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# ***THE TIDINGS***

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**Winter Issue**

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“The Tidings” is a publication of the Lake Merritt Institute, and is neither funded by, nor does it represent the opinions of the City of Oakland.



## **Thank You Donors and Volunteers! A 2025 Lake Merritt Look-Back**

Somehow, another year at Lake Merritt has flown by, and we’re reflecting on all we’ve accomplished with the help of our generous donors and hardworking volunteers.

As of December 1st, you collectively dedicated **5,369 volunteer hours** to stewarding Lake Merritt’s water and shoreline. That’s an average of 488 hours per month — without even counting the month December!

Together, we removed a total of **103,050 gallons of trash** between January and November 2025, already surpassing the total of trash removed in all of 2024 (75,960 gallons). What incredible work! We at LMI feel blessed to be part of such an inspiring Oakland community, and hope that you feel proud of yourselves, too.

For the full article of *The Tidings* in color, visit <https://lakemerrittinstitute.org/tidings>

Speaking of community! In addition to many individual volunteers (thank you!), we had **56 community groups** join us for clean-up days this year. We're sincerely grateful to **all** who gathered to help us keep Lake Merritt clean, safe, and welcoming for all:

Achieve High School Students	Mighty Pilates
Alameda County Information & Technology Department team	Moreau Catholic School
Arise HS	Morgan Stanley team
Ava Community Energy	Muslim Girls in Action
Aveva Company	Northgate HS Walnut Creek
Bay Area Bin Support	Novartis Team
Berkeley Haas School of Business	Oakland Marriott City Center Team
Bishop O'Dowd High School	Oakland Tech High School
Black Pine Circle School	ORPD's Inclusion Camp
Blue Shields	Osterweis Capital Management team
BuildOn HS Students	Pacific Boy's Choir Academy students
Civic Leaders of America students	Park Day 8th graders
College Prep HS	PG&E Citizen Project Team
Compass Realty	PG&E Clean Energy Transportation Department
Disney/Pixar	PG&E Environmental Remediation dept
East Bay Innovation Academy HS	PG&E Remote Grid Team
Economic and Planning Systems team	Piedmont High School
Epsilon	Piedmont High School's Green Club
Expedia Team	Redwood Day School
Girl Scout Bridges Academy, OUSD	Roux Consulting team
Harder Elementary	RWE team
Head-Royce School	SD Meyer team
Hillcrest Middle School	SF Unity Group
Hot Spot Yoga	Stanford Alumni
Joaquin Miller Elementary School	Starbucks
Keller Williams team	Sungage Financial
Marqueta	UC Berkeley Students
	WeWork Team

You might have seen Lake Merritt Institute represented at various community events in 2025, including the Grand Lake Farmers Market, Friday Nights at OMCA, Keep Oakland Bee-autiful Earth Day Celebration, Lakefest Oakland, Creek to Bay Day, Autumn Lights, The State of the San Francisco Estuary Conference, and more. We're always on the lookout for opportunities to share our mission and promote cleanup efforts!

# SAVE OUR LAKE SEASON

We're immensely thankful, too, for all our [Save Our Lake](#) supporters. This year we set an ambitious goal to raise \$30K to sustain our work. So far we've raised about 27% of that amount. **Please consider Lake Merritt Institute in your end-of-year giving;** your dollars are invested directly into the local community, and your gift helps protect Oakland's crown jewel.

Finally, as you gather with loved ones this holiday season, don't forget about the [Scavenger Stroll](#) on the next page of this newsletter! Use it as a free guide for exploring The Town and our lovely lake. Submit your scavenger hunt answers online, and you could win one of several raffle prizes: a **Baywheels** membership, an **OMCA** membership, a Lake Merritt Watershed puzzle from **Oakland Puzzle Co.**, or a signed copy of *Birds of Lake Merritt* by local author-illustrator, Alex Harris. It's our way of giving back to you.

Happy holidays from your friends at Lake Merritt Institute, James, Alfredo, Thoey and Kathleen



*Every bag counts! As of December 10th, we've raised \$8,137 toward our \$30,000 goal. We still have work to do, your gift today will help push us closer to our goal.*

## THANK YOU TO OUR NOVEMBER SPONSORS!



*Are you a local business interested in partnering with us to support Oakland's Crown Jewel? Ask us about sponsorship opportunities in 2026 for your business. Contact us at [info@lakemerrittinstitute.org](mailto:info@lakemerrittinstitute.org)*

For questions and comments please email us at [info@lakemerrittinstitute.org](mailto:info@lakemerrittinstitute.org).

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For the full article of *The Tidings* in color, visit <https://lakemerrittinstitute.org/tidings>

# SCAVENGER STROLL

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF YOUR STROLL: \_\_\_\_\_

HOW DO YOU GET TO LAKE MERRITT?

- WALK
- CAR
- PUBLIC TRANSPORT
- BIKE
- OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

WHICH LMI U-CLEAN-IT BOX IS CLOSEST TO YOUR HOME?

- EMBARCADERO
- E 18TH ST
- LAKE CHALET
- GLEN ECHO

HOW MANY MILES DO YOU LIVE FROM LAKE MERRITT?

HOW MANY OF OUR LMI U-CLEAN-IT BOXES DID YOU SPOT? WHERE ARE THEY?

HOW MANY MOSAIC-TILED TRASH CANS CAN YOU FIND AROUND THE LAKE?

WHAT OTHER KINDS OF ANIMALS CAN YOU SPOT AROUND LAKE MERRITT? THESE MAY BE WILD OR DOMESTICATED ANIMALS!  
HOW MANY BIRD ISLANDS ARE THERE ACROSS FROM THE ROTARY CENTER?

LMI'S OFFICE IS AT THE LAKE MERRITT SAILBOAT HOUSE. HOW MANY DOCKS CAN YOU COUNT AT THE BOAT HOUSE?

WHAT IS THE SHAPE PAINTED ON THE PAVEMENT OUTSIDE THE BOAT HOUSE?

FIND THE "MID-CENTURY MONSTER" SCULPTURE IN LAKESIDE PARK. SHARE A 1-3 SENTENCE STORY ABOUT THE MONSTER: WHAT KIND OF WEATHER DOES IT LIKE BEST? WHAT ARE ITS FAVORITE BIRDS? WHAT MISCHIEF DOES IT GET UP TO WHEN NO ONE IS LOOKING? BE CREATIVE!

WHICH OF THESE BIRDS CAN YOU SPOT?

HERON

CORMORANT

EGRET

DUCK

COOT

PELICAN

GULL

KINGFISHER

PIGEON

GOOSE



**SUBMIT YOUR ANSWERS TO BE ENTERED  
INTO OUR 2025 LMI HOLIDAY STROLL  
RAFFLE!**

**MORE INFO AVAILABLE ONLINE  
PRIZES INCLUDE BAYWHEELS ANNUAL  
MEMBERSHIP, LAKE MERRITT PUZZLES/  
BOOKS, AND MORE.**