



CULTURAL SERVICES
FRENCH EMBASSY
IN THE UNITED STATES

MEDIA CONTACTS:
Sally Marquez, NHM
smarquez@nhm.org; (213) 763 3580

Maura Klosterman-Vu, Polskin Arts
Maura.Klosterman@FinnPartners.com; (310) 552 4117

Astrid Le Moine, Consulate General of France
astrid.le-moine@diplomatie.gouv.fr; (310) 235 3242

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY BRINGS WORLDWIDE FRENCH EMBASSY CULTURAL SERVICES EVENT, 'NIGHT OF IDEAS,' TO L.A. TO EXPLORE CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2019
6 PM – 12 AM**

TICKETS AVAILABLE MONDAY, JANUARY 7 AT 10 AM

L.A. line-up includes "Liminal Sound Bath" with Jónsi (of Sigur Rós), Alex Somers, and Paul Corley; vegan fashion show produced by Le Frenchlab; panel discussions and mini-talks on the environment and future cities with U.S. and French thought leaders; live DJs and musical performances; French film screenings; science speed dating and much more



Los Angeles, January 7, 2018 – On **February 1, 2019**, the **Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County** (NHM), in collaboration with the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, will present the Los Angeles program for **'Night of Ideas' (La Nuit des Idées)**, an annual, worldwide event that celebrates the stream of ideas between countries, cultures, and generations. The NHM event is part of a five-city U.S. series of these all-night

marathons featuring discussions, screenings and performances. The Los Angeles line-up features a live “Liminal Sound Bath” with Jónsi of Sigur Rós, Alex Somers, and Paul Corley—an experience that unfolds in the landmark North American Mammal Hall. There will also be a performance about climate change by Los Angeles Baroque, led by seismologist Lucy Jones; a vegan fashion show organized by Emmanuelle Rienda and Le Frenchlab to kick off Vegan Fashion Week; screenings of French films from the Fonds régionaux d’art contemporain (Regional collections of contemporary art – Frac); and musical performances by DJ Bobby French and DJ Mr. Swift. Prominent speakers and panelists will include architect Kulapat Yantrasast, President of the French National Museum of Natural History Bruno David, and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Robert Lempert.

“We are thrilled to bring together this international group of thought leaders and artists to focus on some of the most pressing issues we face in our world, including global climate change,” said Lori Bettison-Varga, NHM President and Director. “I think that by investigating this intersection of science and art, and collaborating with the French Embassy to host guests of this caliber and diversity, participants will be inspired in new ways to perceive global challenges and, more importantly, effect change.”

“It is an honor to partner with the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County to host the annual Night of Ideas festival,” commented Christophe Lemoine, Consul General of France in Los Angeles. “This historic and beloved institution, which is driven to explore both the past and the present, is the ideal setting for guests to explore these topics through new collaborations and dialogues.”

Each year, Night of Ideas provides the opportunity for people around the globe to learn about and discuss the latest discoveries and prominent issues facing the world today. This is the second time this event, coordinated worldwide by the Institut Français and spanning five continents in 2019, will take place in Los Angeles; it was previously held at Bergamot Station Art Center in 2017. For the first time this year, the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, in partnership with the Institut Français, Paris, and local partners, have organized a U.S. series of Night of Ideas / A Night of Philosophy & Ideas programs—with events in Washington D.C., Houston, San Francisco, Brooklyn, and L.A.

This year’s Night of Ideas theme, “Facing Our Time,” explores questions related to the nature of our current political, social, and ecological moment, ways to effect change in response, and the power of imagination and creativity. The Night of Ideas event in Los Angeles is organized by NHM and the Consulate General of France in Los Angeles, to explore ecological and climate change through an interdisciplinary lens at the intersection of science, nature, and art. NHM will activate its galleries, diorama halls, theater and public spaces, inviting intellectuals, researchers, musicians, and artists to illuminate these topics through engaging lectures and conversations, live musical and dance performances, readings, art installations, screenings, and much more.

Night of Ideas will take over the entire museum, activating each of the halls, labs, and rotunda. Each space will host a range of different activities, from panel discussions about the effects of climate change on your wallet and mini lectures on restoring our watershed, to all-night DJ’d dance parties, and a performance about climate change by Los Angeles Baroque led by Lucy Jones. The evening will also feature an intimate site-specific Liminal Sound Bath from Jónsi (of Sigur Rós), Alex Somers, and Paul Corley within the landmark North American Mammal Hall. Listeners will lie on mats that radiate out from the musicians, transported by ambient sounds and a playlist adapted for the space that includes field wildlife recordings. The soundscape of Liminal filling the hall, as listeners commune with gray wolves, caribou, and polar bears, promises to be an unparalleled experience.

Additionally, the famed NHM rotunda will host two rounds of scientific speed dating where guests will have

the opportunity to sit around a table in an intimate setting while the museum's scientists lead discussions on their scientific topic of choice before rotating to the next. Details about each activation are below.

Night of Ideas is free to the public. For more information and to reserve tickets, visit nhm.org/nightofideas.

FEBRUARY 1, 2019, 6:00 PM - MIDNIGHT
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

NORTH AMERICAN MAMMAL HALL, LEVEL 1

The North American Mammal Hall will feature an array of different events throughout the evening's festivities including a discussion and performance by Los Angeles Baroque, "Mathemagic" with Arthur Benjamin, a vegan fashion show by Le Frenchlab, and more.

Los Angeles Baroque, L.A.'s only community baroque orchestra will kick off the evening with a discussion and performance about climate change

Mathemagic with Arthur Benjamin, mathematics professor who performs rapid mental calculations and explains his methodology

Welcome Remarks by Lori Bettison-Varga, NHM's President and Director, and Christophe Lemoine, Consul General of France in Los Angeles

Vegan Fashion Show featuring looks from the industry's premier high-end ethical practices to create a global community where fashion meets activism with a deeply conscious twist

Liminal Sound Bath with Jónsi (of Sigur Rós), Alex Somers, and Paul Corley

NHM'S 3D THEATER

Building in a Time of Collapse with Nicola Delon, Architect, Founding Partner of Encor Heureux, and Kulapat Yantrasast, Architect, Founding Partner, Creative Director of WHY Architecture, moderated by Jon Christiansen

Climaticism: Literature in the Era of Global Warming with architect Philippe Rahm, UCLA's Caroline Ford, and UC Santa Cruz's Karen Tei Yamashita, moderated by Dominic Thomas, Chair of the Department of French and Francophone Studies at UCLA

Screening of 16 Sunrises Film, which features Thomas Pesquet, French aerospace engineer, pilot, and European Space Agency astronaut

NORTH AMERICAN MAMMAL HALL, LEVEL 2

Guests are invited to join panelists in the North American Mammal Hall throughout the evening for panel discussions moderated by Patt Morrison. Each panel, lasting approximately 45-60 minutes, will explore a range of topics including the impact of climate change on your wallet, the human ability to adapt to extreme climates, urban sustainability and more. A full list of the panels and participants is below.

Your Money or Your Life? Climate Change's Tradeoffs in \$ and € (WORKING TITLE) with Nobel Peace

Prize laureate Robert Lempert, Director, Frederick S. Pardee Center for Longer Range Global Policy and the Future Human Condition, Professor, Pardee RAND Graduate School, and Nathalie Blanc, Director of Research at Paris Diderot University, France

There's No Place That's Home: Humans in Extreme-Climate Places (WORKING TITLE) with Christian Clot, creator of the HAIS (Human Adaptability in Situ), and Shane Campbell-Staton, evolutionary biologist at UCLA

Bright Green, Big City: Urban Livability Amid Climate Crisis (WORKING TITLE) with Lauren Faber O'Connor, Los Angeles Chief Sustainability Officer; and Matt Petersen, President and CEO of the Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI).

Lions and Tigers and Bears, No More: Can the Animal Kingdom Survive Climate Chaos? (WORKING TITLE) with Yves Frénot, Counselor for Science and Technology at the Embassy of France in the United States in D.C.; Ursula K. Heise, the Marcia H. Howard Chair in Literary Studies at the Department of English and the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability at UCLA; and Mark Gold, Director at UCLA's Institute of the Environment and Sustainability

AGE OF MAMMALS GALLERY

Join a renowned group of architects, biologists, climate change experts, and more for series of mini lectures in the *Age of Mammals* exhibition. Lasting approximately 20-25 minutes, each lecture will focus on a different aspect of climate change and how we, as humans, can make an impact on our future.

Sustainable Architecture with Philippe Rahm, Architect

Restoring Watersheds with Valer Clark, who has dedicated herself to preserving and restoring biodiversity of the borderland region between the U.S. and Mexico, and Juliette Bouquerel, founder of Be Your Change Media

No Nature, No Future: Museum Manifesto with Bruno David, President of the French National Museum of Natural History

How Climate Change Killed Past Civilizations with Damien Leloup, maritime archaeologist and researcher

Hot Weather, Hot Wine with Kevin Pogue, Professor of Geology at Whitman College

Extreme Environments with François-Michel Letourneau, geographer and senior research fellow at the French National Center for Scientific Research

NHM'S ROTUNDA

Over the course of 90 minutes in speed dating style, guests will have an opportunity to learn from and interact with 6 different scientists, excavators, and more on a range of topics without ever leaving their seats. Throughout the sessions, NHM's scientists will move from table to table, leading discussions on scientific topics of their choice.

ROUND ONE

- **L.A. Mammals - Get Rid of All House Cats?** with Miguel Ordeñana, Community Science Manager and Wildlife Biologist at NHM

- **Native and Non-native Plants: Do Natives Matter?** with Daniel Feldman, Head Gardener at NHM
- **Changing Oceans** with Regina Wetzler, Associate Curator & Director of the Marine Biodiversity Center at NHM
- **Why Synthetics?** with Saskia Wilson-Brown, Founder and Executive Director of the Institute of Art and Olfaction
- **Anthropocene** with Emily Lindsey, Assistant Curator and Excavation Site Director at La Brea Tar Pits
- **Entomophagy** with Alie Ward, Ologies podcast host

ROUND TWO

- **Mars: Plan B** with Clifford Johnson, Professor in the Physics and Astronomy at USC
- **Green Mobility** with Joe Linton, bike and L.A. River activist and author
- **What Would Happen If All of the Minerals in the Ocean Dissolve?** with Aaron Celestian, Associate Curator of Mineral Sciences at NHM
- **Invasive Earth Worms?** with Kirk Fitzhugh, Curator of Polychaetes at NHM
- **Eating Invasives?** With Jann Vendetti, Twila Bratcher Chair in Malacological Research at NHM

AFRICAN MAMMAL HALL

The African Mammal Hall will host three outstanding DJs throughout the evening. Guests are invited to join **DJ Novena Carmel**, **DJ Bobby French** and **DJ Mr. Swift** for dancing and mingling.

GALLERY TBD

A screening of ***A Border in the Jungle*** and a question and answer session with Francois-Michel Le Tourneau will be hosted in a gallery space (TBD).

About the Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County (NHMLAC)

The Natural History Museums of Los Angeles County include the Natural History Museum in Exposition Park (NHM), La Brea Tar Pits in mid-Wilshire/Hancock Park, and the William S. Hart Museum in Newhall. They operate under the collective vision to inspire wonder, discovery, and responsibility for our natural and cultural worlds. The museums hold one of the world’s most extensive and valuable collections of natural and cultural history—more than 35 million objects. Using these collections for groundbreaking scientific and historic research, the museums also incorporate them into on- and offsite nature and culture exploration in L.A. neighborhoods, and in a slate of community science programs. This creates a new natural history museum experience that explores the past, but increasingly addresses the present and the future.

NHM is located at 900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007. Visit nhm.org.

About A Night of Philosophy & Ideas

Night of Ideas is a marathon of philosophical debate, performances, screenings, readings, and music produced in connection with La Nuit des Idées, an annual world-wide event organized by the Institut Français, Paris.

Since 2015, the Cultural Services of the French Embassy has co-produced intellectual marathons in the U.S. The first Los Angeles edition took place in 2017. This kind of intellectual marathon is now being expanded around the country, taking different shapes and names depending on regional partners and local expectations.

The events will take place in five U.S. cities: Houston (Jan. 26 at Rice University's Moody Center for the Arts); Washington D.C. (Jan. 31 at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden); Los Angeles (Feb. 1 at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County); San Francisco (Feb. 2 at the San Francisco Public Library); and New York City (Feb. 2 at the Brooklyn Public Library). All events are co-produced by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, the Institut Français, Paris, and local partners.

Night of Ideas is an evening program that aims to encourage and foster discussion across cultures and generations. Talented artists, top-name musicians, and panels in various formats will engage and challenge audiences. NHM will be open to explore with pop-up performances, installations, real-time illustrators, and video screenings in historic halls and brand-new exhibitions. Learn more about the event by visiting lanuitdesidees.com/en/about.

About the Cultural Services of the French Embassy

The Cultural Services of the French Embassy promotes the best of French arts, literature, cinema, digital innovation, language, and higher education across the US. Based in New York City, Washington D.C., and eight other cities across the country, the Cultural Services brings artists, authors, intellectuals, and innovators to cities nationwide. It also builds partnerships between French and American artists, institutions, and universities on both sides of the Atlantic. In New York, through its bookshop Albertine, it fosters French-American exchange around literature and the arts. Learn more at frenchculture.org.

About the Consulate General of France in the U.S.

The Consulate General of France in Los Angeles is a consular representation of the French Republic in the United States. Its jurisdiction covers the Southwest region: Southern California, Southern Nevada, Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico. Under the authority of the Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (the equivalent of the Department of State in the United States), the Consulate General of France is responsible for the protection and the administrative affairs of French nationals living or traveling in the five states of its jurisdiction.

The Consulate is comprised of a political Chancellery, a consular section providing various administrative services to the French community and to those who desire to travel to France, an Office for Science and Technology, an Office for Cultural Affairs and Creative Industries, a Press and Communication Department and a French Tech Department.

Therefore, one of the roles of the Consulate General of France in Los Angeles is to provide a platform for exchange and innovation among French and American artists, academics, educators, students, tech communities, scientists and the general public.