Santa Monica Reimagines Public Spaces with Safe Al Fresco Dining and Retail Options

The City of Santa Monica is reimagining how businesses can use public, outdoor space to provide a safe and comfortable experience for residents and visitors. Businesses are thriving under blue skies and ocean breezes, welcoming patrons into new al fresco dining patios, outdoor fitness classes, sidewalk retail shops and providing personal care services throughout the vibrant coastal community. Bring your mask and support local Santa Monica businesses.

Fitness studios in Downtown Santa Monica are taking advantage of oceans-front views by holding physically-distanced, outdoor yoga, bootcamp, cycling and other fitness classes. Santa Monica Place and SoulCycle have teamed up to bring the popular cycling classes outdoors on the rooftop deck with SoulOutside, daily through mid-October. Sweat it out safely at Burn Fitness' full-service open-air rooftop studio overlooking the iconic Third Street Promenade. Santa Monica Yoga and Beach Yoga SoCal are hosting reduced capacity outdoor yoga classes. Bow House, BaseCamp and Box N' Burn are also offering outdoor fitness experiences for the community to release stress and stay active in a safe environment.

Montana Avenue’s eclectic mix of distinctive shops, cafes, and spas have expanded summer dining experiences and services with al fresco parklets and physically-distanced seating flowing along the tree-lined street. Indulge in delicious bites, plant-based menu offerings, and buckets of bubbly rose on Art’s Table pup-friendly patios. Chu Spa has created a relaxing outdoor space providing nail appointments, massages, waxing and more. For those looking for a much-needed quarantine hair cut, Panache Coiffure has you covered with its new al fresco hair salon.

Enjoy the iconic ocean views of Santa Monica along with a diverse mix of services, dining options and experiences now available along Ocean Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard. Active Barbers and Body Fit Gym are providing safe outdoor options for curbside cuts and fitness classes. Soak in stunning views of the Pacific and indulge in fresh seafood favorites from Watergrill and Blue Plate Oysterette. Fiummonte Minum, voted Santa Monica’s Most Loved Hotel of 2020, is welcoming back the community with a safely enhanced resort experience, including outdoor seating, takeaway picnic baskets, hairdos with an outdoor view from Lloyd’s Barbershop, poolside movie nights, and your favorite brews from Dogtown Coffee.

Walk or bike to experience the arts and culture along the newly-imagined Main Street Al Fresco experience. Cool off with refreshing sangria and Spanish tapas from Manchecho or stop for a healthy brunch on the patio at Kafé K. Use the City of Santa Monica’s mural guide to explore Santa Monica’s eight lively neighborhoods on a self-guided street art tour. Quench your thirst for discovery with margaritas and Mexican cuisine at Gilber’s El Indio on Pico Boulevard for a lovely physical-distanced patio experience at this classic neighborhood restaurant beloved by locals and visitors alike.

Santa Monica Shines is the community-partnered outreach effort for Santa Monica’s economic recovery that provides resources to businesses, employees, and residents throughout the city at santamonica.gov/economicrecovery. Santa Monica remains committed to the health and wellness of the community and is taking extra precautions to ensure the community feels welcome and safe. When visiting Santa Monica, please remember to wear a face mask, practice social distancing, and follow all LA County health and safety requirements.

Visitors are encouraged to contact individual businesses for specific safety protocols and guidelines. For those who want to enjoy delicious eats at home, to-go options are widely available. For more information on individual neighborhoods and the unique al fresco offerings, please visit santamonica.com.

For the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health’s latest orders, visit publichealth.lacounty.gov.

Santa Monica Shines is a communications and outreach effort focused on accelerating a safe and healthy economic recovery and return to business. The partnership of residents and community stakeholders includes City of Santa Monica, Downtown Santa Monica, Inc., Main Street Business Improvement District, Montana Avenue Merchants Association, Pico Improvement District, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, Santa Monica Daily Press, Santa Monica Pier Corporation, Santa Monica Place, Santa Monica Travel & Tourism, and 18th Street Arts Center. For more information visit santamonica.com/shines.
The Zoo Is a Natural Choice for L.A.’s Business Community

By BRENDA SCOTT ROYCE

 Ninety-nine inner-city kids, one major league baseball star, and more than 1,400 exotic animals ... that’s the formula behind a home-run event hosted at the Los Angeles Zoo last August. The Zoo teamed with its longtime partner 99 Cents Only Stores and the Dodgers Foundation to offer a fun-filled day for young Dodgers RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities) players from underserved communities in Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley. The kids were VIPs, enjoying special behind-the-scenes tours, a healthy lunch, and a meet-and-greet with pitcher Rich Hill. They also learned about the importance of proper nutrition for animals and humans.

An unqualified success, the event serves as just one example of how the Zoo partners with area organizations for mutual benefit and interaction with Zoo guests. Another recent standout was “DC Presents: Reading with Zoo-per Heroes at the L.A. Zoo,” an event that combined comic book authors and illustrators, costumed superheroes, and animal encounters to inspire reading and environmental awareness.

“It was a great example of two organizations you wouldn’t normally think of coming together uniting to deliver a dynamic event for our shared audience,” said Oscar Dizon, Senior Manager of Corporate Partnerships for the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association (GLAZA). “We celebrated our animals and their books and characters, drawing thematic connections between them in a way that kids and parents truly enjoyed.”

The Zoo’s corporate sponsorship program is relatively young but growing steadily—and it has never been more important. Over 6,400 species are classified as critically endangered, more than ever before in human history. Sponsorship revenue supports the Zoo’s mission and its global conservation and sustainability efforts.

Corporate opportunities include event presenting sponsorships, official sponsor and service designations, landmark and exhibit entitlements, unique hospitality settings, admission tickets for retail promotions, and customized on-premise activations. Some sponsors have a regular on-site presence. The Southern California office of New York Life offers free Child Safety ID kits to Zoo visitors who stop by their booth. Welk Resorts provides incentives to visit its world-class resorts. The child-advocacy organization First 5 LA sponsors the Zoo’s universally accessible Play Park.

The Business Partners program is another great way for companies to connect with the L.A. Zoo. Among other perks, Business Partners receive free guest passes and can take advantage of the Zoo’s unique setting to entertain clients or staff. They are invited to special gatherings for networking and relationship building with other companies. Corporate teams may also participate in hands-on volunteer activities—helping the Zoo while also increasing employee engagement.

“For companies looking to strengthen community bonds, the L.A. Zoo is a natural fit,” said Kevin O’Brien, GLAZA’s Director of Corporate Partnerships. “It allows them to connect with our diverse, family-oriented audience, bring added value to our guests, and align with our mission and objectives. It illustrates their deep commitment to both the people and animals that call L.A. home.”

Learn more at lazoo.org.
Businesses have never needed to be more dynamic or thoughtful. But it’s tough to collaborate successfully over just our virtual spaces. Innovative ideas flourish when we work together in person. That’s why the Broadmoor offers 90 different indoor and outdoor event spaces to accommodate any type of group. It’s a proud tradition of genuine care. Creating a safe and enriching environment for all your needs. Contact us today and start planning your meeting at broadmoor.com.

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The Broadmoor: An Ideal Place to Get Things Done

Many are exhausted from video chatting and need the connection of getting things done together, in person.

The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs is observing the trend of being “zoomed out” firsthand as it hosts an increasing number of small corporate groups and associations drawn to the resort because of its ample space to spread out indoors and in the surrounding outdoor venues around the main campus.

“The 40 person and the smaller group has become our new normal,” said Pepper Dombroski, The Broadmoor’s director of sales. Small groups are getting together (with social distancing) at the property. Many opt to modify the meetings and have continued with a select group of executives, curated teams or “inner circle” attendees to create hybrid meetings and bringing in other team members virtually.

The Broadmoor has a diversity of meeting space offerings from boardrooms to grand ballrooms and even wilderness properties including Emerald Valley Ranch, The Orvis Endowed Fly Fishing Camp, and Cloud Camp. These boutique venues have overnight lodging for groups between 20 and 60, are all-inclusive and offer a great escape for exploring ideas as big as the commanding scenery. Cloud Camp offers its own dedicated meeting space called The Overlook a 1,500 square foot room with floor to ceiling windows. Providing stunning views of Colorado Springs from the large deck, it is perfect for groups of ten to 60 people seeking a unique and intimate setting.

with more than 90 meeting rooms of assorted shapes and sizes, what was once specialized space to meet the needs of groups is now more space to spread out. From lawns, patios, balconies, the “ballrooms” are the outdoors, and guests enjoy the beautiful Colorado weather as they move throughout the resort. Some groups utilize the resort recently completed 123,000 square foot Exhibit Center for private dining and meeting space. Individuals can be seated six feet apart, and the 32 breakout rooms ranging in size from 350 square feet to 650 square feet, can accommodate smaller gatherings without crowding.

“The Broadmoor is one of the longest-running, consecutive recipient of both Forbes Five-Star, AAA Five-Diamond awards, the main resort has 784 guest rooms and suites, two championship golf courses, an award-winning spa, unique retail and 20 diverse restaurants, cafes, and lounges. The Broadmoor’s unparalleled combination of an illustrious history of innovation and distinctive culture of service has made it one of the country’s premier event destinations for over 100 years. Colorado Springs Airport, 13 minutes from The Broadmoor, is serviced by non-stop flights on major airlines. Regularly scheduled door-to-door shuttles from both airports is available through Gray Line.

The Broadmoor and its Wilderness Experiences encompass a total of 5,000 acres within the breathtaking Pikes Peak region. As the longest-running, consecutive recipient of both the Forbes Five-Star, AAA Five-Diamond
Eight Tips to “Supercharge” Your Staycation

COVID restrictions, travel fears and smaller-than-usual vacation budgets may be a challenge for many, but it is still possible to take a rejuvenating break.

This year, millions of Americans will save money by taking only one local vacation, and about 55 percent will spend $1,000 or less total, while enjoying a safe staycation at home, according to a recent poll.

“You can make a staycation memorable and frugal with a few money-saving ideas,” said Ethan Ewing, president of free online consumer portal Bills.com.

Ewing suggested these ways to supercharge a staycation:

1. Make a budget. “Even for a staycation, it is important to keep spending in check,” said Ewing. Divide the total available funds for vacation by the number of vacation days to establish an approximate daily budget. For the future, make vacation costs part of an annual budget and save a little each month. Even daily pocket change can make a difference, Ewing said.

2. Be a tourist. Think about desirable activities at a tourist destination: Beautiful spacious parks or beaches that are good for social distancing? Historical areas? Thrills, from mountain biking to stand up paddle boarding? “Contact a local visitor center and read brochures or ask questions as if you were new to your area,” suggested Ewing. Use savings from not paying for airfare, a rental car or set aside time to complete projects around the house, with the reward of dinner out or a favorite ice cream refresher. Take “before” and “after” photos to see how far the project has come.

3. Order in. If part of vacation’s appeal is the break from cooking, take a vacation from the kitchen. Ethnic restaurants can offer cheaper eats and introduce new favorites. Hit a hot dog stand for a bargain lunch for the whole family. Or purchase (or make ahead) frozen family-size meals and salad mix for easy meals that keep costs in check.

4. Unplug. Vow to shun e-mail, just as you would from the kitchen. A true addict might even leave the computer with a friend or relative to make access impossible. Set automatic vacation response messages, and turn off the ringer on the telephone. Even job hunters can benefit from a mental health break to fully relax for a few days.

5. Camp out at home. For families, camping out in the backyard is a great way to please the kids, save money, avoid the hassle of packing up the car, and enjoy sleeping under the stars with the benefit of indoor plumbing and running water. Pitch a tent, roast marshmallows, and run through the sprinkler if it gets too hot.

6. Challenge yourself. Make a week — or a summer — more exciting with a personal challenge. Try for a personal best score at disc golf, tennis, basketball or outdoor raquetball. Learn a new sport, discover a craft (check for video help at the library or online), or master a new gourmet dish.

7. Rejuvenate. If budget allows, use some of the funds that would normally be spent on a traditional vacation to splurge. Get a massage, or set aside time to complete projects around the house, with the reward of dinner out or a favorite ice cream refresher. Take “before” and “after” photos to see how far the project has come.

8. Take a “maxi-staycation.” If getting away is a must, but an exotic vacation is not in the cards, expand the idea of a staycation to include locations within road-trip distance. “Even with gas prices creeping up again, a family of four can travel within an eight-hour radius for about $120. That’s far more affordable than plane tickets, which could cost $1,000 or more for a family of four,” Ewing said.

“Whether a vacation takes you, taking a break from daily routine provides a chance to center yourself and remember the things you love,” Ewing said. “This year, commit to finding a way to refresh — on any budget.”

Information for this article was provided by Bills.com (www.bills.com), a free one-stop portal where consumers can educate themselves about complex personal finance issues and comparison shop for products and services.