveda Blvd., West LA; Thurs.-Sat., Jan. 22-24, 8 pm, \$25 (+\$3 for credit cards). [Dance At the Odyssey](#).



TAQ Dance. Photo by Shasha Marlan-Librett

City connections

A live site-specific performance is the culminating event in the landmark exhibition encapsulating the four decades-long connection of **Heidi Duckler Dance** with LA architecture, communities, and cultural landscape. Choreographed by HDD Artistic Director Raymond Ejiofor, *Vortex* showcases HDD's dancers, musicians, and performers. The full schedule of activities and performance is at the website. LA City Hall, P. Rio Bridge Gallery, 200 N. Spring St., Downtown LA; Fri., Jan 16, 6-8 pm, \$40. [Heidi Duckler Dance](#).



Raymond Ejiofor of Heidi Duckler Dance. Photo courtesy of the artist

Centering

Adaptation and endurance are embodied by the dancers of **Centerline Collective** in choreographer Jade Lelievre's new work, *After Ashes*. Composer/musician Louis Nova provided the score. Highways Performance Space, 1651 18th St., Santa Monica; Fri.-Sat., Jan. 16-17, 8 pm, \$25, \$20 students/seniors. [Highways Performance Space](#).

Japanese guests/LA natives

Special guests from Japan join 26 students of **Wai no Kai** for *Yuubi: Elegance and Grace of Nihon Buyo*. A dozen visiting masters of various elements of Nihon Buyo, Japan's traditional dance are led by Madame Bando Hideko, the daughter of the late Headmaster Bando Mitsugoro IX and master teacher of Bando Hidesomi, an LA native who heads the school of traditional Japanese dance. This concert celebrates the 30th anniversary of Hidesomi's school and includes performances by four of her students who have been awarded their professional stage names by the Headmaster of the Bando-ryu (School) in Japan. JACCC Aratani Theatre, 244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo; Sun., Jan. 18, 1:30-5:30 pm, \$50-\$100. [JACCC Aratani Theatre](#).



Wai No Kai. Photo by Toyo Miyatake Studio

How she healed

The three part series *How Healing Happens*, an exploration of healing through the arts, is also a first time collaboration of **Patrisse Cullors** and **Rashida Bumbray**. The series includes a workshop, a panel discussion and *A Lineage of (F)Light*, an al fresco performance employing movement, voice, ritual, and sonic textures to celebrate the history and healing heritage of LA's Biddy Mason. A nurse, entrepreneur and philanthropist, Mason has a downtown park named after her at 333 Spring St. The performance acknowledging her is nearby at USC, Fisher Courtyard, Fisher Museum of Art (HAR), USC, 823 W. Exposition Blvd., University Park; Tues., Jan. 20, 6:30 pm, free w/RSVP at [Eventbrite](#).



Will Rawls. Photo by Sarah M Golonka

Made where?

As part of the biennial *Made in LA*, choreographer **Will Rawls** stages mostly monthly site-specific performances under the banner *Unmade*. The work draws visitors into, around, and outside the museum's galleries. Dancers include Gurmukhi Bevli, Maya Billig, Ajani Brannum, Jeremy De'jon Guyton, Tiara Jackson, and Kensaku Shinohara. Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Blvd., Westwood; Sat., Jan. 17, Sat., Feb. 7 & 28, noon to 4 pm, free. [Hammer Museum](#)

More new year

For its Lunar New Year celebration, the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts offers two family friendly options. Outside, a free festival that includes a dragon dance, while inside, two ticketed performances of *The Great Race (The Story of the Chinese Zodiac)* by the **Honolulu Theatre for Youth** at the Wallis, Lovelace Theatre, 9390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills, Sat., Jan. 17, 11 am & 2 pm, \$20. [The Great Race](#). Family Fest Lunar New Year (with dragon dance) at the Wallis, outdoor grounds, Sat. Jan. 17, 11 am-2 pm, free w/reservation at [Family Fest](#).



The Peking Acrobats. Tom Meinhold Photography

On balance

The visiting **Peking Acrobats** bring their artistic gymnastics and breathtaking athletics to town in a show evoking a carnival. Carpenter Center, Cal State University Long Beach, 6200 E. Atherton St., Long Beach; Sat., Jan. 17, 8 p.m., \$38.75-\$58.75. [Peking Acrobats](#)



Shen Yun. Photo courtesy of the artists

Cautionary return

Presenting itself as “China before communism,” the touring company **Shen Yun** built its

reputation on the athleticism, flexibility, and group precision of its dancers, but dodged questions about its connections with China's banned Falun Gong. More recently, the organization has faced accusations of dancer abuse and a lawsuit alleging child labor violations. In that context, the company tours local venues from now through early February. The Soraya, Cal State University Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge; Thurs., Jan 15, 2 pm, Fri, Jan. 16, 7 pm, Sat.-Sun., Jan. 17-18, 1 pm, \$86-\$186. Also at The Music Center, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 N. Grand Ave., Downtown LA; Thurs., Jan. 22, 2 pm, Fri., Jan., 23, 7:30 pm, Sat.-Sun., Jan. 24-25, 1 pm, \$91-\$231. Also at Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza, 2100 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks; Fri., Jan. 30, 7:30 pm, Sat.-Sun., Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 1 pm, \$94.40-\$196.95. Also at Long Beach Terrace Theater, 300 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach; Fri., Feb. 6, 7:30 pm, Sat.-Sun., Feb. 7-8, 1 pm, \$89-\$218. [Shen Yun](#).



The Wiz. Photo by Jeremy Daniel

Ease on down the road

Before the cottage industry surrounding the musical and now two film versions of *Wicked*, Frank Baum's book *The Wizard of Oz* fueled the musical and film version of **The Wiz**. The musical theater revival of *The Wiz* arrives at the only SoCal stop on its North American tour. Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa; Tues.-Fri., Jan. 13-16 & 20-23, Sat., Jan. 17 & 24, 2 & 7:30 pm, Sun., Jan. 18 & 25, 1 & 6:30 pm, \$44-\$159. [SCFTA](#).

A Peek at Next Week (January 23-29)

Dare to Dance in Public — *Dance at the Odyssey* at Odyssey Theatre 2, 2955 S. Sepulveda Blvd., West LA; Fri.-Sat., Jan. 23-24, 8 pm, Sun., Jan. 25, 2 pm, \$25 (+\$3 for credit cards). [Dance At the Odyssey](#).

Los Angeles Ballet — *Celebrating Our Past, Present and Future: 20 Years of Los Angeles Ballet* at The Wallis Center for the Performing Arts, 390 N. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills; Thurs.-

Sun., Jan. 29-31, 7:30 pm, \$64.90-\$119.90. [Los Angeles Ballet](#).



Los Angeles Ballet. Photo by Reed Hutchinson

Benita Bike DanceArt at The Discovery Cube LA, 11800 Foothill Blvd., Sylmar; Sat.,-Sun., Jan. 24-25, 1 pm, free with reservation at benita@danceart.org.

Sa Dance Company — *Rise* at Musco Center for the Arts, Chapman University, 216 N. Glassell, Orange; Sat., Jan. 24, 7 pm, \$25-\$253. [Sa Dance Company](#).

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How Online Schools Handle Curriculum, Exams, and Graduation

Our Friends · Wednesday, January 14th, 2026

There is a common misconception that online schools don't follow a structured approach to learning. In reality, reputable online schools have predefined regulations for each sector in addition to a graduation criterion.

If you're planning to enrol your child in an online school, but are concerned about the exact mechanism, we've got you covered. This brief guide explains how online schools handle

curriculum, exams, and graduation. Let's break it down!

Curriculum in Online Schools

The curriculum in online schools is carefully designed to meet the same quality standards as a traditional school. For instance, **online schools in Washington State** would be accredited by the relevant, state-specific institute. This will ensure your child receives quality education that prepares them for higher education and the workforce.

Core subjects such as Mathematics, English, Science, and Social Studies are required. Whereas, electives include Art, Computer Science, Coding, or Foreign Languages. Your child will gain a well-rounded education.

But how do online schools deliver lectures or teach the aforementioned curriculum? Most schools use digital platforms known as Learning Management Systems (LMS). These platforms normally have two interfaces. The student interface provides access to video lectures, digital textbooks, assignments, and interactive activities.

Most online schools leverage easy-to-use platforms that don't require much technological knowledge.

Delivery methods can include:

- Live classes. Teachers can conduct classes in virtual classrooms.
- Personalised learning. Students can learn at their own pace.
- Interactive engagement. This includes message boards and forums.

The role of teachers

Teachers play a critical role in online education, especially in curriculum-related matters. They guide students through lessons, give feedback on assignments, and offer support through email. Moreover, teachers can arrange discussion sessions to resolve students' queries, facilitating learning.

Exams and Assessments

Assessments and exams are tools for online schools to assess students. The following types of assessments are most common:

- Online quizzes and tests
- Projects and essays
- Presentations
- Participation

Assignments help students apply what they have learned in a creative and practical manner.

Then come the exams. Online schools use numerous proctoring methods, including:

AI proctoring – software uses eye-tracking mechanisms and keystroke monitoring to prevent cheating.

Human proctoring – live invigilators watch via webcam. Students are required to share their surroundings.

Reputable online schools like Virtual Prep Academy leverage security measures, including:

- Secure browsers
- Plagiarism detection tools
- AI detection tools

Students are required to complete the exam under specific guidelines within the given time limit. The time period for grading can vary. Multiple-choice quizzes may be graded instantly by the system. But essays, projects, and open-ended questions are graded by teachers, who provide comments to help students improve.

Students can easily track their grades through their LMS.

Graduation Requirements

Lastly, most online schools have a credit system. Students earn credit by completing both core and elective courses. Moreover, to graduate, they would also need to pass the final exam and submit the required assignments.

Some online schools also require students to meet attendance or participation requirements. In the end, your child will get an accredited diploma, helping them secure college and university admissions.

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The games everyone is waiting for in 2026

Our Friends · Wednesday, January 14th, 2026

When assessing some of the most lucrative **areas of business**, gaming is right up there. As a form of entertainment, this beloved pastime has kicked even further on in 2026, with gamers currently having an array of enticing virtual opportunities to get stuck into. However, there is even more to come, with a selection of highly anticipated releases coming to the fore in the coming months.

For gamers, they've never had such a strong selection of titles to tackle. Alongside some undisputed favorites, such as Fortnite, Split Fiction, and **DraftKings slot games** like Cash Eruption Fa Cai Shu, gaming communities everywhere are preparing for a wave of new games that are likely to hog the limelight. In fact, some of the most anticipated releases of 2026 could be some of the biggest games we've ever seen. Below, we highlight just some of them.

Bradley the Badger

Kicking things off with a PC game many experts predict will record big numbers, Bradley the Badger looks as charming as it sounds. Featuring a comical animal creature and some references to an array of classics from the gaming category of entertainment, the adventures on offer in this platformer are expected to be hard to beat. While a release date hasn't been confirmed yet, Bradley the Badger should be out early this year.

Crimson Desert

Released on March 19, big things are expected of Crimson Desert. Not only does the game's map look absolutely huge, resulting in even more adventures to embark on, but there are new warriors, an array of weapons, and nasty demons to experience. A game where almost anything could be lurking around the corner, Crimson Desert is expected to do well when it does hit the shelves.

Ace Combat 8: Wings of Theve

While its release date is currently unknown, Ace Combat 8: Wings of Theve is expected to do well when it does eventually arrive. If you're partial to the odd flight simulator, then this must-play title is worth keeping tabs on. From its relaxing nature to the undoubtedly upgraded graphics, it certainly received a positive reaction when the makers of the game announced Ace Combat 8: Wings of Theve at the [2025 Game Awards](#). As such, many gamers are extremely excited about it.

Coffee Talk Tokyo

Ever fancied running your very own coffee shop? Well, in Coffee Talk Tokyo you can do exactly that. You have customers to get to know, orders to get right, and a range of issues to address as Tokyo's local population discovers your delicious drinks and treats. Coming to Switch, PlayStation 5, Windows PC, Xbox Series S, and Xbox Series X in early March, Coffee Talk Tokyo might be worth a look.

007 First Light

Ever since the golden days of GoldenEye, [James Bond fans](#) have been craving a 007-themed release. Well, in May, 007 First Light arrives to serve up what promises to be a seriously epic package. Just how good it will be remains to be seen, but if you're pining for another GoldenEye 007-like experience, then 007 First Light might just be it.

Forza Horizon 6

While there have been some changes behind the scenes at Forza Horizon 6, the latest release from this much-loved series is expected to stand out. The king of racing games for many players, a release date hasn't been finalized yet, but this top-notch title promises to gain plenty of attention when it becomes available, especially for gamers seeking high-octane racing action.

Special mention must also go to Grand Theft Auto 6 (November 19), High on Life 2 (February 13th), and Pokémon Pokopia (March 5).

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How Online Gambling is Changing Modern Perceptions of Leisure and Risk

Our Friends · Wednesday, January 14th, 2026

The world of leisure is changing, and at its core is online gambling. Previously met with caution and doubt, digital gambling has now emerged as a popular pastime for many. With a few taps or clicks, you can enter an exciting virtual world that combines luck and tactics through online **online casino mexico**, reshaping how people engage with games of chance. As we navigate this new digital terrain, it's important to understand how these online platforms are influencing our views on leisure activities and risk-taking. The rise of mobile gaming apps has made online gambling more accessible than ever before, transforming what was once seen as taboo into an enjoyable form of entertainment. Join us as we delve into the evolution of online gambling, its impact on traditional leisure activities, and the changing attitudes toward risk that are redefining our relationship with games of chance in today's society.

The Evolution of Online Gambling

Online gambling has come a long way since its inception in the mid-1990s. The first online casinos launched simple platforms offering basic games like slots and blackjack, attracting curious players eager to try their luck from home. As technology advanced, so did the gaming experience. Improved internet speeds and better software transformed these sites into immersive environments with stunning graphics and engaging gameplay. This shift set the stage for more complex gaming options. The introduction of live dealer games brought an authentic casino atmosphere directly to players' screens. Gamers could interact with real dealers in real-time, bridging the gap between physical and digital experiences. Today, online gambling reflects a diverse landscape filled with innovative features like gamification elements that enhance user engagement. These trends cater to various tastes, making it easier for individuals to explore new forms of entertainment without stepping out of their comfort zones.

The Rise of Mobile Gambling and its Impact on Leisure

Mobile gambling has transformed the landscape of leisure activities. With just a smartphone, players can access their favorite games anytime and anywhere. This convenience reshapes how people view entertainment. The rise of mobile apps has made gambling more accessible than ever before. Users no longer need to visit physical casinos; they can play in the comfort of their homes or on-the-go. This shift significantly alters traditional perceptions around leisure time. Moreover, gamification plays a crucial role in enhancing user experience. Features like rewards, levels, and social sharing add layers of engagement that appeal to younger demographics seeking novel experiences. This new lifestyle encourages spontaneous gaming sessions during commutes or

breaks at work. As mobile gambling continues to evolve, its influence on modern leisure activities grows stronger by the day, revealing complex patterns in online gambling behavior among users worldwide.

Changing Perceptions of Risk in Online Gambling

The landscape of risk in online gambling is evolving. Traditionally, **gambling** was viewed as a dangerous pastime, fraught with potential losses and addiction. Today, the digital age has transformed this perception significantly. With the rise of technology and data analytics, players are more informed about their choices. They can access detailed statistics on games and odds at their fingertips. This knowledge empowers them to make calculated decisions rather than impulsive bets. Gamification plays a pivotal role here too. By incorporating game-like elements into gambling platforms, operators create engaging experiences that disguise some aspects of risk while enhancing enjoyment. Players often don't perceive stakes as dangerously high when they're wrapped in animated graphics and interactive features. Furthermore, social interactions within these platforms contribute to changing views on risk. Engaging with others fosters a sense of community that can dilute feelings of isolation associated with traditional gambling scenarios.

The Controversy Surrounding Online Gambling

The rise of online gambling has sparked heated debates across various communities. Critics often highlight the potential for addiction, emphasizing how easily individuals can access digital platforms at any hour. Many argue that this accessibility blurs the lines between entertainment and harmful behavior. The thrill of placing bets can lead to impulsive decisions, especially among vulnerable populations. On the flip side, advocates point out the economic benefits generated by online casinos and betting sites. They argue these platforms create jobs and contribute to local economies through taxes. However, regulatory challenges persist. Many countries struggle with outdated laws that fail to address new digital landscapes effectively. This creates a patchwork of legal frameworks, leaving players confused about their rights and protections. Public perception remains divided as stories of both success and tragedy surface regularly in media discussions surrounding this modern form of leisure activity.

How Online Gambling is Affecting Traditional Forms of Leisure

The landscape of leisure activities has shifted dramatically with the rise of online gambling. Traditional pastimes, once dominated by social gatherings and physical interactions, now compete with digital platforms that offer convenience and excitement at home. As more individuals turn to their devices for entertainment, traditional forms like board games or community events have seen a steep decline in participation. The allure of 24/7 access to betting options is hard to resist. Moreover, the gamification in gambling plays a crucial role in attracting users. Elements such as rewards, levels, and interactive experiences transform mere wagering into engaging adventures. This change impacts not just personal choices but also local economies that relied on foot traffic from social venues. With fewer people visiting casinos or betting shops, these establishments must adapt or risk becoming obsolete amidst shifting preferences toward mobile gambling lifestyles.

Conclusion and Future Outlook for Online Gambling

The landscape of online gambling is constantly evolving, shaping modern leisure activities in unprecedented ways. As digital platforms become increasingly sophisticated, the boundaries

between entertainment and risk are becoming blurred. With the rise of mobile gambling, games are now just a tap away, making this lifestyle more accessible than ever before. This shift not only affects individual behavior but also shapes societal views on risk. Online gambling is now seen as a commonplace activity rather than something taboo or exclusively associated with addiction. However, this newfound acceptance presents challenges; awareness of responsible gambling must keep up with rapid technological advancements and gamification trends that tempt users to play longer and spend more money.

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