

TimesOC

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Stories

Anaheim Central Library is the host and hub of O.C.'s zine community.

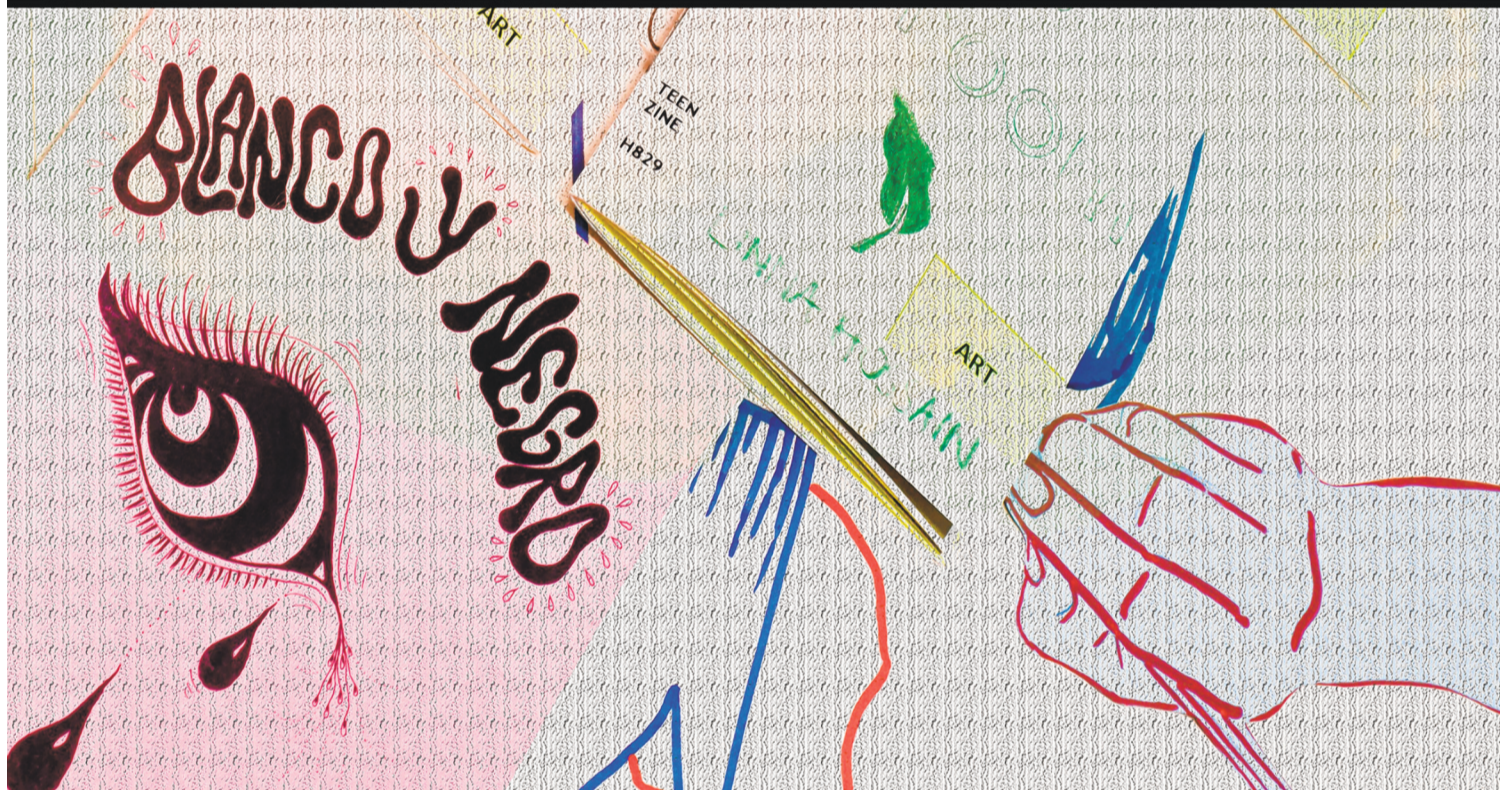
BY GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

On the second floor of Anaheim Central Library rests a collection available for checkout unlike any other. Beneath a colorful banner announcing “zines,” works of local history, poetry, literature, politics and comics populate the shelves. A sign defines the slim and stapled offerings as “self-published,” “made by hand,” and “part of California’s subculture.” A donation box invites zine makers to drop off their own creations in

See *Zine*, page R6

A HANDMADE PUBLICATION titled “Tia Northgate Zine” is one of many that can be checked out from the Anaheim Central Library.

Courtesy of the Anaheim Central Library



County health official urges caution

“We’re not out of the woods yet,” a doctor warns, saying the newest COVID-19 surge may peak in September.

BY BEN BRAZIL

As Orange County contends with its third COVID-19 surge, hospitalizations may peak in the first few weeks of September.

Orange County health officials provided updates on the local response to the pandemic during two virtual news conferences this week organized by county Supervisor Katrina Foley.

Dr. Regina Chinsio-Kwong, deputy health officer with the O.C. Health Care Agency, said the county should be peaking about now in terms of cases, which means hospitalizations should peak in the first couple of weeks of September due to a weeks-long delay between cases and hospitalizations.

“So we’re not out of the woods yet, and people really need to be very careful in the next coming weeks,” Chinsio-Kwong said.

The county health officer also said the current surge more closely mirrors last year’s summer surge. The summer surge last year peaked at about 700 hospitalizations, while the winter surge had over 2,000 hospitalizations. As of Friday, there were 571 hospitalizations due to COVID-19 in Orange County.

“The hope is that we don’t mirror what happened in the winter, and hopefully the vaccinations will dampen the peak of the hospitalization, that’s the goal,” Chinsio-Kwong said.

Orange County saw a steep increase in cases on Wednesday with 1,213 daily reported cases, nearly double the 668 cases posted on Tuesday. Another 572 positive cases were reported Thursday and 820 on Friday.

Chinsio-Kwong said that the cases in past surges were seen largely in older populations. However, the cases in the current surge are predominately among younger people, who have re-

See *COVID-19*, page R4

California National Guard plans 99-acre solar farm in Los Alamitos

The proposed project is part of the U.S. military’s recognition of climate change and effort to reduce its carbon footprint while providing an alternate energy source during natural disasters.

BY DANIEL LANGHORNE

The California National Guard is studying the environmental impacts of installing 99 acres of solar panels at Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos that would shrink the base’s carbon footprint while also providing a resilient energy source in the wake of disasters.

If the regional power grid goes down for an extended period following a major earthquake, the base could tap stored battery energy to support civilian and military emergency responses. Los Alamitos Army Air Field is the only military airport in Greater Los Angeles, making it a strategic

hub for service members arriving from other states.

“Emergency response is a critical mission of the California National Guard,” Lt. Col. Manju Vig, garrison commander of Joint Forces Training Base, said in a statement. “However, timely and proactive response is predicated on the availability of a secure energy source.”

In addition to military operations, the base is hosting a CH-47 helicopter leased by the Orange County Fire Authority that’s capable of dropping up to 3,000 gallons of water in a single pass. The aircraft’s crew has already had a



Courtesy of the California National Guard

See *Guard*, page R4

AN AERIAL RENDERING shows proposed fields of solar panels on both sides of Los Alamitos Army Airfield.

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Photos courtesy of Chabad Center

THE NEW Chabad Center for Jewish Life in Newport Beach celebrates its opening today.

Chabad Center for Jewish Life opening new facility

Over the course of the pandemic, many have come to rely on the social programs offered by the Chabad Center for Jewish Life.

The center is celebrating the opening of its 20,000-square-foot Newport Beach building with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 2:30 p.m. Sunday. The grand opening is touted as an outdoor event.

"The pandemic has only underscored the vital need for the services Chabad provides to the community," said Rabbi Reuven Mintz, who co-directs the Chabad Center for Jewish Life with his wife, Chani.

"The new center will enable us to meet their needs, and continue to expand our religious, social and humanitarian services."

The Chabad Center will feature a sanctuary, social hall, classrooms and libraries.

The center will be home to the Friendship Circle Center for Special Needs, a nondenominational organization that offers support, programming and resources for more than 300 people with special needs and their families.

The center for special needs will feature an instructional culinary



THE NEW Chabad Center for Jewish Life will feature a sanctuary, social hall, classrooms and libraries.

kitchen to teach food preparation safety so people with special needs can find employment in the industry.

The center also has an art therapy studio to help people express their creativity. A multisensory therapy room will offer a quiet space for those who suffer from sensory hypersensitivity or sensory processing disorder.

"Each and every person — regardless of their abilities and needs — has a unique mission in this world," said Chani Mintz. "Friendship Circle helps people with special needs gain the skills they will use in their mission in life.

This past year has seen unprecedented expansion in the number of people Friendship Circle serves, and we're excited to be able to share the new resources that will come along with the center."

The center will also house the Orange County Holocaust Educational Center, featuring more than 700 artifacts from the Auschwitz concentration camp. The artifacts — including items from the crematoriums, prison uniforms and fencing — were collected by Holocaust survivor Mel Mermelstein.

For more information, visit jewishnewport.com.
— From staff reports

2 more O.C. cities may elect to join community choice energy programs

BY BEN BRAZIL

Two more Orange County cities are considering joining community choice energy programs to increase local use of renewable energy and potentially lower rates for residents.

San Clemente decided at a Tuesday night meeting to look into the feasibility of joining an existing community choice energy group. Also this week, Aliso Viejo discussed the energy programs during a study session meeting.

Community choice energy, or CCE, is at the forefront of a California energy revolution. More than 200 cities have adopted a CCE program as climate change continues to devastate with wildfires, drought and high temperatures.

As California begins exploring ways to become carbon neutral by 2035, cities are faced with quickly finding ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The issue has become all the more crucial following a report from the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which called climate change a "code red for humanity" that is already being felt across the world and will only continue to accelerate.

Orange County cities have for the last year been considering CCE programs as climate change has become a more important issue for residents.

A Chapman University survey found this year that 79% of respondents consider the threat of climate change to be a serious problem.

CCE programs provide cities with an alternative to major energy providers like Southern California Edison, the energy titan serving most of Orange County and the region.

Through a CCE, local governments can retain control of purchasing power, setting rates and collecting revenue, though the local utility still maintains the electrical grid.

CCEs can choose to purchase more renewable en-

ergy sources, limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

The Orange County Power Authority is the first CCE in Orange County.

It includes Huntington Beach, Buena Park, Fullerton and Irvine, which spearheaded the effort. Irvine and Fullerton agreed to form the O.C. Power Authority in late November. Irvine has agreed to fund the program through 2022.

Buena Park, Lake Forest and Huntington Beach joined the O.C. Power Authority in December. Other cities have expressed interest in potentially joining the CCE.

The Lake Forest City Council chose to drop out of the authority earlier this year. That decision sparked controversy as Voice of OC reported that the mayor has connections to Southern California Gas Co.

The Laguna Beach City Council voted last month to pursue joining a CCE, but it's considering options outside the O.C. Power Authority.

During the city meeting, San Clemente officials seemed to favor the north San Diego Clean Energy Alliance over the power authority.

City Manager Erik Sund mentioned that the O.C. Power Authority has faced scrutiny for transparency issues and high staff salaries. Sund commended the energy alliance for not prematurely hiring permanent staff.

In recent weeks, the O.C. Power Authority has also drawn criticism for how committed it is to renewable energy and the qualifications of its chief executive Brian Probolsky.

"We should note too that the rates were actually lower than regular rates," Councilman Chris Duncan said of the energy alliance. "They don't have the drama, and they're also [San Diego Gas & Electric], so they're a more natural fit anyway."

San Clemente already receives power from San Diego Gas & Electric. Duncan agendized the item with the support of Mayor Kathleen Ward.

With the council's support, the city will pay a consultant \$5,000 to study the feasibility and then present the findings to the council in four to six weeks.

Following a study session, the Aliso Viejo City Council decided to have council members email questions to CCE programs.

Once the council receives answers, the city will choose how to move forward, whether that be holding another study session or agendizing a vote on the issue. Council members were given a deadline of a month to send their questions.

San Clemente and Aliso Viejo drew favor from notable environmentalist voices in the community.

In a letter addressed to the San Clemente City Council, Ayn Craciun, a policy advocate with the local Climate Action Campaign, praised San Clemente for its consideration of joining a CCE and urged it to join a group that offers 100% renewable energy, promotes transparency and demonstrates good government practices.

"San Clemente has a unique opportunity to lead South County cities toward a clean energy future," Craciun wrote.

"We urge the city to have proactive conversations with CCEs in the region and join the regional movement to 100% clean energy."

UC Irvine professor Kathleen Treseder, who co-founded the group O.C. Clean Power, also thanked Aliso Viejo in a letter addressed to the council for considering joining a CCE and recommended that the city not join the O.C. Power Authority due to lack of faith in the group's leadership.

"In the meanwhile, a number of other CCE programs are available to Aliso Viejo, such as the Clean Energy Alliance, San Diego Community Power and the Clean Power Alliance," she wrote.

benjamin.brazil@latimes.com
Twitter: @benbrazil

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Professor Rose
Anne Kings, right,
receives 50
reconditioned
laptops donated
to students
during an Aug. 12
visit to
Irvine-based
firm LPA.

Courtesy of
LPA Irvine

Orange Coast College students get support from Irvine firm's gift of 50 refurbished laptops

BY SARA CARDINE

After a year of learning the fundamentals of architecture remotely during the pandemic, a group of students at Orange Coast College was looking forward to getting back to in-person classes in the new school year, but there was just one problem.

Many of them didn't have regular and reliable access to computers or were forced to work from old units that couldn't support the programs they were accustomed to using on campus.

In a discipline that relies heavily on computer-assisted animation and design software, the setback was a serious one.

Hoping to give students a leg up as they returned to campus for the first time in a year and a half, OCC's Architecture Department reached out to the American Institute of Architects' Orange County chapter to see if a local firm might be willing to assist students by donating some much-needed equipment.

Irvine-based sustainable design architecture firm LPA answered the call.

Working with a grant from its charitable giving arm, the LPA Foundation, a team of 13 firm members secured the necessary computer hardware, parts, batteries and tools and then volunteered their time to refurbish the units.

Employees removed outdated batteries from decommissioned laptops and installed fresh ones, reset the computers to factory settings and installed the software OCC students would be using in their classes during the 2021-22 school year.

The reconditioned laptops were handed off recently during a visit to the Irvine firm. Orange Coast Architecture Professor Rose Ann Kings said the donation came just in time for students set to start classes.

"Many currently have either no access to laptops or have laptops that are incapable of running any design programs — these laptops will make a

tremendous difference for them," Kings said in an LPA news release Tuesday.

"We are so incredibly grateful for the opportunity to provide so many of them with the technology they need to succeed."

Ozzie Tapia, an associate at LPA, said in the release his firm was honored to help reduce some of the financial burden that would otherwise have been borne by students who've already been impacted by the pandemic.

"It's important to LPA to help mentor and support the next generation of architecture and engineering professionals," Tapia stated.

The laptop donation is the latest project supported by the LPA Foundation. Team members previously packaged 12,744 meals for the local nonprofit Rise Against Hunger and helped construct homes for Habitat for Humanity's international "Women's Build Week."

sara.cardine@latimes.com
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Photos by Don Leach | Staff Photographer

SHERMAN GARDENS senior horticulturist Carol Younger touches-up the "parlor" couch in the greenHOUSE exhibit.

SHERMAN GARDENS BRINGS THE INDOORS OUTDOORS

BY SARA CARDINE

If, on a perfect summer day, you've ever wished you could drag your bed, sofa or reading chair outside and fall asleep under a slowly darkening sky, then you'll want to catch the latest seasonal exhibit at Sherman Gardens.

Running through Sept. 12, greenHOUSE brings the indoors outdoors by reimagining areas within the 2.5-acre Corona del Mar property as different living spaces one

might find within a home, but with a decidedly botanical twist.

It's almost easy to miss, as a domestic theme subtly twists and turns through sections of the garden and furniture pieces lurk under fuzzy brown-green beds of moss, or a living vegetable garden with creeping sweet potato vines, or thick slabs of sod.

But once you know what to look for, the discoveries (and the photo ops) are endless. Peer into bathtub filled with fleshy pond plants or watch dragonflies flit around a



A GARDEN grows through the centerpiece while gardening tools are used as utensils on a formal dining room table display.



A CLEVER botanical twist on a latrine in the lavatory display at the greenHOUSE exhibit at Sherman Gardens.

toilet in a pond replete with lotus blossoms. Pick out a tune on a moss covered piano or kick back in an outdoor study succulently decorated with, of course, succulents.

Sherman Library and Gardens Executive Director Scott LaFleur said greenHOUSE reflects a recent trend toward attracting families and younger visitors looking for unique experiences and settings, something sparked by the gardens' popular Nights of 1,000 Lights holiday display.

See **Gardens**, page R6

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CONTACT US

Erik Haugli
Deputy Editor
erik.haugli@latimes.com

Raymond Arroyo
Advertising Director
(714) 966-4608
ray.arroyo@latimes.com

Online
timesoc.com
Social Media
@timesocofficial

Address
10540 Talbert Ave.,
Suite 300 West,
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Business Office
(714) 966-4600
Newsroom
(714) 966-4699

Email
dailypilot@latimes.com
TCN Classifieds
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Wally Skalij | Los Angeles Times

PEDESTRIANS WALK in Huntington Beach as Orange County deals with a COVID-19 surge.

COVID-19

Continued from page R1

ceived fewer vaccinations than the older population. The case rate in children and teens is highest among 15- to 18-year-olds, she said.

The O.C. Health Care Agency is currently tracking the case counts in schools and providing that data online.

"We do have a lot more work to do on the youth in our community in terms of helping to encourage them to get vaccinated," Foley said.

Chinsio-Kwong said the case count can vary from day to day, so it's important to wait a few weeks to see a pattern. "After tracking this almost on a daily basis through the last year, what we see is it ebbs and flows," Chinsio-Kwong said.

"When you finally see the pattern, then you have to wait and see, is it really a pattern or just the day-to-day ebb and flow."

Chinsio-Kwong also urged people to wear masks indoors and outdoors to be

cautious because the Delta variant has proven to be contagious for both vaccinated and unvaccinated people.

In response to a question from the media regarding an increase in breakthrough cases in the county, Chinsio-Kwong outlined why the vaccine helps strengthen responses to COVID-19 but doesn't fully fortify the body against the virus.

"What we're seeing is that people who have been vaccinated have much milder illness because they already have that immune defense internally to immediately fight ... the immune system's appropriately reacting and you're not really getting severe illness," she said.

"Whereas if you have no vaccine, what it will do is you'll have the virus get into the mucous membranes of your nose, will travel deeper into the bloodstream and your immune system will then really flare up ... But what we know about COVID is ... it's stealthy and it evades our immune system and so

it causes more severe illness."

She mentioned that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are recommending a booster shot because there's a decline in the strength of the vaccine after about eight months.

She said that the administration of the booster will likely be similar to how it is now, in drugstores and pharmacies. The county is not intending to open up its mass vaccination sites again, though it will still have its mobile vaccine units available.

"Because at this point there's adequate vaccine distributed through many different pharmacies, different hospitals, different clinics," she said. "We're still trying to get more clinics signed up to administer, but we feel that there's adequate resources to deliver the vaccine throughout all of our different communities."

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GUARD

Continued from page R1

busy summer helping put out blazes in Los Angeles and Orange counties.

To guarantee military aviation and other critical operations in Los Alamitos, soldiers would fire up diesel-powered generators in the event of a power outage, said Col. Richard Lalor, a spokesperson for the California State Guard.

The solar microgrid project, expected to break ground as early as next year, is roughly divided in half between sections of the base, according to aerial renderings provided by the Guard. One patch of solar arrays would be west of the Navy Golf Course in Cypress and north of Lampson Avenue. The other would run along the base's western fence line near the Cherry Street neighborhood of Los Alamitos.

California National Guard officials declined to provide an estimated cost of construction. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is expected to lease the land

to a private developer that would construct and operate the microgrid, according to an environmental notice.

Despite its vast fleets of gas-guzzling vehicles and aircraft, the U.S. military has recognized climate change as a national security threat for years. In April, U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin III described the threat's severity in grim terms.

"We face all kinds of threats in our line of work, but few of them truly deserve to be called existential. The climate crisis does," he said in a statement, adding that "climate change is making the world more unsafe, and we need to act."

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2010 requires that military bases produce or procure 25% of their total energy needs from renewable sources by Fiscal Year 2025. Even though the California National Guard is a state-controlled agency, the Los Alamitos base sits on federal land placing it under federal policy recognizing

that diverse energy supplies will make the military more resilient at a lower cost to taxpayers.

The project will enhance the Army's effectiveness by providing power for critical missions during an electrical grid outage, Robert Hughes, acting executive director for the Army Office of Energy Initiatives, said in a statement.

"[It] will also increase power reliability during normal operations by alleviating transmission line congestion, which makes this a win for the installation, the Army, and the larger community," Hughes said.

Members of the public are invited to share feedback by Aug. 24 on possible impacts from the installation of solar panels and related infrastructure.

Send comments to Douglas Bryceson, California Army National Guard, 3900 Roseville Road, North Highlands, CA 95660 or via email to douglas.a.bryceson.nfg@mail.mil.

DANIEL LANGHORNE is a contributor to TimesOC.

Summer fun at the park



Photos by Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

MEGAN GRIGG, 13, and Jacob Thornton, 7, take a paddle boat ride around the lake at the Irvine Regional Park on Wednesday. The park is open daily until 9 p.m. during the summer months.



A FAMILY RIDES a rental pedal bike at Irvine Regional Park on Wednesday.



YULIYA SADYKOVA walks with her daughter Mila, 2, as she rides a pony at the park.

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Funds also provided in part by the lodging establishments and the City of Laguna Beach.

ZINE

Continued from page R1

order to be added to the collection, the sole in Orange County circulating at a public library.

"It makes sense to give zines a home here," said Chloë Van Stralendorff, a communications specialist with the library. "We're all about literacy, freedom of expression and just being creative."

Along with boasting the unique shelf display, the library also hosts the annual O.C. Zine Fest every summer.

Before the pandemic, the event drew 2,000 people throughout the day and solidified Anaheim Central Library's standing within the alternative publishing community. More than 120 vendors set up tables that coiled through three floors of the library, including the basement, and offered a variety of zines, stickers, pins and art for all to peruse at their leisure.

With the ongoing vaccination campaign and declining case rates earlier this summer, organizers envisioned a more modest hybrid approach for the eighth annual event on Aug. 27 from 4 to 8 p.m. Panel discussions and workshops were scheduled virtually in the lead up while a select number of vendors planned to return in-person to the library on the day of.

But as O.C.'s coronavirus cases began to climb, fueled by the Delta variant, so too did a creeping sense of discomfort. With 10



PARTICIPANTS CREATE their own zines at the 2019 O.C. Zine Fest at the Anaheim Central Library.

days to spare before the O.C. Zine Fest, all involved decided it best to return to being a fully virtual affair, rather than opting to cancel.

"We want to be responsive to our community's needs," said Van Stralendorff, who helps organize the fest, "and specifically the zine community since we host such a great event here every year."

The pivot isn't without precedent; last year's fest also took place remotely amid the pandemic. Zine creators took over the event's Instagram account for scheduled tutorials and talks. The library offered an online zine directory in lieu of having vendors set up in-person. The innovative approach proved successful.

"I'm so glad that they did something," said Miquela Davis, a Fullerton-based zine maker and artist who hosted one of the online workshops last year. "There was a lot of care and effort that was

put into the virtual version. I can tell that they are really dedicated."

That sense of commitment stems from a shared enthusiasm, one that saw the library cross paths with O.C.'s zine community before too long.

In 2017, Van Stralendorff attended the Zine Librarian unConference at Long Beach Public Library along with her colleagues, a young, diverse crew of creatives, most of whom grew up in Anaheim. The gathering attracted zine enthusiasts from across the country and even around the world. By the time it wrapped, the local librarians left inspired to do more than just host an occasional zine workshop.

That same year, O.C. Zine Fest's original organizers, who first put on the event in 2014, had trouble finding a venue. The previous host had been the first floor of a downtown Santa Ana parking garage.

Anaheim Central Library opened its doors to the



Photos courtesy of the Anaheim Central Library

FESTIVALGOERS check out the 2019 O.C. Zine Fest at the Anaheim Central Library.

fest — and cleared shelf space for some of its zines.

"Our library is the first in the county to offer circulating zines," Van Stralendorff said. "Instead of paying a vending fee, we ask creators to donate one of their zines to the library. Now, we have an adult, teen and children section."

It's a practice that began with the first O.C. Zine Fest held at the library in 2017; now, the collection of zines has grown more than threefold to 615 titles catalogued.

Helping to stock the children's section, the library also formed a part-

nership with the Anaheim Elementary School District where fourth-graders create their own zines, which the library then prints and adds to its collection.

The underground, "do-it-yourself" zine subculture also finds a sense of validation from the support offered by the library.

"Zines are an overlooked art form," said Davison, who did the promotional art for this year's fest. "To have that respect from the library has been awesome from a vendor standpoint."

The O.C. Zine Fest hoped to be the first in-person community event

at Anaheim Central Library since the pandemic, but the sudden shift to online-only isn't leaving folks too sullen. Once the pandemic subsides, the O.C. Zine Fest will always have a steady home at the library to welcome the community in-person, after all.

"We will be back," Van Stralendorff said. "It will be even more awesome!" For more information on O.C. Zine Fest, visit oczinefest.com.

gabriel.sanroman@latimes.com
Twitter: @gsanroman2

GARDENS

Continued from page R4

"We'd hit this nerve of getting a young crowd here, so we wanted to give them a reason to come back and something to do," LaFleur said. "We're really trying to create an attractive, interactive and Instagrammable exhibit at the garden."

As if on cue, a quartet of teen girls wander into the sun garden/lavatory with cellphones in hand, look-

ing for just the right angle to take a group selfie in the reflection of a bathroom sink mirror.

Riley Swindall, 16, came to the exhibit two weeks earlier with some friends and found so many things to look at and photograph, that she corralled three more girlfriends to join her on a repeat trip Wednesday.

"I never even saw any pictures of it. My friend just looked it up, and it seemed like a pretty place to take pictures," she said

of her initial visit. "I'd never seen something like that before."

Friend Dominika Wasilewski, 16, was also pleasantly surprised by the exhibit's unusual beauty.

"It's a really nice place to take a picture with your friends and tells a casual story," she said.

"You really wouldn't think something like that would be that beautiful, but the way they just made it is nice."

LaFleur said the exhibit was the product of creative

brainstorming session, in which staff members and horticulturalists began thinking about the pandemic and how people became sequestered in their own homes.

"After being inside for so long, we thought it would be fun to flip the page and bring the inside outside," he said.

"With outdoor spaces, and green spaces in particular, throughout the pandemic people have reconnected with that, and it's fantastic to see."

Brea resident Claire Morrill came to Sherman Gardens to enjoy lunch at the on-site Cultivar restaurant with mom Elaine Cox and daughters Kennedy, 17, and 13-year-old Madison.

The group was killing time before a 1:30 reservation. Morrill took a photo of her daughters in the high-backed, succulent draped chair of the study, unsure whether it was OK for them actually sit on the installation.

She had no idea it was part of a larger exhibit.

"I sent a picture of the toilet to my husband. He wasn't too sure about it, but it all makes sense now," she said, smiling. "Now, I want to go around again and take pictures."

"Let's go on everything," Kennedy said.

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