Point Loma’s Liberty Station Art Walk Gets A Makeover

BY EMILY GOULD

For the past ten years, Liberty Station at Point Loma has hosted a monthly event called Friday Night Liberty. The first Friday of each month has been home to a free art walk, where San Diegans can come explore the galleries of local artists, get hands-on demonstrations, and purchase one-of-a-kind artwork. Now, the First Friday Arts District is adding an extra element to Friday Night Liberty Quarterly. “First Friday (((amplified)))” will go on with a live concert, complete with a beer garden, vendors, and more adult programming.

Andrew Waltz, NTC Foundation Associate Director of Marketing & Communications, is very excited about the new addition: “We’re working with producer Damian Derobio, a community partner, to do cutting edge shows.” The Arts District staff is going all out to create an “inviting atmosphere, tucked between historic buildings.” The concert will boast a massive stage for the band with plenty of space to dance and more room for kids to run around. Other highlights will include performances by San Diego Dance Theater and DanzArts and appearances and exhibits by Blue Pearl Art, Annville Jewelry Lab, Marsha Pace Swift Gallery, Shop Mingei, and the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts.

The kickoff concert, on June 7, will feature performances from New Reveille and Nena Anderson. Headliner New Reveille was named one of Rolling Stone’s “10 New Country Artists You Need to Know” in 2018. The four-piece Americana band from North Carolina delivers a wide range of Appalachian melodies, and their “folksy vibe” will be gracing the stage in Point Loma for the first stop of their national tour.

Opener, Nena Anderson’s bluesy Americana acoustics “will pair well with those of New Reveille,” says Waltz. After earning nearly 20 nominations and a win from the San Diego Music Awards, Waltz is pleased that “the community is giving her her credit.” The soulful, new-age performances will be the perfect way to welcome the summer season.

Further amplifying the Americana genre will be the biergarten. Nested in the back to maintain a kid-friendly environment overall, the Beer Garden will provide a little adult-only haven. As an added bonus, all the proceeds from the delicious craft brews will be feeding back into community programming, namely Liberty School for Kids.

In addition to the usual fare served in Liberty Public Market, the (((amplified))) event will be hosting a few food trucks for grabbing a quick and easy bite. This in addition to the several sit-down restaurants already in the vicinity including Solare, The Lot, and Stone Brewing.

Where the magnificent Norfolk Pine Tree meets the arcadeway, the grounds will be “sprinkled with craft vendors from the Local Bazaar,” says Waltz. There, First Friday attendees can hand select various locally-made craft goods, jewelry, clothes, art, sculptures, and paintings from the pop-up booths lining the walkway. Akin to that of an outdoor Parisian market, the Pop-Up Market will allow guests to admire, purchase, and receive hands-on demonstrations from local artisans.

By adding new elements to what is already a favorite staple of the community, the Arts District hopes to not only engage more locals, but also give back to its own programs on a larger scale. Bringing local performers, artists, brewers, and audiences together forges bonds between San Diegans on a special night full of music, dancing, art, and fun. The goal is to create an enchanting evening where memories will be formed, and the community as a whole will benefit.

First Friday (((amplified))) will kick off on June 7 with a concert featuring New Reveille and opening act Nena Anderson. The concert will begin at 6:30.

Another (((amplified))) event will take place on Sep. 6 with a concert by B-Side Players and opening act Shane Hall and the last will be on Dec. 6 with a concert by Whitney Shay.

All non-(((amplified))) First Friday art walks will continue to be held on the first Friday of every month (July 5, Aug. 2, Oct. 4, and Nov. 1).

All First Friday events are held from 5-9pm on the North Promenade at Liberty Station.