

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PRESS RELEASE

Santa Barbara Downtown Organization

Be a Dubliner for a Day at 1st Thursday in March

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. – In anticipation of St. Patrick’s Day, 1st Thursday on March 6th brings a bit of Ireland to downtown Santa Barbara. Art lovers of all types are invited to come downtown from 5-8 p.m. to experience the magic and luck of the Irish while delving into the visual arts. Choose from more than 30 participating art venues to view the latest exhibits while listening to music, tasting wine, catching a demonstration or indulging in any of the many other attractions offered at each venue. Live outdoor performances and interactive exhibits add to the festive atmosphere along State Street as patrons stroll between galleries.

One of Ireland’s greatest cultural traditions is its music and 1st Thursday-goers can experience it in a variety of forms. **The Chris Murphy Band** will make the trek up from Los Angeles to treat crowds to its modern yet folk-inspired electric fiddle music in **Casa de la Guerra’s** outdoor courtyard. Murphy masterfully fuses bluegrass, jazz, old-time and Celtic influences for a truly original take on the moody sounds of the Emerald Isle. While you’re there check out *Sacred Steps: Pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago* at the **Casa de la Guerra Museum**.

For a more traditional take on Irish music, head up to the corner of **Anapamu and State Street** where the **Foggy Dew Irish Band** will be holding court with classic Irish music, storytelling and traditional step dancing. Led by Willie Quinn, a native of Ireland’s County Kildare, the band will delight audiences with the story of the Irish people through songs of love, war and humor. The harmonic blend of banjo, mandolin, guitar and penny whistles will whisk you back to the old country.

Feeling inspired by all the Irish music? Go ahead and belt out your favorite tune on the **Borders** patio where **DJ “Dyno” Mike** will be spinning karaoke tunes. Serenade the crowds meandering down State Street and gathered on the patio with your favorite song. Or try a tune by U2 in honor of St. Patty’s Day. DJ “Dyno” Mike will provide everything you need to be a star for the evening. Just bring your voice and some attitude.

For a fun new spin on an old Irish myth, 1st Thursday attendees can step right up to the carnival-style “**leprechaun toss**” game at **Paseo Nuevo Place**, where De la Guerra Street meets Paseo Nuevo. Find out if you have the luck of the Irish by tossing a wee leprechaun for a chance to win one of a variety of prizes. Participants can also try their luck by entering the raffle for the “pot of gold.”

Get swept away in the magic of 1st Thursday! March is a great month to get a taste of the variety this program has to offer. Stop into **Channing Peake Gallery** for the opening reception of *The Essential Worker*. Brett Leigh Dicks will curate the photodocumentary honoring the service industries in our community. Or wander over to **Santa Barbara**

Arts for a hands-on workshop on art journaling lead by Deborah Alston Wroblewski. On **Contemporary Arts Forum's** terrace from 7-9 p.m., join Danish performing artists, Johan Carlsson and Morten Sorensen, for *Celebration*, a glimpse at Santa Barbara from a visitor's eyes. Also on the terrace, join in the construction of an inflatable structure of Santa Barbara.

All of the attractions listed above plus many more will be offered during *1st Thursday* on March 6th. With over 30 stops on this month's *1st Thursday* map there is sure to be something for everyone. For more information and a complete listing of the specific programming offered at each gallery, as well as all public performances and interactive exhibits, go to www.santabarbaradowntown.com/go.

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