

LA COUNTY FAIR WRAPS UP 2026 RUN

Fair Closes Out 104th Anniversary Celebration with Theme “Play Your Way”

Pomona, CA (June 3, 2026) — The LA County Fair wrapped up its 104th anniversary celebration on Sunday, May 31, after 17 days of creativity, curiosity, competition and carefree fun inspired by this year’s theme, **“Play Your Way.”**

From thrilling carnival rides and hands-on exhibits to live music, immersive art and outrageous Fair food, guests were invited to experience the Fair their own way – whether that meant chasing adrenaline on a roller coaster, discovering a new hobby, meeting farm animals or simply sharing a funnel cake with family and friends.

“This year’s Fair reminded us that play looks different for everyone,” said Walter Marquez, President and CEO of Fairplex. “For some, it’s screaming on a carnival ride. For others, it’s discovering art, tasting something new or spending time together. ‘Play Your Way’ celebrated the joy of making the Fair experience your own.”

Preliminary attendance figures show 642,081 guests passed through the Fair’s gates during the 17-day run.

New attractions made a big impression, including the debut of the Cutest Dog Show on Earth, featuring rescue pups showing off their skills, and Pirate Lagoon, where young adventurers embraced their inner buccaneers. Weekend activations celebrated the upcoming FIFA World Cup and introduced guests to cricket, which will make its Olympic return at the 2028 Games and will be played at Fairplex’s future cricket venue, home of the Los Angeles Knight Riders. The Millard Sheets Art Center was curated by local art organization, Claremont Temporary, who presented *Play Pavillion: A Survey of Regional Creative Subcultures*. The exhibition acted as a communal bridge between the history of high art in Los Angeles and the expansive creative subcultures that have defined the region for generations. Also new this year, the Rediscover Center created a makerspace for families to participate in unforgettable hands-on activities with its Cardboard Lab. And Clay Play returned to the Art Center, offering guests an opportunity to create on a pottery wheel.

One of the Fair’s most talked-about food items turned out to be one of its simplest: frozen green grapes dipped in chocolate. “Where can I find the chocolate-covered grapes?” became one of the most frequently asked questions at Guest Relations booths throughout the Fair.

Returning favorites also drew crowds. L.A.’s Grand Park Foundation brought its All Skate for Alzheimer’s roller rink back for a final Fair appearance after a three-year run. Ray Cammack

Shows returned with 70 rides and 30 games, including two new attractions, Sound Storm and Air Raid. Fair mascot Thummer the Pig even took a turn behind the DJ booth at Silent Disco, while petting farms filled with goats, sheep, piglets, miniature horses and donkeys delighted guests of all ages.

Across the fairgrounds, entertainment, exhibits and culinary creations delivered memorable experiences around every corner. Guests packed the nightly concert series, explored the colorful displays in the Flower and Garden Pavilion and took advantage of the popular \$10 value meals offered by vendors throughout the Fair.

A Taste of the Fair

Food vendors served up eye-popping numbers throughout the Fair's run:

Chicken Charlie's

- Cooked more than 10,000 lbs of chicken
- Sold 5,000 ears of corn
- Used 2,000 mangos for the new Fried Magonadas
- Sold 2,000 Value Meals
- Used 100 pounds of fresh garlic

The Midway Gourmet

- 2,000 pounds of green grapes and 400 gallons of chocolate transformed into the wildly popular Chocolate-Covered Grapes
- 2,500 pounds of popcorn popped into fresh kettle corn
- More than 1,000 gallons of Dirty Sodas served
- More than 40,000 pounds of watermelon consumed through Candied Watermelon on a Stick
- 15,000 pounds of strawberries and more than 1,000 gallons of Dubai Pistachio Cream used for Dubai Chocolate Strawberry Cups
- Enough corn dogs sold to stretch nearly four miles end-to-end
- A railcar's worth of potatoes turned into curly fries and French fries
- Two fields of corn roasted and served on the cob
- Two 40-foot shipping containers filled with cotton candy

- Thousands of deep-fried Oreos enjoyed by Fair guests

Community, Agriculture and Giving Back

The Fair proudly partnered with local organizations to deliver educational programming and community engagement opportunities.

The 48th District Agricultural Association showcased student projects focused on agriculture and nutrition, while Cal Poly Pomona’s Huntley College of Agriculture brought 210 animals to The Farm. The Big Red Barn featured interactive exhibits, educational demonstrations and plenty of barnyard fun. Along The Farm Road, at the Petting Zoo, 18 lambs and 14 goats were born during the Fair’s run.

Livestock competitions remained a cornerstone of the Fair experience, with participants from Future Farmers of America, 4-H and open-class divisions exhibiting goats, sheep, llamas and other animals.

The Fair also continued its tradition of giving back. During three Food Drive Thursdays, guests donated 105,152 cans of food to support God’s Pantry, Inland Valley Hope Partners and the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank.

Nearly 80 community organizations participated in Community Corner programming, including Girl Scouts Takeover Day and exhibits hosted by local businesses, cities, veterans’ organizations and Los Angeles County departments. Fairplex’s Ambassador Volunteer Program contributed more than 1,500 volunteer hours throughout the Fair.

The FairKids Field Trip Program welcomed 19,492 students and chaperones, including participants in FairStars Day, a sensory-friendly experience featuring reduced lights and sounds for neurodivergent guests.

Committed to environmental stewardship, the Fair also recycled more than 70 tons of waste, proving that fun and sustainability can go hand in hand.

The LA County Fair returns May 6-31, 2027, with the theme, “Dig In.” To celebrate, the Fair is offering a special dig-into-savings ticket offer – any day tickets for the 2027 Fair are just \$9 from June 3-17. Lowest price of the season! Visit lacountyfair.com to purchase tickets. For updates and information about next year’s Fair, visit www.lacountyfair.com.

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