

Around Town /

Total Transformation

The beachfront Surf & Sand Resort is undergoing a property-wide renovation that will enhance the already stunning hotel. The project, which started in September, will result in reimagined guest rooms and bathrooms as well as a refreshed lobby and lounge plus a new pool deck; in addition, new heating and air-conditioning systems, technology and decor will be incorporated throughout the resort. Surf & Sand will remain open during the renovation, but work will be isolated to specific areas so that guests will be minimally impacted. The Towers building is the first to be revamped and will be closed until springtime while Splashes restaurant and the pool will close this winter, also to reopen in the spring. After that, the Seaview, Surfside and Catalina buildings, Aquaterra Spa and venues such as the conference center and gift shop will undergo changes from early spring until summer, when the transformed property will be unveiled. Surf & Sand Resort opened its doors 75 years ago and this renovation will just further the local icon's legacy as a premier destination for both out-of-town guests and locals looking for a luxurious staycation. (888-579-8544; surfandsandresort.com) —Ashley Ryan



Renderings of the renovations that are currently underway at Surf & Sand Resort

THE INTERSECTION OF ART AND NATURE

Each fall, Laguna Art Museum and the town's art galleries come together to present the annual Art & Nature initiative, which presents a look at the natural world and environmental issues through the lens of creativity. The museum regularly commissions an artist to create a unique piece for the campaign and, in 2023, the chosen visionary is multidisciplinary artist Cristopher Cichocki. Cichocki's outdoor installation, titled "Rising Inversion," will be on display at Main Beach from Nov. 2-5; however, as a special treat, his audiovisual performance called "Circular Dimensions" will activate onto the new installation on Nov. 4 exclusively. Two indoor exhibits will also be shown, including "Escape – Route" by Luciana Abait, a sculptural map with photo/video that makes viewers feel as if they're on a road trip through the U.S., and "Burghers of Cali: A Ballad of Redwood Spirits" by Andre Woodward, an installation focused on California's coastal redwood trees and the human relationship with nature. As Art & Nature draws closer, expect an exciting lineup of events, including the free family festival that was expanded during last year's 10th anniversary. From Nov. 2-26, a solo exhibition of Cichocki's artwork will also take place at LCAD Gallery. (949-494-8971; lagunaartmuseum.org) —A.R.



Cristopher Cichocki is creating an installation for Art & Nature.

TOP SECTION: COURTESY OF SURF & SAND RESORT; BOTTOM: LANCE GERBER

INNER CIRCLE



Julie Perlin Lee (above), the executive director of Laguna Art Museum, pictured at the recent Director's Circle Dinner and Awards Night (top)

It has been a year since Laguna Art Museum established its Director's Circle group, which is filled with members of the local community and museum supporters. Since then, special events have been held for members, the most recent being the Director's Circle Dinner and Awards Night. Held outdoors within the Dawson Cole Fine Art sculpture garden on Sept. 21, the event featured a curated menu crafted by Amar Santana of the eponymous Broadway by Amar Santana. Truly a celebration of those who have made significant contributions to the local arts scene, the main purpose of the dinner was to honor art historian Jean Stern, this year's recipient of the Wendt Award. Elie Weaver and Hilton Weinberg were also presented with the Anna Hills Award for their dedication to the museum, which keeps its focus on California art. The museum is currently looking to expand its Director's Circle, and new members for 2023-2024 will receive a collage by artist David Krovblit. (949-494-8971; lagunaartmuseum.org) —A.R.

COURTESY OF LAGUNA ART MUSEUM



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