

THINGS TO DO • News

30+ Bay Area events, festivals and things to do this spring

Here's a roundup of upcoming local events, happenings and fun activities



Chris Riley — BANG archives

People walk through a shaded area during a previous Bottle Rock Napa Valley Music Festival, which will return this year on May 24-26.



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From food and film to art, music and nature, here's an epic sampling of ways to have some Bay Area fun this spring and beyond.

Imaginarium360: Now through April 28, Great Mall, 447 Great Mall Drive, Milpitas. Featuring more than five million lights, this outdoor immersive light festival promises to captivate visitors of all ages as they roam through 1.5 acres of vibrant visual displays. Wander through illuminated forest mazes, encounter larger-than-life fantasy creatures, enjoy a synchronized light show, get romantic in the rose garden or enjoy one of the nightly circus shows. \$18 to \$23.

showclix.com/tickets/Imaginarium

Spring in the Garden: Now through April 28, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, 55 Music Concourse Drive, San Francisco. The Academy is the place to "bee" this spring. Float your own boat with Riveropolis, watch supersize animatronic insects come to life in Bugtopia, weave your way through Wander Woods and buzz into an arthropod puppet show. \$28.95 to \$42.95.

calacademy.org/spring-in-the-garden

Thrive City Spring Golf Day: 12 to 4 p.m. April 11, Thrive City, 1 Warriors Way, San Francisco. Can't make it out to a golf course? Not to worry, Thrive City has you covered. Head to Warriors Way for Spring Golf Day, featuring a Dryvebox Mobile Golf Simulator Unit, a 9-hole mini-golf course, an on-site golf instructor and a tournament screening on the plaza board. Free admission.

chasecenter.com/thrivecity/events/spring-golf-day-20240411

Spring Redwood Experience: 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. April 13, Jack London State Historic Park, 2400 London Ranch Road, Glen Ellen. Participants in this mix of

Hopocalypse Day 2024: 5 to 10 p.m. April 13, Drake's Brewing Co., 1933 Davis St., San Leandro. Welcome to the end of days, where the beats are heavy, the brews are bold, and the good times never end. Join Drake's for an apocalyptic extravaganza featuring an ultimate elixir of craft crews, neon face painting, VR headsets and a silent disco. \$15 to \$100. bit.ly/Hopocalypse

Mad Tea Party: 6 to 10 p.m. April 13, Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. Fairyland invites adults for an Alice in Wonderland immersive experience filled with fantasy, dance, games, live entertainment and special libations including the March Hare's Madness cocktail. \$35. fairyland.org/events-and-performances/mad-tea



Hopkins Marine Station Ph.D. candidate Ben Burford shows the beak of a Humboldt squid to Litchi Li, 9, left, and Arthur Ventrice, 4, during a previous Whalefest Monterey event at the base of Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey. (David Royal — MediaNews Group archives)

Whalefest Monterey: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 13-14, Old Fisherman's Wharf and the Custom House Plaza, Monterey State Historic Park. This festival features engaging and educational activities for all ages, including live music, a symposium and dozens of fascinating marine-related interactive exhibits by local and national organizations. Free admission. whalefest.org

Northern California Cherry

Blossom Festival: April 13-21, Japantown, San Francisco. Enjoy the

largest Cherry Blossom Festival on the West Coast. Each year, more than 220,000 people attend this dazzling display showcasing vibrant Japanese culture and the rich heritage and diversity of the Japanese American community. Free admission. sfcherryblossom.org

Tipsy Putt Beer Fest: 12 to 4 p.m. April 14, Topsy Putt, 5690 Bay St., Emeryville. Head to Topsy Putt for a beer festival featuring unlimited tastings from local breweries, unlimited mini-golf gaming and a commemorative sampler glass. \$25 to \$35. bit.ly/TipsyPuttBeerFest

Sausage Making at The Local Butcher Shop: 7 to 9 p.m. April 14, The Local Butcher Shop, 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Learn how to make sausages with

Siduri & Comet Corn Movie Night: 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. April 18, Siduri Healdsburg Lounge, 235 Healdsburg Ave., Healdsburg. Sit in for a movie night, Siduri style. Enjoy popcorn and wines from Siduri's Sonoma County friends, featuring winemaker Matt Revelette's out-of-this-world pairings. \$15.

siduri.com/activities/siduri-comet-corn-movie-night

Shot Heard Round the World Commemoration: 6:30 to 8 p.m. April 19, Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos. Commemorate the first battle of the American Revolution with a multi-sensory experience including live actors, interactive learning, food and drinks, period costumes and prizes. Free admission. tinyurl.com/ShotCommemoration

First Person Story Jam — 'Oops!': 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. April 19, West Berkeley Fencing Club, 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. Storytellers from all walks of life will take to the stage to share hilarious, embarrassing and bittersweet experiences. From awkward encounters to unexpected mishaps, fumbles, accidents and verbal slips, you'll hear it all. \$15. bit.ly/StoryJamOops

Tech Roast Show 2042: 8 to 9:30 p.m. April 19, SFJAZZ, 201 Franklin St., San Francisco. Humanity may be toast, but we can still go out with a laugh. Enjoy a comedy show where renegade tech comedians will roast whimpering techies on stage in front of a live crowd. \$44 to \$129. bit.ly/Roast2042

Peninsula Restaurant Week: April 19-27, various Peninsula venues. Dine out while supporting local eateries at this annual event which includes special menu items from 56 restaurants in the region. Prices vary.

peninsularestantweek.com

Bug Day at Randall Museum: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 20, 199 Museum Way, San Francisco. Join the creepy-crawly fun at Randall Museum where families can make their own fabulous bug-related crafts to take home, see and touch live exotic insects, take a scientific look at insects through microscopes, compete in the Insect Olympics or costume contest, and perhaps even eat a bug or two. Free admission. randallmuseum.org

Corgi Con Presents StumpyCon: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 20, Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton. The largest Corgi event in the world celebrates all dogs of shorter stature with a costume contest, a talent showcase, a fetch competition, a marketplace, food trucks and interactive

Bay Area Brew Fest: 12 to 10 p.m. April 20, Presidio Main Lawn, San Francisco. The Bay Area Brew Festival returns with an extravaganza featuring more than 60 breweries, food trucks, DJs and more. Admission includes unlimited beer samplings, with VIP attendees getting an extra hour with limited release beers. \$50 to \$90. bayareabrewfestival.com

Hillside Gardeners Spring Tour: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 21, various Oakland and Piedmont locations. Hillside Gardeners of Montclair presents a tour featuring seven exquisite gardens in the Oakland and Piedmont hills, offering expansive views, innovative landscape design, fascinating plant specimens, stunning garden art and flowers galore. \$35. eventcreate.com/e/gardentour

Nikkei Matsuri Festival: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 21, 640 N. Fifth St., San Jose. The annual Nikkei Matsuri Festival in San Jose's Japantown returns to celebrate and preserve the cultural heritage of Japanese American traditions with food, arts and crafts, performing arts, demonstrations and cultural exhibits. Free admission. nikkeimatsuri.org

Robots on Ice 4.0: 4 to 7 p.m. April 21, Yerba Buena Ice Skating & Bowling Center, 750 Folsom St., San Francisco. That's right, skating robots and robot skaters are back! Enjoy robots on ice, robot-inspired figure skating performances, and an opportunity to drive RC cars on the rink. \$5 to \$50. robotsonice.org

'Sunday Swingers': 7 p.m. April 21, Napa Valley Opera House, 1030 Main St., Napa. Blue Note Napa will present Kellie Fuller and the Mike Greensill Trio performing swinging classics made famous by the likes of Ella Fitzgerald, Peggy Lee and Frank Sinatra. \$20 to \$35. bluenotejazz.com/napa/shows/?eid=13649673

CREATE!: 4 to 8 p.m. April 25, Landing at Leidesdorff, San Francisco. Enjoy an outdoor immersive visual and performing arts celebration spotlighting San Francisco's creativity with a diverse array of local artists, performers and chefs. Free. downtownsf.org/do/create

San Francisco Art Fair: April 25-28, Fort Mason Festival Pavilion, San Francisco. The Bay Area's longest running art fair returns this year with exhibits from top galleries around the world and a carefully curated program of public projects, events, talks and performances. \$35 to \$65. artmarketsf.com/visit

Sacramento Grilled Cheese Festival: 1 to 4 p.m. April 27-28, Southside Park, 2115 Sixth St. Sacramento. This annual festival pairs grilled cheese with

Sol Blume Festival: May 3-5, Discovery Park, downtown Sacramento. Enjoy music performances by some of the most sought-after R&B, soul and hip-hop acts, plus family-friendly activities, wellness experiences, immersive art activations and local vendors. \$249 to \$449. solblume.com

Bay Area SpringFest: 12 to 7 p.m. May 4, Todos Santos Plaza, 2175 Willow Pass Road, Concord. This spring celebration includes live music on the Todos Santos stage, eclectic food vendors, a beer and wine garden, fun activities for kids and myriad shopping opportunities. Free admission. bit.ly/BASpringfest

Tri-Valley Craft Cocktail Competition: 4:30 to 7 p.m. May 4, Bankhead Plaza, 2400 First St., Livermore. Pacific Chamber Orchestra is presenting the first-ever Tri-Valley Craft Cocktail Competition. Enjoy cocktails served up by top-shelf bartenders while noshing nibbles from local restaurants. \$65. tinyurl.com/PCOcrafftcomp

Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival: May 4-5, traditionally held at Westside Park, Bodega Bay. Commemorate 50 years of local lore at this family-friendly celebration packed with local culture, delicious seafood, live music and a boat parade. \$16 to \$30. bbfishfest.org

Foodieland Night Market: May 10-12 at Sacramento's Cal Expo and May 24-26 at San Francisco's Cow Palace. FoodieLand is a renowned outdoor festival featuring food, shopping, games and live entertainment. This year's edition promises more than 185 food and retail vendors. \$0 to \$7. foodielandnm.com

Central Valley Brewfest: 12 to 5 p.m. May 11, Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, 900 N. Broadway, Turlock. Celebrating its 11th year, the Central Valley Brewfest returns to the Stanislaus County Fairgrounds offering of art, music and more than 150 brews to sample. \$45 to \$65. cvbrewfest.com

SF Beer Fest: 12 to 10 p.m. May 11, 2 Marina Blvd., San Francisco. Head for Fort Mason to try the best beer in town, all under the same roof. Enjoy a vast selection of specially curated beers set to an absolutely jamming soundtrack. \$45 to \$65. bit.ly/SFBeerFest2024

Bottle Rock: May 24-26, Napa Valley Expo, 575 Third St., Napa. This annual Wine Country music festival features a fabulous lineup of live entertainment from nationally known artists, singers and bands, as well as gourmet food, wine and beer stalls and a culinary stage. \$233. bottlerocknapavalley.com

Carnaval San Francisco: May 25-26, San Francisco venues. The 46th edition of this annual multicultural celebration and parade will feature a rich assortment of food, music, dance, arts and crafts, games and live entertainment for all ages to enjoy. Free admission. carnivalsanfrancisco.org

Extraordinary Cow Palace: Now through 2026, San Mateo County History Museum, 2200 Broadway, Redwood City. The Cow Palace has been an important part of Bay Area history for more than 83 years. Now the San Mateo County Historical Association is preserving, celebrating and sharing this history with a new exhibit exploring the landmark venue and its many events. \$0 to \$6. historysmc.org/exhibits/extraordinary-cow-palace

Have an entertainment event to add? Submit it online at forms.gle/Cu9J6Ks2fQiQUcKk8.

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