

ARTS + CULTURE

SUN
DAY

(Martina Schimitschek)

17. New Children's Museum: 10-year anniversary

It's been 10 years since the **New Children's Museum** opened its doors downtown in the soaring three-level space designed by architect Rob Quigley. What started out as a contemporary art museum for families has morphed into a children's museum with contemporary art. That art is site-specific, designed by artists in collaboration with the museum, and built for play. Kids can dig, crawl and climb over one-of-a-kind installations. And, of course, they can also paint. "It's difficult to fuse play with art," said Tomoko Kuta, the museum's deputy director. "Works of art that are unique and unusual provide the discovery that we had when we went outside to play." All it takes is imagination. *(Martina Schimitschek)*

18. Liberty Station

Public art is the icing on the cake in the transformation of **Liberty Station** from a formal, staid Navy training center into a vibrant entertainment, shopping and arts destination. This year, six artists participated in "Installations at the Station," the NTC Foundation's public art program, which will continue next year. This year's projects included community-painted skateboards representing a wave and a ship on a rooftop, a braided rope bench inspired by the native tribes and the Navy, and murals of border scenes by Tijuana artist Hugo Crosthwaite as part of an ongoing narrative in multiple locations that started in 2009. The most recent installation, a kinetic light sculpture by Nico Meyer, is part of Liberty Station's holiday "Salute the Season." *(Martina Schimitschek)*

LOOKING BACK 18 THINGS WE LOVED IN THE ARTS

SD UT 12-23

2018 SHOWS US WHAT OUR ARTS SCENE ASPIRES TO BE

For this visual arts writer, the past year painted a rich landscape countywide

BY G. JAMES DAICHENDT

this year across our San Diego visual arts network.

The San Diego art scene is spread throughout the entire county and is connected via a network of creative pockets. It may be best to think of these visual arts spaces as nodes, well-trafficked places where art is created, exhibited and engaged. While distance separates these cultural centers, they serve as touchstones for the visual arts.

Some locations, like the Balboa Park museums, are like familiar friends that we regularly visit, ask questions and continue to develop deep relationships with, knowing that they will continue to be there for us. Yet there are many more smaller arts destinations, like artists' studios, ephemeral projects and public art projects, that may not be as well known but are important sites for providing new experiences that often require us to get outside of our comfort zone.

As we wrap up 2018, here are some of the most significant and interesting experiences that occurred

A flurry of activity at Liberty Station's Arts District was jump-started by **Lissa Corona** and **Marina Grize** in their text-based work that was installed above the structured Navy barracks. The LED letters broadcast the text "REST WITH YOU COMES EASY." Seemingly a gesture of gratitude and admiration for the military, the phrase "Rest Easy" is commonly used by the U.S. Navy to assure those they protect. However, the ambiguous message becomes something quite different to civilians unaware of this history and can be reframed as a loving complement.



Above: Lissa Corona and Marina Grize's installation.