

## At-home tests now an option in O.C.

The program is part of an effort to make testing for the coronavirus more accessible to residents.

BY BEN BRAZIL

Orange County residents can now test themselves for COVID-19 in the safety of their homes.

The county this week expanded an at-home testing program to the entire county as part of a continuing move to make testing more accessible to residents.

The program began a little over two weeks ago when the county ordered 500,000 at-home tests. The first few weeks were reserved for residents of Santa Ana and Anaheim, the cities hit hardest by the virus.

"We want to make it accessible to all segments of the population," county Supervisor Andrew Do said in an interview. "There are some who may be reluctant to go into a clinic, hospital or drive-through and have to deal with people."

The at-home tests may help stem the worst surge of the virus yet. Like much of the state, cases of the coronavirus have skyrocketed in Orange County.

The county reported 2,613 total cases on Wednesday — the highest single-day total recorded in the county so far. Nearly 60 residents have died from COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, in the last week.

On Friday, the county recorded 2,655 cases and 22 deaths. Only 6.2% of ICU beds were available in Southern California. Orange County and the rest of the Southern California region needs to collectively get its ICU capacity above 15% in order for the lockdown to be lifted.

"People are suffering, businesses are suffering, but we should not lose sight that

See **Tests**, page R2



Photos courtesy of the Shaw family

**SGT. CHARLES J. SHAW II** with Platoon 44, Parris Island, S.C., 1949, where he became the first Black instructor to train an integrated platoon.

## A show at the Bowers Museum remembers Charles J. Shaw II

BY VERA CASTANEDA

**B**renda Matthews likes to be organized. She says it unclutters her mind. Her assortment of color-coded binders in her home and knack for archiving her father Sgt. Charles J. Shaw II's documents proved to be useful to the public too.

"If you look at my house, you see everything is in a binder. You can trace my life all the way in a binder ... it's just a habit of mind or a hobby — whatever you want to call it," Matthews said.

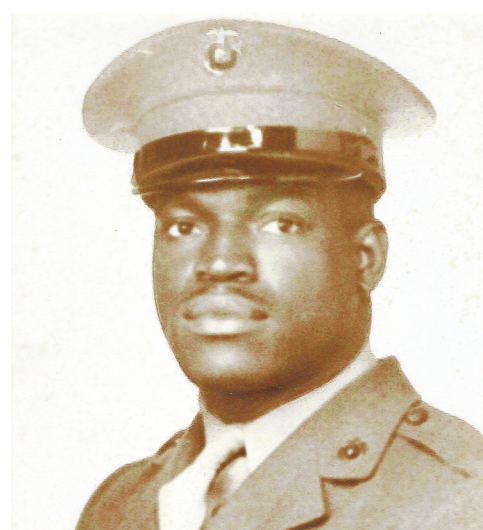
In the fall, the 71-year-old approached the Bowers Museum to see if they were interested in showing Shaw's paraphernalia that told his life story in the military and in Santa Ana's Little Texas.

"I walked in and asked them if they would mind housing it for us for whatever time-frame ... I wanted to highlight my dad and the history from our perspective," Matthews said.

In 1943, Shaw enlisted as a Marine and served as a drill instructor for the nation's only base for Black Marines in Montford Point, N.C. He was transferred to Parris Island, S.C. where he became the first Black instructor to train an integrated platoon. Then in 1953, he was transferred to Camp Pendleton where he worked in the commissary.

After Shaw passed away in 1979, Matthews kept some of his belongings, mostly his military documents. She tried to get her dad awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for years, and the ceremony finally happened on Oct. 10 in at the Friendship Baptist Church in Yorba Linda.

A month later, "Test of Medal: Charles J. Shaw and the Montford Point Marines" exhibit opened at Bowers on Veterans Day. Although the museum couldn't have a big



See **Shaw**, page R7 **CHARLES J. SHAW II** in uniform, circa 1950.

## Chamber Music OC looks toward future with a new facility



Courtesy of Chamber Music OC

**A RENDERING OF** Chamber Music OC's performance space with optimized acoustics and 4k-resolution cameras.

BY VERA CASTANEDA

Gatherings or no gatherings, Chamber Music OC is keeping classical music going in Orange County.

The small chamber music organization bought a 4,000-square-foot property in August, and construction is underway to turn it into a state-of-the-art facility.

The Lake Forest headquarters will house the organization's performance space with optimized acoustics and 4k-resolution cameras enabling events to be live-streamed, a recording studio, multiple sound-proof practice rooms, administrative offices for staff, a common area and a kitchenette.

The property needed to be completely renovated and gutted. Since people in most cities aren't

allowed to meet in person, co-founder and pianist Kevin Kwan Loucks said now is the best time for construction, which he estimates will be completed in early January.

"January is just a soft date that we established in the fall. It's flexible. We're taking our cues from health officials countywide and academia with some of our previous partners like UC Irvine and Chapman," Loucks said.

"In case this drags on for a long time, we're planning on having virtual concerts with multiple camera angles and a director working the cameras. We know that it'll feel professional, like you're there in a lot of ways."

Chamber Music OC staff planned the venue as a space catering to the O.C. community — specifically artists, local organizations, classical music audiences

and students who participate in educational programming. When city and health officials allow, the performance lineup will include guest musicians and a series of collaborations with dancers and spoken word artists.

"In large arts organizations, it can be really tough to start things that are new," Loucks said. "But I think that's ... the beauty and the benefit of being small and scrappy. You can implement things quickly and afford to take the risk."

Staff found support for the arts after the launch of their first capital campaign called Boundless. They funded 70% of their \$125,000 goal in two months. But they've also changed their business model to financially support themselves through educational

See **Music**, page R7

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# Drive-through and walk-in coronavirus antibody testing launches in Santa Ana

BY VERA CASTANEDA

In an effort to trace the coronavirus throughout Orange County, UC Irvine launched antibody testing at 11 sites last summer, but a new effort through Saturday is exclusively focused on Santa Ana, one of the cities most affected by the pandemic.

UC Irvine, Latino Health Access and Santa Ana officials are partnering on antibody testing to determine exposure throughout the city.

Drive-through and walk-in testing involves a questionnaire and a finger-prick blood sample that is sent to a UCI lab where about 12 different coronavirus antibodies as well as four other related viruses are tested. Participants can receive results in a week or two.

Antibody testing determines whether a person was infected with the coronavirus in the past and developed antibodies against it.

Daniel M. Parker, UCI assistant professor and antibody research team member, said the misconception that scares him the most is that people might assume that they are bulletproof and change their behavior after getting their results. Antibody testing doesn't

determine whether a person is immune to infection.

"The real use for [antibody testing] is at a population level to know what the burden has been and the patterns — is it more common in working-age adult males or more common in females?" Parker said. "Using that information, we can tailor the public health outreach efforts."

The goal is to get a close-up picture of what's going on within Santa Ana households.

In the summer, UC Irvine collaborated with the Orange County Health Care Agency to administer antibody testing throughout O.C. at the 11 sites. The purpose was to research age groups, races, ethnicities and economic factors to be representative of the entire county.

About 3,000 people participated in the testing, and researchers found that the county underestimated the number of cases and working-class Latino communities were bearing the brunt of the pandemic.

In the new study, UC Irvine randomly selected Santa Ana households to participate, but the testing sites are also open to any Santa Ana residents ages 5 years and older.

About 140 people showed up on Dec. 5, the

## IF YOU GO

**What:** COVID-19 antibody testing  
**When:** Tuesday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Where:** Saddleback High School  
**Cost:** Free  
**Info:** [santa-ana.org/covid19/antibody-testing](http://santa-ana.org/covid19/antibody-testing)

first day of testing. As of Tuesday night, researchers received about 300 antibody testing samples. Researchers are prepared to test up to 8,000 people.

Latino Health Access staff took over community outreach and are currently working on antibody testing sites located in high schools.

"They've been instrumental at community outreach ... without people knowing what's going on and having some kind of rapport and trust, then you're not going to get good participation," Parker said.

The Santa Ana-based nonprofit, which opened its doors in 1993, partnered with local city officials, school districts, the county health agency and other healthcare nonprofits in a "Latino Health Equity Initiative" COVID-19 response

earlier in this year.

Over the summer, the nonprofit hired new staff to provide testing, outreach, education and referral services. It has used a "promotora" model, or a community peer outreach model, to get critical information and advocacy into working-class neighborhoods like Santa Ana, Anaheim and San Juan Capistrano.

"The intention is to educate and invite. It's not easy to keep up with coronavirus news. All research is an ongoing progress," Karen Sarabia, Latino Health Access program associate, said.

Staff, equipped with PPE, went into the community in person to discuss and leave information about antibody testing sites in grocery stores, schools, churches, laundromats and other businesses. They've also made phone calls to households.

"I hope that people understand that it's an important study in providing more details about a portion of the population that is most affected and how the body is responding to the virus," said Francisca Leal, Latino Health Access program coordinator.

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 Twitter: @vera\_fyd



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**AN ONSITE** physician grabs a completed test from a motorist during drive-up COVID-19 testing for individuals at the Orange County Great Park.

## TESTS

Continued from page R1

there are things we can do today that can determine our future," Do said.

About 10,000 take-home tests were requested on Monday, the first day it was opened to the whole county.

Do anticipates that the 500,000 tests may run out by the end of the month, at which point, the county would consider ordering more tests.

The only requirement to qualify for an at-home test is to be an Orange County resident. Tests are first-come, first-served.

The county is partnering with Aliso Viejo-based Ambry Genetics for the testing. Do said it takes about a day after ordering the test to receive it in the mail. The lab takes about one to two days to process the test.

The tests are saliva-based. Most COVID-19 tests have traditionally been nasal or nasopharyngeal swabs.

Do said the county is one of the first municipalities to use this specific kind of test. Irvine, which provides testing for its own residents, uses a mouth swab test.

Residents can order an at-home kit online or pick one up from a county clinic. The county has in-person testing at its super sites, its Latino Health Equity sites and four state-sponsored locations. Those sites will test people who live and work in Orange County.

Do said the at-home tests help make testing more accessible for the county's residents, which is important in encouraging people to adopt regular testing as a part of their lifestyle.

"I want to have people work that into their lifestyle," Do said. "Whether it be drive-through or going to a clinic or going online, we want to make it as free of barriers as possible."

UC Irvine doctoral student and researcher Julia Zakashansky said at-home tests are necessary to combat the spread of the virus.

Zakashansky and UC Irvine professor Michelle Khine are currently developing an at-home saliva test for COVID-19.

The researchers developed a biosensor that recognizes and binds to the spike protein of the virus. The spike protein is what allows the virus to get into human cells.

The device would be about the size of a USB drive and contains an electrode that reacts to the DNA sequence of the spike protein. When the electrode comes into contact with a part of the sequence, it shows up as a change in current.

The device could be plugged into a phone.

"So what we're trying to allow is for a device that you can use and read yourself, within an hour of actually collecting your saliva," Zakashansky said, comparing it to a pregnancy test.

The research team found through laboratory tests that their method is capable of detecting very low levels of the protein, which can aid in finding the virus in early infections and asymptomatic people, Zakashansky said.

Zakashansky said companies and researchers have been working on de-labelling saliva tests for the coronavirus since the beginning of the pandemic, but it's a very difficult medium to work with.

Eating a cheeseburger, smoking or ingesting any other kind of food or fluid could affect a saliva test.



Glenn Koenig  
 Los Angeles Times

## ORANGE COUNTY

Supervisor Andrew Do hopes that at-home COVID-19 tests can help testing become more accessible to residents.

Zakashansky said it heightens the variability between samples which could confuse a sensor.

The team still has more research to do. So far the team has just worked with the isolated spike protein. They will now need to research how their test works with the inactivated virus.

"So we are waiting to receive the inactivated virus so that we can basically redo what we did with the spike protein that was isolated," Zakashansky said. "But this time, have the actual dead virus to see whether this device still works on a more realistic version of the antigen."

Their method is an antigen test. Traditionally, PCR tests have been considered the gold standard in COVID-19 testing. PCR tests detect RNA, or genetic material.

They are considered more accurate, but it generally takes two to three days to process the tests.

Antigen tests detect protein fragments of the virus. It takes much less time to process these tests, sometimes as little as 15 minutes.

"So antigen tests are notoriously less sensitive and accurate than those traditional PCR tests," Zakashansky said.

"And that's why so many of these antigen tests have had a really hard time entering the market ... Our preliminary results show that we're very, very sensitive to an extent that no one would ever expect antigen tests to be."

Zakashansky said they don't expect to retain that level of accuracy when exposed to real samples, but it will still likely be more sensitive than any other antigen test that has been developed so far.

Processing times can be a real impediment to stopping the spread of COVID-19. While people wait two to three days for their PCR test results, many venture out into the world, further exposing themselves and others.

PCR tests generally need to be processed in a laboratory. Antigen tests require less specialized processing, so they would be perfect for a timely at-home test.

"It's hard to say with the limited amount of data so far that we've gotten across this pandemic, but some people are coming out with the opinion that even if a test is a little less accurate than the gold standard, it's still better to test more frequently, than to do a really accurate test but not as frequently," Zakashansky said. "Anything can happen within the span of a few hours."

To sign up for an at-home test, visit [oc.care.ambrygen.com/#cit/landing](http://oc.care.ambrygen.com/#cit/landing).

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Courtesy of Steve Zylus | UCI

## UC Irvine researchers develop rapid antibody generation technology that could target COVID-19

BY VERA CASTANEDA

When the coronavirus pandemic hit, a team led by UC Irvine and Harvard Medical School researchers started discussing how to apply their ongoing work to the current climate.

The team of 17 people, which also includes researchers from the Ragon

Institute and Duke University Medical Center, were already collaborating on a way to develop rapidly optimized antibodies for about two years.

"We decided to apply it to some coronavirus targets, the S-protein," said Chang Liu, UCI assistant professor of biomedical engineering. "As we were furthering our development of the technology, it's started working very well on these COVID targets."

The result was developing in vitro technology that can rapidly hypermutate antibodies using a strain of yeast — the same strain that ferments wine and makes dough rise. The researchers nicknamed the system AHEAD or autonomous hypermutation yeast surface display in their preprint on [BioRxiv.org](http://BioRxiv.org).

"There are a lot of drugs on the market, which are basically antibodies ... These are used for treating inflammatory diseases, autoimmune diseases and cancer. It's an extremely large industry with sales every year of about \$100 billion," Liu said.

But generating effective antibodies isn't easy.

Typically, researchers prefer animal immune systems because of its evolutionary process that allows animals to produce effective antibodies over time.

The process involves injecting animals with antigens (meaning viruses, bacteria, chemical or pollen) and analyzing how their immune systems respond with antibodies.

The AHEAD system mimics the same process as animal immune systems.

Liu said there are a lot of reasons why people don't want to rely on animals to generate antibodies — animal welfare concerns, the costs associated working with animals like llamas and the inability to target specific antigens.

"The significance with this system is we have the best of both worlds — a non-animal antibody generation system that can also contain the same evolutionary power as immune systems naturally do," Liu said. "We can throw [any antigen] against it and we should be able to evolve good antibodies."

The team is currently working on encoding the AHEAD technology into libraries in the OrthoRep system which would allow researchers to have access and test antigens.

They are also taking a preemptive approach to the possible evolution of the coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2,

**BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING** postdoctoral scholar Alon Wellner works in Chang Liu's lab at UC Irvine.

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# Garden Grove nonprofit provides rental assistance and food as pandemic leaves many people in need

BY BEN BRAZIL

As the pandemic economy continues to claim new victims, the Community Action Partnership of Orange County is providing utility and rental assistance, food and other support services to those in need.

As the operator of the OC Food Bank — one of the two major food banks in the county — CAP normally delivers about 25 million pounds of food a year. That number has significantly increased.

CAP President and Chief Executive Gregory Scott said the number of boxes delivered to seniors nearly doubled at one point.

As the unemployment rate increased dramatically in the early summer and has tapered down to about 9%, Scott said CAP has been able to be there for the Orange County community, though the organization is also figuring out how to adjust to the pandemic like any other business.

"We probably had a 400% increase in the amount of food that we were giving out and unemployment went through the roof," Scott said.

"We went from 2.4% unemployment to probably close to 19% unemployment in a matter of 30 days, let alone those who are underemployed. So all of that kind of came together and we are very grateful that we were in position to help feed people."

Aside from providing food to the community, CAP, which is based in Garden Grove, has also offered rental assistance, which has been funded by a CARES grant from the county and the city of Santa Ana.

Scott said they have been providing one-time support payments for individuals and also ongoing support to those who need it.

Many of CAP's clients come from low-income neighborhoods in Santa



Courtesy of CAP OC

**GREGORY SCOTT** is the president of the Community Action Partnership of Orange County.

Ana and Anaheim that have been hit hard by the pandemic.

But Scott said CAP is also seeing many new clients from areas like Costa Mesa and Irvine.

Some of these clients, he said, are the "newly vulnerable." They include people who used to make six figures and are now waiting in line at the food bank.

CAP is also offering workshops online that provide guidance on workforce development and financial empowerment.

Anaheim resident Norma Bernal found help in the nonprofit's Healthy Marriage and Families program, where she learned about managing finances, creating a resume and personal acceptance.

CAP has provided support to Bernal throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

When the restaurant Bernal works at closed in the early days of the pandemic, she was in dire straits. She had to continue taking care of the two nieces who lived with her without an income.

CAP was there to provide Bernal with rental assistance, and she was able to keep food on the table with the help of the OC Food Bank.

"They helped me a lot,"



Courtesy of CAP OC

**A VOLUNTEER** helps at the Community Action Partnership of OC Food Bank, one of the largest food banks in the county.

Bernal said. "They helped me believe again that there are good people out there."

Then in July, Bernal was diagnosed with COVID-19 after struggling to breathe

hours at her restaurant job and has saved some money. She said she doesn't require as much financial assistance but continues to use the food bank.

**"We went from 2.4% unemployment to probably close to 19% unemployment in a matter of 30 days, let alone those who are underemployed."**

— Gregory Scott

CAP president and chief executive

through the night. She was forced to quarantine with her nieces and once again was unable to work.

CAP delivered food to her door. "They brought food for my girls and for myself. I was so thankful," Bernal said.

Since then, Bernal has been able to work more

As the number of people in need like Bernal continues to grow, the demand for CAP's resources increase. CAP has been able to keep up with the increased demand through donations from private organizations.

"I can go down the line of different companies that

really stepped up to really support our efforts," Scott said. "... We were only able to survive because of our partners, and our funding partners in particular, because we had to buy more food."

However, Scott has concerns that CAP may not be able to keep up as the pandemic continues to fuel high unemployment rates.

The amount of people needing assistance from CAP may increase as many individuals who enrolled in unemployment have now run out of payments.

Orange County's economic recovery may also be stalled because thousands of jobs are linked to the tourism industry, he said.

Scott is worried that the organizations that came to CAP's aid early in the pandemic may not be able to provide financial help in the near future as those businesses suffer losses.

"If the economy is being challenged, that means a lot of corporations we normally get money from are being challenged too," Scott said. "We live and die based on donations ... We're concerned about 2021 and 2022."

Scott also said that funding for the rental assistance program ends in a few months.

"We have to hope that there's going to be additional funding for those programs to continue, so we can continue to help the thousand people we do help through rental assistance," Scott said.

For more information on the fundraiser, visit [capoc.org/hope-for-the-holidays/](http://capoc.org/hope-for-the-holidays/).

To donate to the Community Action Partnership of Orange County, visit [capoc.org/donate/](http://capoc.org/donate/).

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# Some Orange County leaders, restaurant owners strike defiant pose against stay-at-home order

BY SARA CARDINE

Orange County officials and business owners are actively campaigning against a stay-at-home order mandating Californians halt nonessential business and travel starting Monday, calling the rules too punitive and impractical to enforce.

In a demonstration Monday outside Costa Mesa shopping complex Triangle Square, a contingent of small business owners, restaurateurs and supporters rallied against parts of the mandate that would force restaurants to stop offering outdoor dining to patrons.

Alex Petrosian, owner of La Vida Cantina, said he feels restaurants are being unfairly targeted by the new coronavirus restrictions, which make provisions for retailers to continue to operate at 20% capacity, while “essential” operate at 50% capacity.

“It’s not fair that my employees are not deemed essential and cannot provide a living for their families,” Petrosian said. “We feel we can be responsible and provide for our employees without increasing the risk.”

Petrosian is one of several local restaurant owners who say they will continue offering outdoor dining, despite restrictions against it. Another is chef Andrew Gruel of Slapfish in Huntington Beach.

Gruel said Thursday in a video on Twitter he’s already spent a small fortune on plexiglass dividers and outdoor heating lamps in an attempt to comply with ever-changing orders, without compensation. He explained his decision to continue offering outdoor dining.

“There is zero scientific evidence that proves outdoor dining is contributing to a rise in [co-



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**VALENTINA MOLLI**, center, and Lindsey Lobianco, right, who work in the restaurant and cosmetic industries, respectfully, protest against the stay-at-home order at Triangle Square in Costa Mesa on Monday.

ronavirus] cases,” he said. “I can go on a plane. I can go to Walmart. I can go get a pink cock-a-too for my Christmas tree, but I cannot go and dine outdoors in a restaurant — screw that, we’re staying open.”

California Department of Public Health officials announced Dec. 5 Southern California’s regional ICU bed availability had dropped below 15%, triggering the closure of personal care services and all indoor and outdoor dining at restaurants in the affected areas, including Orange and Los Angeles counties.

While schools were allowed to remain open Monday, nonessential retail businesses were to limit capacity to 20%, while cardrooms and casinos, museums, zoos and aquariums, movie theaters and wineries were to close immediately. The mandate is to last three weeks, at which time officials will review cases further.

Several county officials have criticized the order for lumping Orange into a region with 10 other disparate jurisdictions, some of which have higher infection rates and COVID-19 hospitali-

zations, and for causing undue hardships on area business owners.

Orange County Sheriff Don Barnes confirmed Dec. 5 deputies would not enforce the mandates.

“Compliance with health orders is a matter of personal responsibility and not a matter of law enforcement,” Barnes said in a release. “Orange County Sheriff’s deputies will not be dispatched to, or respond to, calls for service to enforce compliance with face coverings, social gatherings or stay-at-home-orders.”

Orange County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Michelle Steel — recently elected to the 48th U.S. Congressional District — said Friday the lockdown was not based on any clear standard or science.

“The governor has been clamping down on our residents’ ability to provide for themselves and their families for weeks, with no evidence it has slowed the spread,” Steel said in a statement, adding the mandate would only worsen unemployment and rates of depression.

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Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

**FERIN KIDD** started the activist group Black OC and recently finished a documentary that provides a view of the protests in Minneapolis after the death of George Floyd.

# O.C. activist’s documentary follows Minneapolis protests

BY BEN BRAZIL

After Ferin Kidd saw the footage of the death of George Floyd while in custody of Minneapolis police, he flew to the city to document a civil movement that would spread throughout the country.

The footage he gathered of the protests is featured in a documentary he recently finished, “Bang 4 Change.”

The roughly 45-minute documentary follows Kidd and a fellow activist named Ashley through the streets of Minneapolis as protesters march against police brutality.

The film provides a ground-level glimpse of the historic protests.

“Like many people, when I saw the footage I was hurt, angry, and though I didn’t know what I could do, I knew I needed to do something,” Kidd said in the film. “So I grabbed my camera, packed a bag and booked a one-way flight to Minneapolis.”

Kidd filmed, narrated, directed and edited the film. He raised about \$3,500 for his documentary with a GoFundMe campaign.

The narrative of the documentary took form when he met Ashley during a protest. Ashley, a Black woman, was challenging white protesters for destroying property.

Her actions resonated

with Kidd.

“I was able to find a woman on the protest line who was advocating a lot of the things that I believe in as far as how people were protesting,” Kidd said in a phone interview.

“She was holding people accountable, particularly the allies for a lot of the destructive behavior that they were engaging in, letting them know that if you guys are all here for us, for Black people, that you need to support positively and protest positively.”

“Because at the end of the day, the destructive behaviors isn’t going to be blamed on the people who were largely doing it, which were white kids, it’s going to be blamed on Black men.”

As the national movement to end police brutality has progressed since Floyd’s death, Kidd has emerged as a prominent activist and charismatic community leader, providing a unifying voice for the Black community through his organization Black OC.

Kidd organized a large protest in Santa Ana at Sasser Park, also known as Black Panther Park, in the days after Floyd’s death.

Kidd’s activism was formed while serving a 10-year sentence for armed robbery. He spent his time in prison educating himself on civil rights and learning spiritual strength and grounding through

practicing Islam.

“Going into prison, I knew I for sure couldn’t return to a life of crime and that I needed to figure something out,” Kidd said. “I went in there, and I treated prison like it was a school. Some of the older brothers I talked to in the county jail getting ready to go into prison, they said they call the penitentiary a university. They said that ‘you should come out of this situation stronger in mind, body and soul.’”

Kidd is hoping to screen his film in an outdoor, rooftop location in Santa Ana this month.

He said he’s also aiming to organize a social-justice workshop to go along with the documentary.

“We are going to be the generation that gets to see the changes that we all want to see,” Ferin said into the camera toward the end of the film.

“We are going to see a better nation that’s based in unity and support of its community, not based in division and destruction and harassment of communities of color. I guarantee that.”

“Nobody can do everything, everybody can do something. Make sure you all are doing your best. And over here, we bang for change.”

For more information, visit [bang4change.org](http://bang4change.org).

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# Seegerstrom Center forced to reschedule December events after stay-at-home-order

BY SARA CARDINE

Seegerstrom Center for the Arts has announced it will cancel or postpone most outdoor performances and large events scheduled at its Julianne and George Argyros Plaza in December, due to the recently issued stay-at-home order and rising coronavirus cases.

As such, a performance last Friday by Broadway singer Megan Hilty, of NBC’s musical drama “Smash,” was rescheduled to Feb. 13, 2021, while a Nutcracker Tea Party fundraiser planned for Saturday and Sunday will now be held in a virtual format.

Two holiday-themed movie nights — a Dec. 18 viewing of the movie “Elf” and “Frosty & Rudolph” on

Dec. 19 — have been canceled. However, appearances by Grammy Award-winning producer and vocalist Steve Tyrell, scheduled for Dec. 29 and 30, are currently set to run as planned until further notice.

While state restrictions prohibit performances and gatherings of people, some allowances are made in the guidelines for outdoor activities.

Therefore, the center will offer its planned outdoor yoga classes on Wednesday from 4 to 5 p.m. Participants will be assigned their own distanced space, and masks are required.

“[Our] most important goal is to create an environment in which our audiences, artists, volunteers, students and staff

feel safe,” officials said in a release issued Monday. “We appreciate the leadership of our public officials and will continue to monitor the situation as it evolves to ensure the health and well-being of all residents of Orange County.”

Patrons who have already purchased tickets will have the value of the ticket added to their Seegerstrom account as a credit they can apply to future purchases.

Seegerstrom Center for the Arts is at 615 Town Center Drive in Costa Mesa.

For more information and updates, visit [scfta.org](http://scfta.org) or call (714) 556-2787.

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**SHAW**

*Continued from page R1*

event for the opening, Shaw's family members had a chance to see the display.

"Charles Shaw was a pioneer and this exhibit really becomes a 1958 Santa Ana story ... He was one of these important guiding members of Santa Ana. It's something so near and dear to the city and, of course, it's got this larger national importance as well," Mark Bustamante, the Bowers' assistant curator of collections, said.

The show, located in the floor gallery of the museum, consists of photos, a video and Shaw's personal possessions including Marine patches and medals with the Congressional Gold Medal as the centerpiece. Putting the exhibit together involved interviews with the Montford Point Marine Assn., Matthews as well as her siblings and uncle.

"I had known a few things about Black culture in Santa Ana. But really in speaking to Brenda for the first time, I learned so much about this community that you never hear about," Bustamante said. The other significant part of Shaw's life was the Bar-B-Que Pit. After Shaw was transferred to Camp Pendleton, his family moved to Santa Ana where he and his friend, Jim Jones, opened one of the first Black-owned businesses in



*Courtesy of Shaw family*

**THE BAR-B-QUE PIT**, one of the first Black-owned businesses in the city, operated in Santa Ana until March 2018.

the city.

Matthews, whose parents are from Elgin, Texas, said the Bar-B-Que Pit was among the only three Texas-style barbecue restaurants at the time.

Black-owned businesses were located around Bristol Street. In the 1960s, most O.C. Black residents didn't live outside of what was known as Little Texas in Santa Ana. Real estate agents and police officers enforced segregation, and by necessity the city and businesses like the Bar-B-Que Pit became important cultural hubs.

"It just became the spot to go to in Orange County, especially if you're Black," Matthews said. "We had military people and celebrities coming in from L.A. and around the area."

Celebs like Redd Foxx stopped by to eat their signature dishes — sweet potato pie, potato salad and homemade sausage. Matthews' siblings also recall community leaders and town politicians stopping by to ask their dad about his opinion on city matters.

Matthews jokes that her parents broke labor laws

with her five siblings. When she was in high school, her job every week was to roll out 500 pie crusts by hand and prep about 200 pounds of potatoes for the homemade potato salad.

Family members operated the Bar-B-Que Pit, which was located at 305 North Hesperian St., until Shaw's death. Although the family kept ownership through 2018, Fred Burrell took over the day-to-day restaurant operation. Now, the Bar-B-Que Pit location is a rental property.

The exhibit was set to be on view until Jan. 10 but the

museum closed adhering to stay-at-home restrictions in the county during the pandemic. The seven-minute video, with Matthews narrating her father's life story, is available online along with blog posts that the perspectives of Shaw's children.

On Jan. 2 and 3, the museum will show a pre-recorded presentation by L.E. Johnson, U.S. Marine Corps retiree and Montford Point Marine Assn. vice president, focusing on Shaw's life and social change within the Marine Corps. On Jan. 10 and 11,

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**LITTLE TEXAS: THE SOUL OF SANTA ANA WITH KEVIN CABRERA**

**When:** Jan. 10 and Jan. 11 (pre-recorded presentation is viewable for 24 hours)

**Where:** Online  
**Cost:** general \$10, member \$5

**Info:** [bowers.org](http://bowers.org)

former director of the Heritage Museum Kevin Cabrera is slated to speak about Little Texas in a virtual format lecture.

"The good news with my daughters is that they discovered that they have their grandpa on the other side who won a gold medal in the Olympics and then their grandfather on this side of the family who won the Congressional Gold Medal," Matthews said. "They finally get what I'm trying to tell them — you can do anything. You got pedigree. That's empowering and they take that to heart."

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**A RENDERING** of Chamber Music OC's lobby in its new Lake Forest headquarters.



*Courtesy of Chamber Music OC*

**MUSIC**

*Continued from page R1*

programming and (in the future) rental opportunities of the venue.

The organization started in 2012 when Loucks and violinist Iryna Krechkovsky (who are married to each other) moved from New York to Irvine. The goal was to highlight chamber music appreciation and education. Staff, which includes cellist Ross Gasworth and director of operations April Kim, who started out as an intern, transformed their free artist program into a pre-college program with a pay model.

Although the coronavirus pandemic ended the concert season, it didn't put a stop to the pre-college program. In fact, this year was the organization's most successful recruitment cycle drawing in local kids and those living farther away in Temecula and San Diego.

The curriculum is focused on portfolio development, essay editing, audition tapes and counseling through the college application process. In the past, the students have been accepted into music programs at Juilliard, Harvard, Stanford and Princeton.

"In a weird sense, this virtual world has put us all even closer together and access to musicians became even easier," Krechkovsky said.

They've recently partnered with Laguna Beach Live! and the Susi Q Senior Center to bring pre-college program students to perform for seniors through monthly Zoom sessions.

"It's an incredible opportunity for our young artists to engage with the senior members," said Kim, who helps facilitate the Zoom performances. "Our new headquarters will be a perfect place to gather different organizations just like this and bring our community partners to collaborate with."

Another new program launched this year includes visual artist-in-residence, which highlights an artist every year. For 2020-21, they've selected Seung Yoon Choi, a Korean abstract painter, and commis-

sioned him to create an original work inspired by "If Beethoven Danced Merengue" written by Cristina Spinei and performed by Trio Céleste (the chamber music ensemble composed of Gasworth, Krechkovsky and Loucks).

"We're motivated to impart some of our knowledge to the next generation of musicians and really want to ensure that this art continues," Krechkovsky said. "Whether you're going to pursue it as a future career or not, what it can do and the value of the arts — we've seen it, we believe it and I think we're also committed to making sure we'll continue to do what we need to keep it alive."

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**RESEARCH**

*Continued from page R2*

that causes COVID-19.

"Once an outbreak turns into a pandemic, you also run the risk that the virus itself is going to evolve," Liu said. "As you throw treatments against it and as humans develop immunity against the virus, it might also be able to learn how to mutate so that it doesn't respond to those treatments or existing immunity."

Although that hasn't come to pass yet, the AHEAD technology could accelerate the response in research.

"We're interested in the long game for this as well," Liu added.

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