



2018 Media Guide

LA County Fair Media Guide

Welcome to the LA County Fair. We hope this media guide provides the answers to all of your questions. Please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Communications & Public Relations staff for additional information about the Fair or other events at Fairplex.

The Communications office is open every day of the Fair and closed Mondays & Tuesdays, except Labor Day.

Fairplex staff must be contacted prior to visit. Please see **Media Guidelines**.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Fairplex Switchboard	(909) 623-3111
Communications and Public Relations Office	(909) 865-4261
Renee Hernandez – Associate Director of Communications	(909) 865-4261 – office (909) 525-8404 – cell hernandez@fairplex.com

Press releases, photos, videos and logos are available online at LACountyFair.com newsroom for media covering the Fair.

The Fairplex communications and public relations staff will assist with, set up or participate in media interviews at your convenience.

MEDIA GUIDELINES

Credentials (LA County Fair)

Media credentials will be issued to working press, radio, TV and photojournalists assigned to cover the LA County Fair. Generic press passes are not good for admission or access to restricted areas. All requests for credentials and passes must be made in writing at least 48 hours in advance, including Will Call requests, to Hernandez@fairplex.com. Media will-call requests will be left at Will Call at Gate 1 on McKinley Avenue, next to the administration building.

Credentials (Other Events)

Each individual event promoter handles media credentials for events other than the Fair. Policies and procedures for obtaining and using media credentials vary with each event. The Fair Association respects the media policies of each outside show promoter, and will make every effort to assist media in the normal practice of doing business. A calendar of upcoming Fairplex events is available at fairplex.com. For additional information call (909) 865-4261. Credentials for Kaboom, Cheers - L.A.'s Wine, Spirits, Beer & Food Festival and Oktoberfest may be requested by contacting the Fairplex communications office at (909) 865-4261.

Radio-Television

Many locations on the grounds may be used as sites for radio or TV broadcasts with prior approval from the communications department. All television/radio broadcast teams must be accompanied by a communications department representative at all times. The communications department will also assist with parking, onsite transportation, set up and talent.

Carnival

Photo, video-TV cameras and mobile phones with video are not allowed on any ride or attraction except by special permission from the Communications Department and the carnival operator.

Emergency Contacts

In the event of an emergency, Fair communications/public relations staff will provide information to all media.

General Information

2018 is the 96th anniversary of the LA County Fair

Dates: Aug. 31 – Sept. 23

Theme: Get Your Kicks...at the LA County Fair

Attendance

The LA County Fair is one of the largest county fairs in North America and ranked in the Top 10 among all North American fairs and exhibitions with 2017 attendance at more than 1.2 million. Fair attendance has topped the 1 million mark in all but one year (1963) since 1948. Since its inception, more than 89,000,000 visitors have been welcomed to the annual LA County Fair.

10-year Attendance

2008	1,303,655
2009	1,372,383
2010	1,374,673
2011	1,492,762
2012	1,473,371
2013	1,438,514
2014	1,204,911
2015	1,276,817
2016	1,317,370
2017	1,231,243

Producer

The Fair is produced and presented by Fairplex. Find out more about Fairplex [here](#).

Location

Fairplex is just minutes from Orange, San Bernardino and Riverside counties. Approximately 30 miles east of downtown Los Angeles and 10 miles west of Ontario International Airport. Close to the 10, 210 and 57 freeways. 1101 W. McKinley Avenue, Pomona, CA 91768.

(909) 623-3111, www.fairplex.com.

Events

Fairplex is home to the annual LA County Fair and 500 other events each year. Included are consumer and trade shows, meetings, expositions, concerts, conventions, inter-track wagering, sporting events and agricultural events. Combined, those activities attract close to 1.7 million guests during the year, plus nearly 1.3 million people who attend the Fair, bringing total Fairplex attendance each year nearly three million.

The Learning Centers at Fairplex

The Learning Centers at Fairplex is the educational arm of Fairplex. The five centers include: FairKids Field Trips, which hosts more than 150,000 students and teachers who visit the Fair at no charge; Child Development Center, providing nurturing childhood education to more than 300 youngsters from the community; Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC), offering career-focused training in multiple

fields; Junior Fair Board, providing high school students success skills through leadership opportunities and community involvement; and the Millard Sheets Art Center, offering year-round arts-related programming. Education has been a commitment of the LACFA since it began in 1922.

www.tlcfairplex.org

Grounds

Fairplex covers 487 acres and includes nearly 325,000 square feet of modern column-free indoor exhibit space in eight spacious exhibit halls (two additional buildings expand total exhibit space to more than 350,000 square feet); an infield with a 10,000-seat grandstand; the 244-suite Sheraton Fairplex Hotel & Conference Center; a 185-space KOA RV Park; Finish Line Sports Grill; National Hot Rod Association's 40,000-seat Auto Club Raceway at Pomona; NHRA Motorsports Museum; the Child Development Center; scenic parks, plazas and picnic areas; historic train exhibits; 12 acres of carnival grounds; and 238 acres of paved parking areas to accommodate more than 30,000 vehicles.

Corporate Structure

The Los Angeles County Fair Association is a 501 (c)(5) not-for-profit mutual benefit organization. The Fair Association manages and operates the Fair and other year-round activities at Fairplex, as well as the rental of the facilities to outside promoters for their events. The Association is self-supporting and does not fall under the auspices of any county or state governmental body. Surplus revenues generated by the Fair and other activities are re-invested into the maintenance and development of the facility.

Los Angeles County Fair Association

The Association consists of 60 voting members, including an 11-member board of directors. Directors are elected by and from the Association. New Association members are elected by the board based on their outstanding contributions to the community. The Fair Association employs officers, management and staff. It owns and manages Barretts Sales, Finish Line Sports Grill, Sheraton Fairplex Hotel & Conference Center, Cornucopia Foods, Event Production Solutions, Fairplex KOA RV Park and Fairplex RV & Boat Storage.

Historical

The Fairplex facility was originally part of a beet and barley field owned by Pomona pioneer Ricardo Vejar. The city of Pomona purchased 43 acres from the Vejar estate for the first L.A. County Fair in 1922. Following the success of that and subsequent Fairs, additional land was acquired and permanent buildings were constructed. Through assistance from the federal government's Works Progress Administration program, many permanent structures were built during the 1930s. In 1933, pari-mutuel wagering was legalized in California, and the Fair race meeting was the first in Southern California to allow fans to bet on horse racing. The L.A. County Fair Corporation was reorganized as the Los Angeles County Fair Association in 1940, and the Association transferred land and buildings to the county of Los Angeles in 1941. Because of World War II, there was no Fair from 1942-1947. However, the facility was used by the U.S. Army for a variety of functions. The Fair reopened in 1948 and has topped 1 million in

attendance in all but one year – 1963. The facility was renamed Fairplex in 1983, and the Fair Association focused on using the grounds and buildings on a year-round basis.

Year-by-Year Timeline

1921

A merchants exposition held along the Southern Pacific Railway in downtown Pomona set the stage for things to come. Presented by Harry LaBreque, a promoter of community celebrations for Foley & Burke Shows, a railroad carnival, and Clinton B. "Jack" Afflerbaugh, a Pomona druggist and city councilman, the show consisted of exhibits in a tent and a carnival. The success of the show spurred Afflerbaugh and other local businessmen to look toward bigger things. At the time, Los Angeles County did not have a county fair, and the businessmen saw this as an opportunity to bring recognition to the city of Pomona. Lloyd Hamilton, a reporter for the Pomona Bulletin, overheard two Lions Club members discussing the idea and put it into print. One of those men, L.E. Sheets, a local music store owner who had been involved with fairs in Iowa, was then asked to present his plans to the Pomona Chamber of Commerce, which then took the idea of a fair to the city council.

1922

Although half a dozen attempts to bring a fair to L.A. County had failed, the board set out to start the first L.A. County Fair. A fair board was formed, and Sheets was named president. Afflerbaugh was first vice president and Charles P. Curran second vice president. Other officers included treasurer Fred Reynolds and directors Fred E. Whyte and W.A. Kennedy.

The city of Pomona agreed to purchase a 43-acre beet and barley field from the Ricardo Vejar estate for use as a fairground. Research revealed that the name "L.A. County Fair" was not registered. Afflerbaugh contacted Sacramento and the name was adopted at once. The fair was incorporated as the Los Angeles

County Fair Association and Sheets served as its first president. According to its charter, it was organized "primarily for the promotion of the agricultural, horticultural and animal husbandry interests of the great Southwest."

Financing started with the sale of \$28,000 in stock to local businessmen, but only \$23,000 was realized because some of the pledges were not met. The sum was not sufficient for the necessary work, so an additional \$15,000 was gathered from personal loans to committee members from local banks. Reluctantly, the County Board of Supervisors appropriated \$10,000 to the Fair.

Ground was broken and access roads were built. A half-mile racetrack and a grandstand seating 4,000 were constructed. Two cattle barns, two livestock buildings, a livestock barn and an administration building were also built. Circus tents were purchased to house the agricultural and horticultural displays. A wooden fence surrounded most of the grounds.

The inaugural L.A. County Fair opened Oct. 17, 1922, and ran for five days through Oct. 21. The hotels of Pomona were packed as 49,461 people visited the Fair, which cost promoters \$63,000 to present. All

obligations were paid and personal notes were redeemed. Harness racing, chariot races and an airplane wing-walking exhibit were major highlights that year.

1923

Following the success and public acceptance of the first Fair, a \$75,000 bond issue was approved for the construction of permanent buildings and a grandstand for horse racing. An additional 62 acres were purchased and deeded to the county.

1924

Afflerbaugh became the Fair's first paid manager, a post he held until 1960, when he died at the age of 72. Construction was completed on a building for women's activities (home arts), fine arts shared the exhibit hall. Attendance rose to 93,163.

1925

Fair attendance topped the 100,000 mark for the first time (102,991). It also marked the first time the Fair was held in September instead of October.

1926

The current administration building was designed by Pomona resident Peter Ficker and built at a cost of \$10,000. The building served as the entrance to the Fair.

1928

The Fair gained international popularity and was mentioned in newspapers in Sweden, France, England, Mexico and in South America. The event was expanded to six days and drew 145,062 people.

1929

The Fair crowned its first queen. There was no formality in the selection of Edna Mae Paige, since the idea of a queen was designed for publicity purposes.

1930

"The largest exhibit building in the world" was completed at a cost of \$250,000. It measured 800' by 135', had a stage at one end and seating for 16,000 people, and was known as the "Palace of Agriculture." Attendance reached 265,213.

1931

The Fair was held in combination with the Southern California Fair, held for many years at Riverside. The Depression touched Pomona as it did the nation, and attendance dropped to 233,350.

1932

The Fair was presented as a tri-county fair, as the Orange County Fair joined Riverside County at the L.A. County Fair. The event remained a tri-county harvest festival through 1937. The fairgrounds, owned by the city of Pomona, and the buildings, owned by the Fair Association, were deeded to the County of Los Angeles. A new \$204,000 concrete and steel grandstand was built. The structure was combined with an exhibit hall, which housed the household arts exhibit in 12,000 square feet of space. The grandstand and exhibit hall combined to seat 12,500 people. California Governor James Rolph Jr. officially dedicated the

grandstand on Sept. 17. Later, the governor outran a team of six horses, which came roaring around the corner in the barn area. Today the grandstand is known as Fairplex Park and the hall houses The Village on Broadway and Tapestry exhibit. New horse and cattle barns were also added. Fair offices located in the community building on South Garey Avenue were moved to the Progress Bulletin building on Third Street in Pomona.

1933

Pari-mutuel wagering was legalized in California, and the Fair meeting became the first in Southern California to allow fans to bet on horse racing. Attendance leapt to 334,759 that year. Cowboy actor Monty Montana wed Louise Archer in front of the racetrack grandstand. Famous cowboy screen star Buck Jones was the best man. Montana rode to the altar aboard his trusted pinto, Comanche Spot, and Archer on Lady Spot.

1934

Following a big year in 1933, the Fair was extended to 16 days. The event grew to 17 days in 1935 and continued that way every year through 1980, except 1939, when it was extended to 24 days because of rain.

1935

A lagoon was constructed near the administration building, as were three new horse barns in the livestock. The grandstand added dressing rooms, a stage and a sunken bandstand. The Fair inaugurated its wine competition, which is today the longest-running county fair competition and one of the most prestigious in the nation.

1936

A new arts and crafts building opened behind the administration building. The building was later used as a warehouse and is the current Administration II building.

1937

The government's Works Progress Administration, replacing tents used in previous years, aided construction of various buildings. The fine arts building, a new administration building, two buildings measuring 350' x 100' (Fairplex 5 & 6), a cafeteria (Anthony's at the Fair-renamed Avalon in 2004) and several smaller structures were constructed. The livestock barns were destroyed by fire that year, but they were immediately rebuilt.

1938

Two more 350' x 100' buildings (Fairplex 7 & 8) were finished for rabbits and poultry and for youth exhibits. Among the visitors to the Fair was screen star Shirley Temple.

1939

A childcare center and a home arts building were constructed. Sculptor Lawrence Tenny Stevens won a \$2,500 contest to create a sculpture in front of the fine arts building. The stone monument is a salute to the young farmers of the nation. The Citrus Empire Model Railroad Club debuted its train exhibit. The Fair was extended to 24 days because of rain, but returned to 17 days the following year.

1940

The Los Angeles County Fair Corporation was reorganized as the Los Angeles County Fair Association. The agreement between the corporation, city of Pomona and County of Los Angeles was made at the suggestion of the federal Works Progress Administration so that there would be no question regarding the Fair's operating on a strictly not-for-profit basis. The county Board of Supervisors turned over operation to the Fair Association and assigned a member to the Association. All excess revenues were established to go toward maintenance and new development.

1941

The Association transferred 46 acres of land and buildings to the County of Los Angeles. On Oct. 3, only three days after the close of the Fair, the huge agricultural building was gutted by fire. On Dec. 14, just a week after Pearl Harbor, three U.S. Army regiments occupied the grounds as first units arriving for war duty.

1942

World War II brought a halt to the Fair for six years and the grounds played an important part in the war effort as they were taken over by the U.S. Army. The grounds were converted into a motor base in January, and headquarters were established in the home arts building. A community of 5,428 Japanese-Americans was housed in 420 pre-fabricated temporary buildings from May 5-Aug. 24 before being relocated to other parts of the country. Pomona Ordnance Motor base was established in August. Forty acres was sold to the U.S. government.

1943

The army used the grounds as a desert training center.

1944

The Ordnance Command shop was established on the grounds.

1945

The grounds were used as a German and Italian prisoner of war camp.

1946

The prisoner of war camp was closed in March.

1947

Thirty-five acres were annexed for the establishment of a trailer park on the grounds.

1948

The Fair Association and County of Los Angeles signed a 49-year lease on June 8 for the Association's long-term use of the land and buildings. The association deeded 72 acres to the county as part of the agreement. Thummer the Pig was introduced as the Fair's official mascot. The Fair reopened after the war with a \$2 million construction and reconditioning program. The \$750,000 reconstructed agricultural pavilion (today known as Fairplex 4), designed by Peter Ficker, replaced the burned structure. Measuring 800' x 149', it was the largest structure of its kind west of the Mississippi. Other new construction

projects included a horse racing tote board, a tunnel under the track to the infield and new cattle and swine barns. Attendance topped the one million mark for the first time with 1,254,503 visitors, making the event the second largest fair in the United States, surpassed only by the Texas State Fair. Proving to be the start of a trend, L.A. County Fair attendance has topped the one million plateau in all but one year since 1948.

1949

A new county highway known as Ganesha Boulevard was constructed through what was then known as the San Jose Hills. The six-lane road ran from the grounds to the east slope of Kellogg Hill. It is now known as Fairplex Drive and links Fairplex to the San Bernardino Freeway. The Fair Association purchased 62 acres for parking lots, extending the total property to more than 400 acres, including 225 acres for parking. More than 8,200 square feet of space was added to the administration building, including a board of directors room with an outdoor balcony.

1950

The carnival was moved to its present location to make room for the new sports plaza. A 40-foot-high arch stretching 100 feet from side to side and colorfully lit with neon letters formed the entrance to the fun zone. A casting pool 125 feet in diameter was added in the sports plaza. A new main entrance measuring 233 feet across was established near the main parking lot.

1951

The world's largest man-made ski jump using artificial snow was featured at the Fair. The take-off area rose 225 feet high and sloped downward for 500 feet.

1952

The ornate flower and garden building was constructed. The carnival was included as a permanent part of the operation, rather than on a yearly contract basis. The landmark Clock Tower was built. The Fair's Mexican Village was constructed and is now known as Plaza de las Américas.

1953

On April 11-12, the National Hot Rod Association held its first sanctioned event, the Southern California Championship Drag Races, at Pomona Raceway, located at a far corner of the grounds. Over the weekend, 375 cars ran 850 timed runs. A note from LA County Board of Supervisors stipulated that the annual total money value of the aforesaid consideration shall be at least equivalent to the money amount of taxes on land and improvements which would accrue to Lessor's General Fund if the 421-acre Leasor-owned property were up on tax rolls.

1954

A fire station and first aid building was constructed, along with a new 100' x 200' building (Fairplex 8A) for the home builders' new products show...A giant "ranchero" carving was completed by artist John Svenson, leading to the eventual development of the Fair's Court of the Redwoods. The redwood forest was completed in 1961.

1955

A Fair exhibitor, Fred Morrison, sold flying disks at the 1955 Fair. Two college friends, Richard Knerr and Arthur Melin, were impressed by the item and negotiated the rights to manufacturing it for their small mail-order company, Wham-O. The Pluto Platter was introduced in 1957 and was renamed the Frisbee.

1957

Millard Sheets, world-renowned artist and director of the Fair's fine arts exhibit for 25 years, resigns. For the first time at any fair, the Ringling Bros., Barnum and Bailey Circus appeared at the 1957 L.A. County Fair.

1959

A tunnel connecting the grounds with the 10,000-car parking lot opposite White Avenue was completed under White Avenue. The tunnel measures 400 feet in length.

1960

Philip D. Shepherd took over as general manager, following the death of Afflerbaugh. Shepherd was the son of B. Chaffey Shepherd, who had served on the board of directors during the Fair's formative years. The Fair again presented a ski jump performance on a man-made jump covered with artificial snow.

1961

The National Hot Rod Association held its inaugural Winternationals at Pomona Raceway in February before the largest single-day audience in the brief history of drag racing.

1962

A mile-long monorail circling the core of the grounds began operation with 14 24-seat electronically operated passenger cars. Storybook Farm, now known as California's Heritage Square, was added.

1964

A connecting clubhouse section was added to the racetrack grandstand, providing indoor dining and outdoor terraced seating. The Sports Plaza Marina opened with water skiing demonstrations.

1965

The Golden Empire Mine, a replica of the original Empire Gold Mine in Grass Valley, Calif., which operated from 1850-1956, opened and quickly became a popular Fair attraction. The mine closed in 1997.

1966

California Governor Pat Brown and Republican gubernatorial candidate Ronald Reagan both visited the 1966 Fair.

1978

Phil Shepherd retired as general manager and was succeeded by Ralph M. Hinds.

1980

The one-of-a-kind Child Development Center opened its doors in 1980. It is regarded as one of the top facilities of its kind in the state of California.

1981

An extra day was added to the Fair as it opened on a Thursday and hosted 18 days. Admission was free on opening day, and a weekday record of 104,890 attended the Fair. A landmark 115-foot-tall Ferris wheel was dismantled to make way for renovations in the carnival area. All permanent carnival structures, including the arching landmark Fun Zone sign, were replaced by a new carnival.

1983

Ralph Hinds was appointed president and chief executive officer.

1984

Fairplex 4 was reopened after a major renovation to bring additional year-round business to the grounds. The \$4 million development project brought increased trade and consumer show use to 105,500 square feet of indoor exhibit space. The name of the fairgrounds was changed to Fairplex to encourage year-round use as a show and exposition complex, and the building was renamed Fairplex 4. The subsequent success of this facility as a home for various events prompted the Fair Association to promote greater utilization of this and other facilities and to begin a renovation program designed to meet the needs of trade and consumer shows on a year-round basis. Pomona Raceway hosted the NHRA Winston Select Finals for the first time.

1985

Racing experienced an enormous boost, not only with attendance and handle numbers, but on the track, where the old half-mile bullring was expanded to five-eighths of a mile. A single-day record attendance of 177,612 people visited the Fair on Sept. 21.

1986

The racetrack grandstand and clubhouse facilities were renovated and the track was renamed Fairplex Park. Lighting was added at the track as night harness racing made its seasonal debut in Pomona. The Fair's landmark food circle of restaurants was renovated and converted into a modern Food Fair, now known as Sunset Cabana. In addition, a 184-space recreational vehicle park and convenience store opened on the grounds across White Avenue.

1987

After two years, harness racing was discontinued.

1988

The Los Angeles County Fair Association and the County of Los Angeles signed a 56-year (plus two five-year options) agreement for the Fair Association's continued use of the grounds.

1989

A \$27 million bond issue marked a year of major development at Fairplex. Four exhibition buildings,

covering 134,400 square feet of indoor exhibit space, were renovated in buildings 5, 6, 7 and 8. The entire exhibition complex was re-landscaped with plazas, fountains, trees and flowers, and the tunnel under White Avenue was re-designed. The hill behind the flower and garden building was renovated with new roads and exhibit space...Nine new horse barns were completed and construction began on a horse auction pavilion. To make room for the barns, the historical trains were moved from the barn area to their present location adjacent to the Golden Empire Mine.

1990

Barretts Equine Sales Ltd. opened with its first thoroughbred sale. The sales pavilion was named Hinds Pavilion, honoring Fair Association president and CEO Ralph Hinds. Ten new 40-seat monorail cars and a boarding station were added as the monorail system was renovated. The Fair was expanded from 18 to 24 days, and horse racing was extended from 18 to 19 days.

1991

The Fairplex Child Development Center merged with the University of La Verne childcare program and the facility underwent more than \$1 million in renovations following a grant from the County of Los Angeles. An additional 8,000 square feet of space and increased staff and enrollment resulted. Ground was broken in April for the on-grounds Sheraton Suites Fairplex hotel. Fair attendance hit an all-time single-season record of 1,612,097 visitors.

1992

The 247-suite Sheraton Suites Fairplex hotel opened in June.

1993

The National Hot Rod Association completed \$4.5 million in improvements to the dragstrip. The L.A. County Fair added a landmark sky ride.

1994

The fine arts' building was dedicated as the "Millard Sheets Gallery." The food fair was converted into the Super Diner. Ralph Hinds died on July 30.

1995

Shortly after the 1995 Fair and 15 months after Hinds' death, the Fair Association appointed James E. Henwood president and chief executive officer.

1996

A 90-foot-high Fairplex electronic sign was erected along the San Bernardino Freeway. Nightly grandstand entertainment returned to the Fair for the first time since 1983. The landmark monorail ride and station were torn down and removed. Mexican Village was renovated and renamed Fiesta Village (in 2001 became Plaza de las Américas).

1997

The Fair celebrated its 75th anniversary with a 75-cent opening day admission price, attracting more than 90,000 people. Special days recognizing local communities and their heroes were introduced during

the Fair. "UFO Encounters," an attraction focusing on the public's interest in aliens and UFOs, made its world premiere.

1998

The NHRA Motorsports Museum opened in what was formerly used as the home arts building. The Fairplex Recreational Vehicle Park changed operation to a KOA campground affiliate.

1999

Fairguests were treated to a "WOW" exhibit housed in Fairplex 7A. "DinoQuest: Search for the Lost Expedition" filled all 43,000-square-feet of Fairplex 7A. Jockey J.C. Gonzalez was killed during an accident at Fairplex Park on opening day of the Fair. Fairplex established three 501(c) (3) non-profit organizations: The Fairplex Child Development Center, The Millard Sheets Gallery and the Fairplex Education Foundation. The Foundations' goal is to raise funds through grants and charitable donations to further enhance the existing educational opportunities and expand the programs to a year-round basis.

2000

Red Gate and Yellow Gate were reconfigured for one new entrance at Yellow Gate; new signage was introduced; The "WOW" exhibit in Fairplex 7A was "Expedition Earth"; horse racing received a new paddock; Thunder Alley was added on Redwood Street; grandstand entertainment appeared Fridays through Sundays throughout the Fair. The Republican presidential candidate, George W. Bush, cut the opening day ribbon.

2001

The Fair closed for the first time since World War II when on Sept. 11 terrorists attacked the United States. It reopened on Sept. 12. On Sept. 14, Fair attendees were asked to donate \$1 in lieu of regular Fair admission; through the generosity of Fairguests that day \$250,000 was donated to the Red Cross Disaster Fund for the victims and families of the tragedy. Court of the Redwoods was renovated and the Rancho carving was relocated near the Millard Sheets Gallery. Plaza de las Américas (formerly Fiesta Village) underwent a name change and a new look. The livestock area became FairView Farms to combine animals and agriculture.

2002

The Los Angeles County Fair Association signed an agreement with Magna Communications to hold the L.A. County Fair horseracing meet at Santa Anita Park. The California Horse Racing Board denied the application by a vote of 4-1. The board felt that the L.A. County Fair racing meet was of value and unique to the industry. Fairplex Equine Sales, LLC finalized an agreement to purchase the general partner interest in Barretts Equine Ltd. from Barrette Equine Sales, owned by Fred N. Sahadi. The Fair Association was previously a minority owner and limited partner in the enterprise. The Flower & Garden Pavilion, Clock Tower and Plaza de las Américas all celebrated 50th anniversaries. James R. Kostoff, chairman of the board of the Los Angeles County Fair Association since 1983, retired and assumed the title of director emeritus. Stephen C. Morgan became the chairman of the board. The Williams fire raged in the nearby Glendora foothills during the Fair from Sept. 22-Oct. 1 consuming 37,240 acres. The 210-

freeway extension opened late in November 2002 providing another easily accessible route to Fairplex. The Fair was a 17-day event, opening on a Friday.

2003

The U.S. invaded Iraq Thursday, March 20, 2003. The CDC expanded to add another classroom and accommodate 175 children. The NHRA Motorsports Museum was renamed Wally Parks NHRA Motorsports Museum in honor of founder Parks on his 90th birthday in February. The Super Diner assumed the name Sunset Cabana and Barn 9A became the Big Red Barn. The Millard Sheets Gallery recreated a vignette from the 1954 House Beautiful exhibit in the gallery. The historic Clocktower was restored to the color red it sported from 1952 to the early '80s. Fairplex 8A was demolished in 2003 making room for a trade and convention center. As a result of title research conducted in 2003, parcels of L.A. County Fair land total 543 acres (previously listed 487). Five single day attendance records were broken during the 2003 L.A. County Fair. There were nine daily records in horse racing handle and a record-handle overall.

2004

Vision and diversity were manifested with the creation of Cornucopia Foods LLC, a new business formed by the corporation to manage the Fairplex year-round food and beverage operation effective on April 1, 2004. In conjunction with the new company, Anthony's at the Fair was renamed Avalon and underwent menu changes to complement the new name and renovations to the facility. The Citrus Empire Model Railroad took its exhibit off-site in 2004. The exhibit had been located on the ground floor of the grandstand since 1949. Longtime Fair exhibition, A Tapestry of Tradition, found a new home on the ground floor of the grandstand (now called The Village on Broadway), Education Expo and America's Kids both moved to Fairplex 7A; the annual Fair feature attraction moved to Fairplex 22. White Avenue underwent major renovations, a joint beautification effort with Fairplex and the city of Pomona. Junior Fair Board was established along with scholarships for the members.

2005

The Fair became an 18-day event for the first time since 2000. New programming included closing on Mondays and Tuesdays with a fourth weekend added. With the additional weekend fifteen nights of grandstand entertainment were featured. Horse racing dates were Sept. 9-26, with Tuesdays dark and closing day on Monday. Traditionally Mondays and Tuesdays are the lowest attendance days and weekends are still the first-choice for attending events. The Village on Broadway became the home of Tapestry, Culinary Styles and the ConAgra Foods Gourmet Kitchen. The County of Los Angeles upgraded and renovated the storm drains throughout the Fairplex grounds. The Millard Sheets Gallery received a front entry that was compliant with ADA requirements and the landmark Clock Tower was removed. A temporary structure took its place, and the Fair's meeting place tradition continued.

2006

The Fair repeats its 18-day format, closed Mondays and Tuesdays. In place of a feature attraction, Winter Wonderland was devised for Fairplex 8. To have buildings numerically sequential, Fairplex 7A became Fairplex 9 and Fairplex 22 was renamed Fairplex 10. Fairplex 8 underwent extensive renovation prior to the Fair; eight luxury suites constructed on the eastside bleachers at Auto Club Raceway at

Pomona anticipate completion prior to the 2006 November World Finals. The seven founding fathers of the Fair were inducted into the LACFA Hall of Fame at the annual meeting in April 2006.

2007

New vision and mission statements were adopted by the Association (see page 7). The long-standing Wines of the World competition became The Los Angeles International Wine & Spirits Competition to better reflect its full breadth and increase its value to wine consumers and the public. The Millard Sheets Gallery, renamed in 1994, underwent another change to reflect Fairtime and year-round educational programming and goals, and is now known as Millard Sheets Center for the Arts at Fairplex. Plans for the Trade and Conference Center move forward. A strategic plan was adopted to guide Fairplex's future development. An 18-day Fair, closed Mondays and Tuesdays, will continue. The LACFA Hall of Fame welcomed Fred Freehling, Clyde Houston and Robert Lewis. Wally Parks, founder of the National Hot Rod Association passed away Sept. 28, 2007.

2008

Groundbreaking for the Trade and Conference Center is anticipated and completion slated by the 2009 Fair. This highly anticipated project will allow Fairplex to expand its year-round business with additional space for conferences, seminars and social functions. The Child Development Center began expansion to provide space for 24 more youngsters and two new classrooms. Fairplex officials continue to explore the creation of a world-class thoroughbred training facility. The LACFA Hall of Fame welcomed Sarah Ludwick, Wally Parks and Millard Sheets, bringing the total number of inductees to 21. The 18-day Fair with Mondays and Tuesdays closed proves popular and continues in 2008.

2009

The Fair expanded its programming opening Labor Day weekend and adding five days, continuing with Mondays and Tuesdays closed. Horse racing became a 15-day meeting closed the first two Mondays and Tuesdays. Stakes races were reduced to 15 with two new stakes added. A second sky ride (the original was added in 1993) joined the equation with one ride getting a new route transporting visitors from the Clock Tower to La Grande Wheel in the carnival and the second from Sunset Cabana to Fairplex 9. Hinds Pavilion at Barretts underwent renovation in early 2009 and emerged in early May as Finish Line Sports Grill, a sports themed bar & grill and satellite wagering destination. The Clock Tower restrooms and bank were dismantled. Trams inside the grounds were discontinued, parking lot trams continued. A difficult 2008 economy continued into 2009.

2010

Myriad changes took place in a very busy 2010. The LACFA moved forward with groundbreaking for the long-anticipated conference center in February 2010, with completion anticipated mid-2011; a new footprint was adapted for the 2010 L.A. County Fair that included moving Yellow Gate closer to the grounds, opening the Red Gate entrance and relocating the midway; the grandstand pavilion was removed and all shopping areas were re-located to the shopping area buildings and nearby grounds locations; a shopping shuttle will transport guests from Yellow Gate to the shopping areas near Red Gate entrance. The Fair again opened Labor Day weekend with a 23-day event, closing subsequent Mondays and Tuesdays. Horse racing hosted 15 days. The circle of restaurants most currently named Sunset

Cabana and the warehouses located near the lagoon were eliminated. Onsite parking for year-round events now occupies the newly vacated spaces. A challenging national economy continues.

2011

The Sheraton Fairplex Hotel & Conference Center construction was delayed by heavy rainfall throughout the spring; opening of the center is now slated for early 2012. Palm trees were relocated from Fairplex Park to Magnolia and Juniper to create a pleasing thoroughfare for Fairguests. The Learning Centers at Fairplex moved into the First Aid building on Birch. Zoom In, the newest Fairplex business unit was created and staff will take digital photos of guests at year-round events and during the Fair available for purchase. The horse racing meet became a 13-day event with 12 stakes races. The economy continues to challenge.

2012

The Sheraton Fairplex Conference Center hosted its first event in January and celebrated its grand opening in March. The 2012 L.A. County Fair is celebrating its 90th anniversary and will open August 31, the earliest date in its history. Horse racing continued with a 13-day meeting and a twilight racing program Wednesdays which debuted in 2011.

2013

The L.A. County Fair had its fifth highest attendance and earliest opening day; 150,000, a record breaking number of youngsters attended FairKids Field Trip program. Fairplex was the site of Rob Zombie's Great American Nightmare in October along with the third year of Oktoberfest.

2014

The Los Angeles County Fair changed a lot—format was 23 days (closed Tuesday & Wednesday following Labor Day), the brand changed, horse racing was held off-site, there were no dollar days opening Labor Day weekend and many days the Fair remained open until 1 a.m. Two barns and the horse show ring were removed to accommodate the expansion of The Farm by three acres (which officially became The Farm at Fairplex) and included The Farm Kitchen. America's Kids relocated to Expo Hall 5 with Beneath the Sea and Grinding Gears Nightclub filled Expo Hall 10, opening nightly 6 p.m. to closing with iFlip, a deejay, live band and dancing for all ages; Luminasia, a hand crafted Chinese Lantern exhibition was the feature attraction on the hillside behind the F&G Pavilion; Mojo's Wild & Crazy Lagoon filled the area of the lagoon; the infield was reconfigured to accommodate a walk way to The Farm called The Farm Road which housed the Budweiser Clydesdales, World of Wonders, a Zip line, and food booths. Tapestry and Culinary Styles became DIY Design Studio and demonstrations were part of the programming; the Millard Sheets Art Center also housed art programs of The Learning Centers. There was a band nightly at Longboard Bar & Lounge prior to and following the concerts; and there was grandstand entertainment each night of the Fair.

2015

The Fair ran for 19 days, 15 nights of grandstand entertainment. Popnology was the feature attraction; Luminasia returned for the second and final year. The Farm Road continued to evolve with programming and activities without horse racing and auto events on the track discontinued. HARD Summer Music

Festival debuted Aug. 1-2 and returned in October for a two-day event. The 2015 LA County Fair had the largest single-day attendance since 2007 and the highest grossing EOSCS in its history. The concert stage and surrounding set up changed dramatically since there was no horse racing onsite.

2016

James Henwood, president & CEO of the LACFA since 1995, retired in March. Michael Ortiz, LACFA chairman of the board, became interim president & CEO. Miguel A. Santana was announced as the new CEO in December. A sports field now occupies a section of the Fairplex Park infield last used for horse racing in 2014. The field will accommodate community and club level field sports like soccer and lacrosse, primarily for youth leagues. The Fair ran for 19 days Sept. 2-25.

2017

Miguel A. Santana filled the CEO seat in January. The 95th anniversary LA County Fair celebrated with Dare to Fair as its tagline. In November, a new event was added to the Fairplex year-round lineup: En Memoria, celebrating Dia de los Muertos and the lowrider car culture.

Development

Since 1981, the Fair Association has invested more than \$214 million in capital improvements to the facility. The improvements were funded by a combination of profits from Fair and year-round operations, from two bond issues totaling \$44 million (specifically for building renovations and hotel construction) and an investment of more than \$2 million by the city of Pomona. Major capital improvements include the construction of the Sheraton Fairplex Hotel and Barretts Equine Limited, renovation of the Fairplex Park grandstand and racetrack, and the transformation of the Fair exhibit buildings into a first-class trade and consumer show exhibition complex. Finish Line Sports Grill opened in May 2009, a renovation transforming Barretts and Hinds Pavilion into a sports themed restaurant and satellite wagering facility. In February 2010 construction began on the Sheraton Fairplex Hotel & Conference Center located near White Avenue. The long-awaited addition celebrated its grand opening in March 2012.

Economic Impact

The L.A. County Fair is the premier Fairplex event each year. It annually attracts nearly 1.3 million attendees. The Fair contributes a major portion of the estimated \$10 million in state sales tax revenue generated by Fairplex. The L.A. County Fair is the largest county fair in the nation and currently ranks fourth in North American fairs and festivals attendance as well as first in customer satisfaction. The Fair is also the largest marketplace in the western United States, with 1,000 commercial and food and beverage vendors serving the multitude of attendees. The result is nearly \$176 million in spending for the state's economy, and more than \$267 million for the nation's economy. The total amount of annual spending in California generated by Fairplex year-round events is more than \$171 million and more than \$226 million for the nation's economy. Fairplex generates and stimulates employment opportunities

with Fair employment accounting for 2,534 jobs and year-round events creating nearly 700 full-time jobs in the region.

Employment

The Fair Association on a year-round basis employs more than 250 people. Add the Fairplex Child Development Center, Cornucopia Foods LLC Barretts/Finish Line Sports Grill to reach 450 with an additional 115 employees at the Sheraton Fairplex Hotel. Seasonal employment numbers reach nearly 1,200 during the summer months and 3,800 during the Fair. Additional workers helping to produce the Fair are employed by contractors, vendors, exhibitors and participants, bringing total employment at Fairplex to nearly 10,000. The Association annually pays more than \$25 million in salaries and benefits to employees. More than 140 volunteers also participate during the Fair.

LA County Fair fun Facts:

- The first Fair ran from Oct. 17-21, 1922. Demonstrations on how to make your own toothpaste from orange by-products were popular attractions. Admission price for the Fair was 50 cents per day.
- Agriculture is the foundation of the Fair. In 1932, 1,000 varieties of fruits and vegetables were on display, including 100 varieties of grapes, 42 varieties of apples, 19 varieties of avocados and 17 varieties of pears.
- In 1938, Fairgoers purchased and consumed three tons of popcorn for \$720,000. In addition, 18,000 hot dogs and 24,000 hamburgers were eaten by Fairgoers.
- That year Shirley Temple visited the Fair.
- One of the first blood transfusions involving animals took place at the Fair in 1939 when a newborn calf developed double pneumonia. Two transfusions from the mother cow to the newborn saved its life.
- The Fair did not operate during the World War II years. On March 26, 1942, the Army took over all of the Fairgrounds except the administration building.
- After being closed for six years because of the war, the Fair reopened in 1948 and welcomed a record 1,254,503 visitors.
- That same year, the Fair also adopted an official mascot: Thummer the pig. Originally the pig's name was "Porky," but a 1950s cartoon character claimed rights to the name. A contest was held to name the pig, and "Thummer" was born. The name was appropriate because with one outstretched hoof, the pig appeared to be hitch-hiking his way to the Fair.
- Liberace stopped by in 1952.

- While walking along a California beach in 1955, Richard Knerr and Arthur Melin, college friends and co-owners of Wham-O, a small mail-order company, saw a disk flying through the air. They asked the owner of the disk where he had gotten it, and he said the Los Angeles County Fair. Knerr and Melin went to the Fair and met Fred Morrison, the man who was selling the flying disks. Wham-O negotiated rights to the disk and began manufacturing it. The Pluto Platter was introduced in January, 1957. Later, it was renamed the Frisbee.
- Richard and Pat Nixon came to the Fair in 1962.
- The Three Stooges visited the L.A. County Fair this year in 1964
- In 1966, Republican gubernatorial candidate Ronald Reagan attended the Fair.
- In 1972, Fairgoers consumed 40 tons of hot dogs, one million tortillas and 15 tons of hamburgers.
- Norma "Duffy" Lyon of Toledo, Iowa sculpted a Clydesdale horse out of one ton of butter at the Fair in 1981.
- At 25, Sandra Lee made her first million from a home-decorating kit, which she launched at the 1992 L.A. County Fair. Lee is now part of the popular Food Network schedule with Sandra Lee Semi-Homemade®.
- The totem pole located outside of the Millard Sheets Art Center was carved in 1981 and placed prior to the 1982 Fair.
- In 1986, Neil Bush, son of former president George Bush, and Congressman David Drier participated in the Farmer John Hog Calling Contest.
- In 1996, legendary entertainer Bob Hope paid a visit to the Fair.
- George W. Bush stopped by while campaigning for president in 2000.
- Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger attended the 2006 Los Angeles County Fair, cut the opening day ribbon and visited America's Kids exhibit
- Chaka Khan performed at the 2015 LACF EOCS, the same year she was a contestant on Dancing With the Stars
- Seabiscuit, That Thing You Do, Race to Witch Mountain, Fast & Furious 4, Live Free or Die Hard and Pee-Wee's Big Adventure are among the notable movies filmed on the LA County Fairgrounds.