THE TIDINGS

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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.



Humans of Lake Merritt

By the Oakland High School ESA 10 Students

This fall, Lake Merritt Institute partnered with the 10th grade Environmental Science Academy (ESA 10) students at Oakland High School to learn about who visits the lake, and why. Their assignment was to interview and photograph people they met around the lake. The essential question they are exploring this semester is: **To what extent is Lake Merritt a "triumph of the commons"?** Many thanks to all the Lake Merritt visitors who shared their time and thoughts; to the students who contributed their work to the Tidings; and to OUSD teacher, Lara Trale, for collaborating with us! This project was originally inspired by Brandon Stanton's Humans of New York.

Project Overview

For more than 150 years, Lake Merritt has been at the civic and cultural center of Oakland. A scientifically important tidal lagoon, a gathering space, a place of culture, a business center, a home, and a site for many forms of recreation, the lake plays an important role in many Oaklanders' relationships with their city. In this unit, the ESA 10 students read and wrote about nonfiction texts, then interviewed real people about the role of the lake in their lives. From these interviews, they created a gallery of people's stories and the subjects' own analyses of how the lake shapes the lives of the people who use it. The interviews featured here are just a small curation of the lakegoers they talked to.

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

Julian, new to Oakland



Shown: Julian & a friend
Portrait by D'Ari Bruce

"My name is Julian. I am originally from San Jose, very tech-heavy, really crowded. I moved out here 'cause there is a lot more going on out here than over there if you aren't really into the tech scene. And I felt like I was stuck there, I grew up there since middle school, so yeah, it feels good to move out here and try something different and live somewhere new. I moved here in June so I've been coming over here every day. I really like the water and I like the peaceful vibes, especially during the evening because of the sunsets and everything. I like the community out here too. I love the vendors that come out here on the weekends. I just like the sense of community and sense of like, independent businesses and small businesses. I like supporting all those. It's great."

— Interview, transcript, and portrait by D'Ari Bruce



Photo credits: Association of Fundraising Professionals Greater Madison Chapter

November Updates: National Philanthropy Day, November 15th & An Exciting Local Collaboration

By Evelyn Gutierrez

November is a special month that holds deep historical, cultural, and commemorative significance. The month marks the beginning of a season for retrospection and community celebrations. From Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) and All Saints' Day to Veterans Day, Diwali, Thanksgiving, and Native American Heritage Day, November invites us to reflect on our relationships and communities, both past and present. Among these heavyweight celebrations, positioned in the middle of the month, is a lesser-known holiday: National Philanthropy Day (NPD). On theme with other November observances, NPD honors the impact of philanthropy and those who work to make a difference in their communities and around the world. The first official NPD celebration occurred in 1986, when there existed roughly 800,000 nonprofit organizations across the country. Today, that figure is over 1.9 million, including nearly 1.6 million charitable organizations with 501(c)(3) status. NPD invites us to celebrate nonprofits for their mission-oriented work and to acknowledge the vital roles that philanthropy and volunteer work play in improving lives and strengthening communities every day.

Across the nation, charitable organizations are reporting facing increasing financial instability due to an unpredictable funding environment and funding disruptions. Holiday season has started, and **LMI needs your help** to raise nearly $30,000 before the end of the year. Your tax-deductible donation directly supports the preservation of Oakland's Crown Jewel. Meeting our goal will mean we can continue to remove trash pollution that flows into Lake Merritt from over 62 storm drains, provide environmental education programs to local youth, and equip and train hundreds of volunteers each month for our year-round cleanups throughout 2027, among other stewardship activities.

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Bar Skula Sip & Support flyer

Looking for a way to support LMI while also treating yourself? Stop by Oakland's new cevichería and grill, Bar Skula, this month and enjoy a delicious glass of sangria! LMI and Bar Skula are teaming up this fall to celebrate Lake Merritt and its surrounding community through a drink fundraiser and by co-hosting a Cleanup and Cocktails Event. Throughout November, Bar Skula is donating $2 from every sangria drink to LMI. This means you can sip while supporting an impactful, local cause!

Free on Saturday, November 14th? It's time to celebrate YOU for your commitment to Lake Merritt! After our public Saturday cleanup, LMI and Bar Skula are throwing a cocktail (and mocktail) party to say, "thank you!" to our volunteers. See details in the Fall Announcements on the following page.

Donate Today

Supporters like **you** make it possible for us to keep Lake Merritt clean and thriving for both wildlife and the community. You can donate through our website or by scanning the QR code in the Fall Announcements on the following page.



Shown: Your donation in action, supporting our graffiti abatement initiative and our work with local young adults. Interns from Oakland's Youth Employment Program prepare LMI's equipment box by Lakeside Drive for a mural. Photo by Tonia Johnson

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FALL ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS AT LAKE MERRITT

Clean Up and Cocktails Event!



For digital readers: Click the flyer to sign up for the morning cleanup.

LMI Public Cleanups – We Need Your Help This Season!

With the rainy season here, we are seeing more trash washing into Lake Merritt and need all hands on deck to keep up! Join us this season to help clean up Lake Merritt for our community and wildlife.

- Public cleanups are held every Tuesday and Saturday at 10 AM

Register online at lakemerrittinstitute.org

All Tentacles on Deck Fundraiser!



Autumn Lights Festival marked the start of our end-of-year fundraiser, giving LMI a headstart towards **our goal of $70K** and setting us up for success next year. Click the image (for the digital readers) or scan the QR code below to donate today!

Bird Walks at Lake Merritt

Join Hilary Powers on the fourth Wednesday of every month for a bird walk at the lake.
Register at goldengatebirdalliance.org.



For sponsorships, questions, or comments please email us at info@lakemerrittinstitute.org.
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