

SAN DIEGO  
**Reader**

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2016  
GUIDE  
TO

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ARTS**

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# 2016 GUIDE TO SAN DIEGO ARTS

Climb into a rainbow at the  
New Children's Museum

## The arts carry a terrible burden

They are supposed to elevate our culture, to separate us from the beasts. Art moves the Guggenheim Foundations of the world to unburden themselves of money by the truckload so that elaborate palaces to human cleverness might be constructed. Art is serious business, charged with saving our souls in a corrupt world, which is why it's not always very fun.

So, here are half a dozen suggestions for good, (mostly) clean fun in the arts world. Nothing too serious. Nothing too fancy. Nothing expensive. But, be assured, all very cool for one reason or another.

### Thumbprint Gallery

920 Ninth Street  
LA JOLLA

Since the gallery doors opened in 2009, Thumbprint has been a force in the local art scene. Exhibitions showcase contemporary artists and the culture of quasi-surreal visual art that has come to represent the 21st Century's artistic voice for many people. With the additions of TPG2 (1475 University Avenue, Hillcrest) and TPG3 (330 A Street, downtown), Thumbprint has been able to host a constant rotation of group shows and exhibits of emerging artists who might otherwise not find gallery space for their work. It's uncanny that

Thumbprint has managed such success in the otherwise thankless modern-art world, but it's absolutely to the collective benefit of San Diego's artists, many of whom might never have been seen.

### Malashock Dance

2650 Thurston Road  
POINT LOMA

I like to think that cavemen danced, and it was maybe the first form of artistic expression mastered by proto-humans. Technically speaking, the only requirement for dancing is basic motility. Real dancers take that basic maxim and embellish it many times over, putting meaning into

of course, paintings and photography by the local and loved, as well as the internationally renowned.

— BARBARILLA FOKOS

### Beyond selfie curation.

I'm always amazed at those tablet commercials that show children creating wonderful art on their digital devices. If my kids get near a glowing screen, it doesn't matter what apps are available; they instantly switch into play and/or watch mode. The closest they come to creating anything is choosing effects filters on Instagram. If I want them to develop an aesthetic sense beyond selfie curation — and I do — I've got to get them out into the world, the earlier the better. Happily, San Diego has plenty to offer in that department. Here's a smattering of what our county has to offer its budding artist.



Silo at the Maker's Quarter

### Young People's Concerts at Copley Symphony Hall in Jacobs Music Center

750 B Street  
DOWNTOWN

To quote Walt Disney's Professor Owl: "The toot and the whistle and the plunk and the boom, that's where the music comes from." The San Diego Symphony

gives youngsters a taste of symphony — the science of (musical) sound — by introducing their instruments individually, from dragging a bow across a string to banging a stretched membrane with a stick. Then these master musicians demonstrate how these motions combine to make beautiful music together. Kids from grades

two through eight can enjoy the 50-minute performance for just \$5 a ticket.

### \$20 Under 30 at the Old Globe Theater

1363 Old Globe Way  
BALBOA PARK

Way back, I decided it would be a shame if my kids grew up not knowing that America's Finest

City boasts some of the best regional theater in the country, and a bigger shame if they never understood all the fuss about Shakespeare. The Old Globe seems to share my sentiment. The Globe wants to make high-quality theater accessible to the (comparatively impoverished) young and have priced these tickets accordingly. My two teens have already booked theirs for the summer series, which includes *Sense and Sensibility*, *Macbeth*, and *Love's Labour's Lost*.

### New Children's Museum

200 W. Island Avenue  
DOWNTOWN

We always leave the New Children's Museum with paint on our clothes and a project in our hands. Last time, my young daughters spent hours adding a layer of color to

a vintage water wagon, learning to make hand-made paper, climbing around all manner of ropes and wires, and crooning karaoke into microphones. The museum offers three levels of interactive exhibits designed to get kids thinking and creating while they play. Children under one are free; everybody else pays \$12 — cheaper and more engaging than a ticket to the latest animated offering.

### Neil Morgan Auditorium at the San Diego Central Library

330 Park Boulevard  
DOWNTOWN

I can make even my youngest kids sit still for one hour a month, especially if the seats are comfy like the ones in the Neil Morgan Auditorium. It also helps that there's

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