

42 Epic Things To Do In June 2023 In And Around San Francisco

There's plenty to do this June in the SF Bay Area. Get ready to kick off the summer with outdoor film screenings, free concerts, and more.



JAMIE FERRELL - STAFF WRITER • MAY 26, 2023



Photo by Paige K. Parsons, courtesy of Stern Grove Festival

Somehow, we're already at the beginning of a new month, which means plenty of new things to do in and around San Francisco. June will bring us some exciting new [museum exhibitions](#), [festivals](#), [Pride events](#), and activities that you don't want to miss.

Whether you're a foodie looking to try out a new spot, or an [outdoorsy type](#) with [Privacy](#)

1. Magical upcoming Candlelight concerts include Joe Hisaishi, Fleetwood Mac, and Queer icons



The extremely popular concert series known simply as Candlelight is turning heads right now in San Francisco! You'll enjoy both contemporary and classical works played by a talented string quartet, in an intimate environment surrounded by hundreds of luminous candles. Venues include St. Ignatius Church and Grace Cathedral.

Concerts

Candlelight K-Pop: A Tribute to BTS

June 9, 2023 6:30 PM

[TICKETS](#)

Candlelight: A Tribute to Coldplay

June 10, 2023 6:30 PM (+2 more dates)

[TICKETS](#)

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June 22, 2023 7:00 PM (+1 more date)

TICKETS

Candlelight Pride: Celebrating Queer Musical Icons

June 24, 2023 6:30 PM

TICKETS

Candlelight: Featuring Vivaldi's Four Seasons and More at St. Ignatius Church

June 29, 2023 9:00 PM (+1 more date)

TICKETS

Candlelight: The Best of The Beatles

June 30, 2023 9:00 PM (+1 more date)

TICKETS

Candlelight: The Best of Joe Hisaishi

July 7, 2023 9:00 PM (+4 more dates)

TICKETS

Candlelight Oakland: The Best of Joe Hisaishi

July 28, 2023 7:00 PM

TICKETS

2. Free [Stern Grove Festival](#) concerts kick off this June



Stern Grove Festival in 2021. Credit: Paige K Parsons/Stern Grove Festival

Who's ready to see some live music?! Stern Grove Festival, a FREE outdoor concert series featuring a wide variety of genres, has just released its summer lineup. Here's what's on for June:

- **June 18:** Snarky Puppy, Isaiah Sharkey (*Reservations open May 18 at 2pm*)
- **June 25:** Indigo Girls (with Full Band), Neko Case (*Reservations open May 25 at 2pm*)
- [See the rest of the lineup here.](#)

3. Don't miss free outdoor movie screenings from [Sundown Cinema](#)



Courtesy of SF Parks Alliance

San Francisco Parks Alliance has brought back the popular Sundown Cinema series, which presents awesome FREE movies on a giant screen in various parks around the city. Here's the lineup for June:

- **June 8** – *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1978) at Alamo Square Park
- **June 30** – *Top Gun: Maverick* at the Presidio
- [See the rest of the schedule here.](#)

4. Gear up for [SF Pride](#)'s epic return

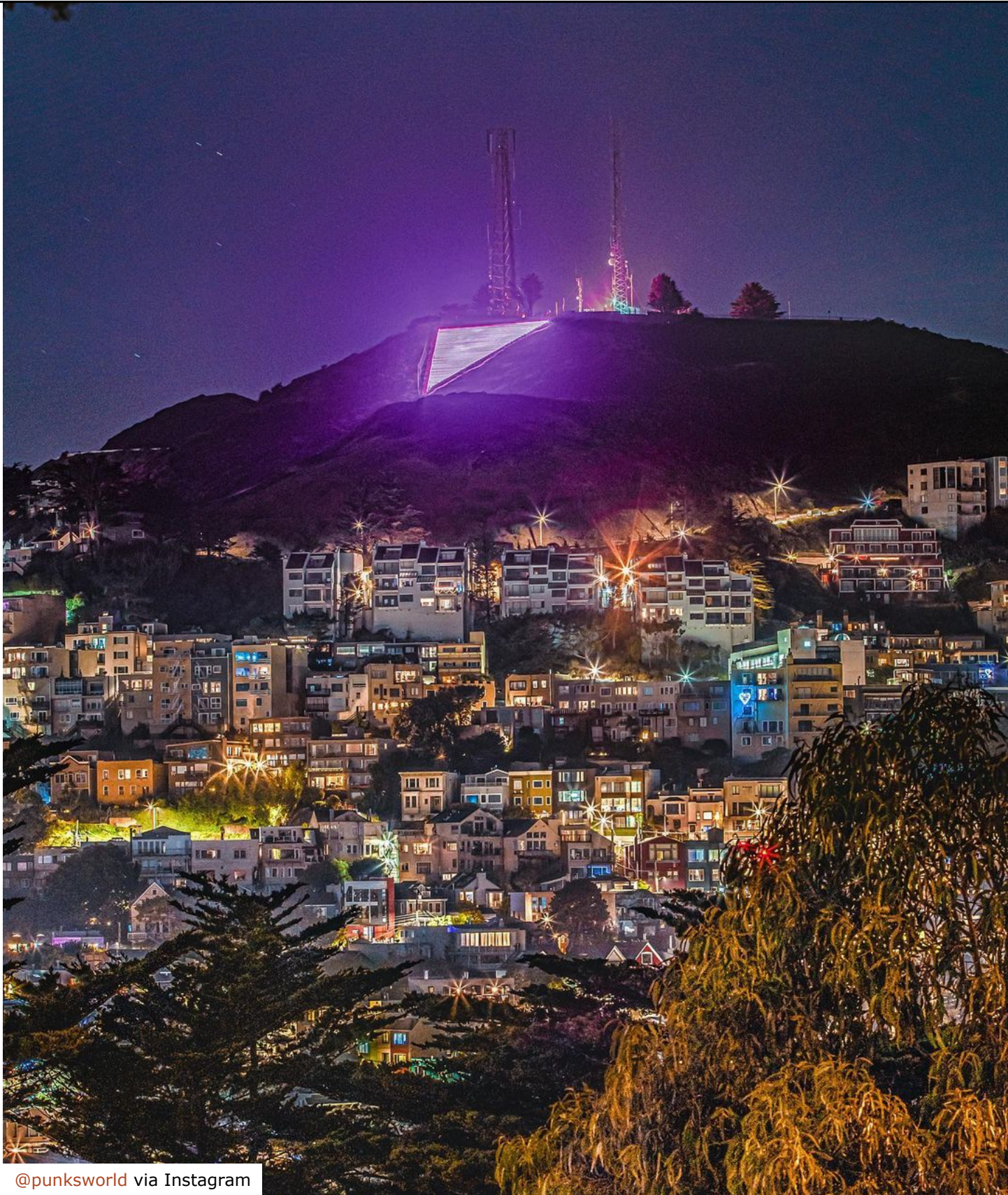


SF Pride 2018, courtesy of SF Travel Association

June 24-25

San Francisco Pride is back for 2023 with the theme “**Looking Back and Moving Forward.**” The celebration and rally will happen on the last weekend of June with home base at Civic Center Plaza. The parade and march will take place on Sunday in Downtown SF beginning at 10:30am.

5. The 28th annual [Pink Triangle](#) will shine down from Twin Peaks this June



@punksworld via Instagram

June 17-30

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the LGBTQIA+ community. It will be illuminated nightly starting June 17 with thousands of LED lights courtesy of Illuminate SF. You can still [sign up](#) to install, maintain, and remove the Pink Triangle.

6. Celebrate Juneteenth around the city



SF City Hall lit up for Juneteenth. Photo by [yhelfman](#) on Shutterstock

Juneteenth SF Freedom Celebration

June 17

This enormous celebration will take over 8 blocks in the Fillmore District. It will include live music and performances, a fashion and hair show, a classic car show, dozens of food trucks and booths, a 21+ beer and wine garden, FREE unlimited carnival rides, games, and an obstacle course.

Museum of the African Diaspora

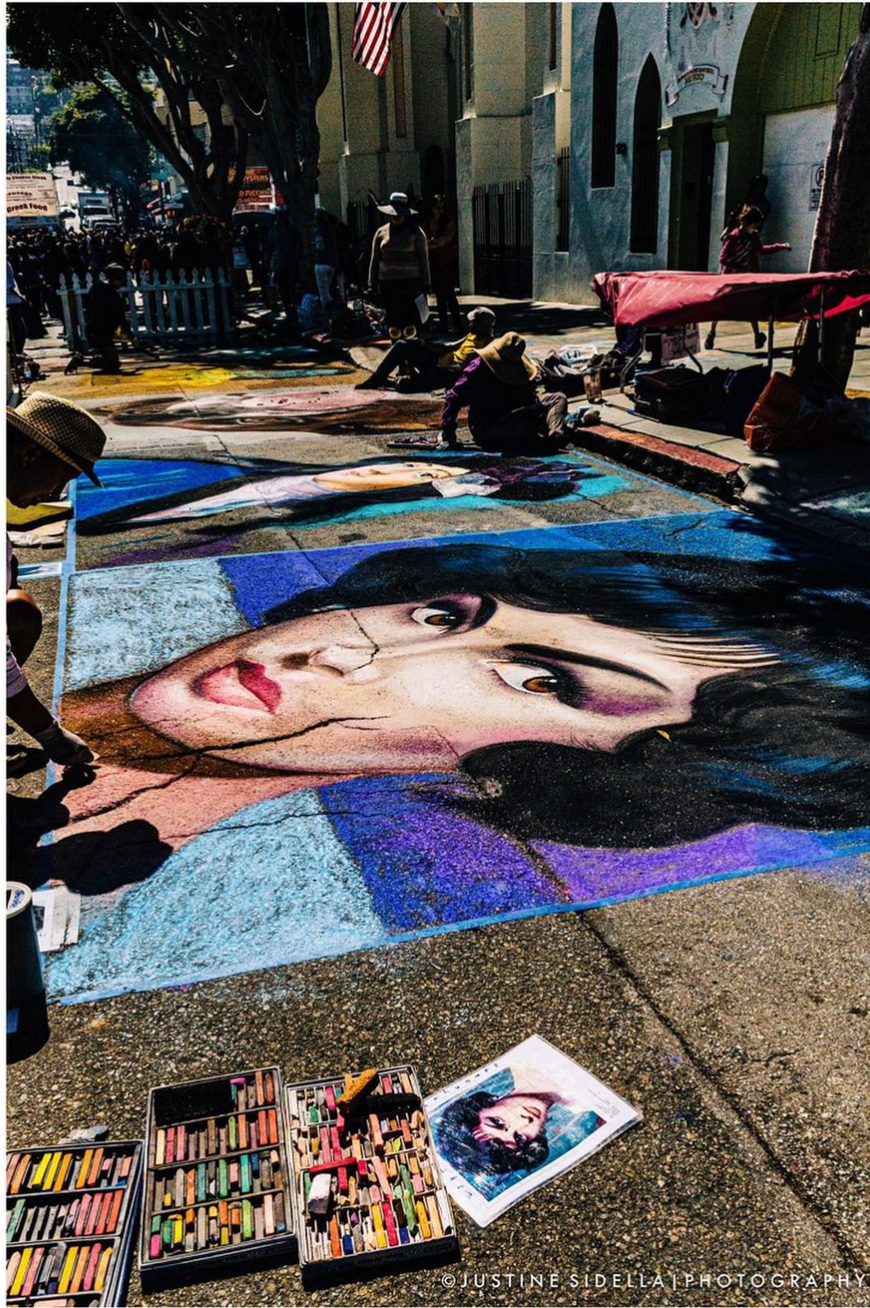
June 17

SF's own Museum of the African Diaspora is preparing for a special Juneteenth celebration with free admission, several virtual talks, multiple musical performances, and more. Although Juneteenth is observed on June 19th, the museum will be c [Privacy](#)



[See more Juneteenth events in SF here.](#)

7. Watch Italian street painting at the [North Beach Festival](#)



June 17-18

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paintings called Madonnari.

8. This seductive new SF show combines wine tasting and cabaret



SAVOR After Hours

From June 3 to September 3, [SAVOR After Hours](#) is bringing a unique show that combines wine tasting with cabaret to Napa Valley's JaM Cellars Ballroom. The show features dances, close-up magic, illusions, and much more. Sip your way through delicious wine flights while enjoying performances from Maks and Val Chmerkovskiy of *Dancing with the Stars*.

9. Check out free pop-up drag shows on Thursdays with Drag Me Downtown



THURSDAYS IN JUNE

Dates: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
5-7 PM



WEEKLY POP-UP DRAG SHOWS



Schroeder's
06.01.2023

Latin Steakhouse
06.08.2023

Nigella
06.15.2023

One Market Restaurant
06.22.2023

Pagan Idol
06.29.2023

Preregister to receive *Drag Me Downtown Fan and Feather Boa*.
Preregistration proceeds benefit *Trans Thrive*.



HOSTS

MGM Grande

Bobby Friday

Bionka Simone

Premier Media Sponsor



[LEARN MORE AT DOWNTOWNSF.ORG](https://www.downtownsf.org)

Downtown San Francisco is bringing the party this Pride Month with **Drag Me Downtown**, an epic series of **free pop-up drag performances**. Get ready for a lineup of entertaining performers including Bobby Friday, MGM Grande, and Bionka Simone.

If you **pre-register for the event with a \$10 donation**, you'll receive your own feather boa and a "Drag Me Downtown" fan! Preregistration proceeds benefit local trans-centric nonprofit Trans Thrive.

- **June 8: Latin Steakhouse** – with host Bobby Friday and performers VERA! and Coco Buttah
- **June 15: Nigella** – with host Bobby Friday and performers Nicki Jizz, Jota Mercury, Cream, and Cream Fraîche
- **June 22: One Market Restaurant** – with host MGM Grande and performers Voodonna Black and Helixir Byntwell
- **June 29: Pagan Idol** – with host Bionka Simone and performers Dulce de Leche and Mary Vice

10. Enjoy free concerts at Noise Pop's new Summer of Music series



Photo by Chris Kocher

Get ready for a summer of free music in SF because legendary music promoter, Noise Pop, is partnering with the newly-formed nonprofit organization, Civic Joy Fund, to launch a free concert series, Summer of Music. The live music series will take place from 2-5pm, **every Saturday this summer between June 17th through mid-**

Photo by [John Menard](#) on Flickr ([CC BY-SA 2.0](#))

Did you know that 'America's Best Rose Garden' is here in the Bay Area? Every summer thousands of visitors flock to the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden, which explodes into a vibrant spectrum of pinks, reds, oranges, and yellows. The expansive 5.5-acre garden has over 3,500 plantings in 189 different varieties, and it's completely free to visit.

12. Cheer on our home teams at these June major league [sports events](#)

Jake Weirick on Unsplash

Bay Area sports fans are lucky to enjoy a year-round rotation of top-tier sporting events with **6 local major league teams** in the realms of baseball, football, basketball, hockey, and soccer.

We're already well into **baseball season** this June, meaning you can catch numerous SF Giants home games at Oracle Park or Oakland A's home games at the Coliseum. **Soccer season** is also in full swing for the San Jose Earthquakes at PayPal Park.

Baseball: [SF Giants](#) at Oracle Park

- **May 29-31** vs Pittsburgh Pirates
- **June 2-4** vs Baltimore Orioles
- **June 9-11** vs Chicago Cubs
- **June 19-22** vs San Diego Padres
- **June 23-25** vs Arizona Diamondbacks

Baseball: [Oakland A's](#) at the Coliseum

- **May 29-31** vs Atlanta Braves
- **June 12-15** vs Tampa Bay Rays



Soccer: [San Jose Earthquakes](#) at PayPal Park

- **June 10** vs Philadelphia Union
- **June 17** vs Portland Timbers
- **June 24** vs St. Louis City SC

13. Get tickets to [X Games California 2023](#)

X Games

Now's the time to snag tickets to see the best athletes in Skateboarding, Moto X, and BMX at X Games California 2023 in Ventura. This 3-day event promises the exciting return of Tony Hawk as he competes against skate icons including Sky Brown and Nyjah Huston. [Get tickets now!](#)

14. Don't miss out on SF's best [temporary museum exhibitions](#)

© 2022 Kehinde Wiley. Courtesy of the artist and Templon, Paris – Brussels – New York. Photo: Ugo Carmeni.

As we enter a new season in San Francisco, many local museums are refreshing and replacing their temporary exhibitions. Now's a great time to take stock and plan ahead to see some of these wonderful displays before they're gone.

Museum exhibitions closing soon in SF

1. [**2022 SECA Art Award Exhibition**](#) – closing **May 29, 2023** at SFMOMA
2. [**Ramekon O'Arwisters: Freeform and Razor-Sharp**](#) – through **June 11, 2023** at the Museum of the African Diaspora
3. [**\(a\)way station**](#) – through **June 11, 2023** at SFMOMA
4. [**Conversation Pieces**](#) – through **June 25, 2023** at SFMOMA
5. [**Bookworks: Selected Recent Acquisitions, 2012-2022**](#) – through **June 25, 2023** at the Legion of Honor
6. [**Paperworks: 15 Years of Acquisitions**](#) – through **June 25, 2023** at the Legion of Honor
7. [**Acción Latina: The '80s Matter in the Mission**](#) – through **June 27, 2023** at SFMOMA

Museum exhibitions opening soon in SF

1. **[The World's Largest Dinosaurs](#)** – opening **May 26, 2023** at the Academy of Sciences
2. **[Bouquets to Art 2023](#)** – **June 5-11, 2023** at the de Young Museum
3. **[Scrappy Chair Challenge](#)** – **June 15-25, 2023** at SFMOMA
4. **[Nimah Gobir: Holding Space](#)** – opening **June 14, 2023** at the Museum of the African Diaspora
5. **[Disney Cats and Dogs](#)** – opening **June 24, 2023** at the Walt Disney Family Museum

15. 11 wonderful museums and gardens offering [free admission days](#)

Legion of Honor in Lincoln Park. Photograph by Steve Whittaker, @FAMSF. Image courtesy of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco.

We love San Francisco for its vibrant culture, history, and resources, but it's no secret that living here costs a pretty penny. This list shows SF museums and

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- **June 2 – Contemporary Jewish Museum**
- **June 3 – Asian Art Museum**
- **June 6 – Conservatory of Flowers**
 - Also free daily for SF City & County Residents
- **June 6 – Legion of Honor**
 - Also free every Saturday for Bay Area residents
- **June 6, 17-18 – de Young Museum**
 - Also free every Saturday for Bay Area residents
- **June 7 – GLBT Historical Society Museum**
- **June 10, 17 – Museum of the African Diaspora**
- **June 13 – SF Botanical Garden**
 - Also free daily for SF City & County Residents
 - Also free daily between 7:30-9am for the general public
- **Wednesdays – Museum of Craft and Design**
 - “Pay what you can” Wednesdays
- **MWF before 10am – Japanese Tea Garden**
 - Also free daily for SF City & County Residents

16. Groove to smooth beats at the 40th SF Jazz Festival



Grammy-nominated harpist Brandee Younger performs on a double bill with Nubya Garcia, a major artistic voice to emerge from the explosive British jazz scene. See the performance Monday, June 13, 7:30pm in SFJAZZ Center's Miner Auditorium.

June 7-18

SFJAZZ is gearing up for an epic summer season. Make sure you mark your calendar for the 40th annual SF Jazz Festival, showcasing 44 concerts across 4 different Bay Area venues.

The SF Jazz Festival started in 1983 as a small "Jazz in the City" event, and nearly 40 years later has grown into what the Chicago Tribune once called "The crown jewel among American jazz festivals."

17. Get tickets to the best upcoming local music festivals

Photo by Harrison Truong, courtesy of Stanford Live

It's hard to beat the SF arts and culture scene, especially when it comes to **Bay Area music festivals**. Here are all the festivals on our radar for June 2023:

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4. **Free Live Music on the Colonnade** – June 15-Aug 10, 2023 – Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, Santa Cruz
5. **Sierra Nevada World Music Festival** – June 16-18, 2023 – Mendocino County Fairgrounds, Boonville
6. **Country Summer Music Festival** – June 16-18, 2023 – Sonoma County Event Center, Santa Rosa
7. **Healdsburg Jazz Festival** – June 17-25, 2023 – Healdsburg
8. **San Francisco Pride** – June 24-25, 2023 – Market St, San Francisco
9. **Stern Grove Festival** – June-Aug, 2023 – Stern Grove, San Francisco

18. A vibrant flamenco show featuring Amador Rojas is coming to the Bay Area

Authentic Flamenco

Authentic Flamenco will be going on a world tour and San Francisco is one of the lucky stops on the itinerary. On its San Francisco stop, the stunning show brings passion and talent from notable Flamenco dancer Amador Rojas. [Get tickets now](#) and check [Privacy](#)

stops in June

Courtesy of Hello Kitty Cafe Truck

The massively popular Hello Kitty Cafe Pop-Up Truck will soon return to the Bay Area! Hello Kitty fans flock to this adorable cafe truck selling mini cakes, cookies, and macarons, plus **limited-edition Hello Kitty merch**. It'll make four local stops on its summer 2023 tour of the Western US:

- **June 3: Sacramento, CA** – Arden Fair near Sears and Forever 21 from 10am-7pm.
- **June 10: Stockton, CA** – Weberstown Mall near Blaze Pizza from 10am-7pm.
- **June 17: Walnut Creek, CA** – Broadway Plaza near Macy's from 10am-7pm.
- **June 24: San Francisco, CA** – Stonestown Galleria near Marugame Udon from 10am-7pm.

20. Let it all out at the [Museum of 3D Illusions](#)

Courtesy of the Museum of 3D Illusions

The **Museum of 3D Illusions** has a hilarious and fun new attraction where you can [smash plates](#) against a wall to let off some steam! Get 3 plates that you can draw or write on as a symbol of whatever's got you in a bind, and then let them fly.

21. Check out 30+ free activities at [Salesforce Park](#) this summer

Photo by [DTM Media](#) on Shutterstock

San Francisco's **Salesforce Park** is an amazing modern marvel in the Financial District. The verdant oasis rests 70 feet above the street atop the Salesforce Transit Center, and it's completely **free and open for the public** to visit at any time. It also hosts a collection of **free events** every week, including yoga classes, bootcamps, live music, bird walks, garden tours, drum circles, and much more.

Here are some of the one-time events happening there in June, but see the [full schedule](#) for all of the recurring ones as well.

- **June 3** – SF Scottish Fiddlers performance
- **June 17** – Un Viaje: Pride at the Park
- **June 18** – Juneteenth Kickback on the Lawn
- **June 24** – Pickin' Party in the Park: An Urban Bluegrass & Roots Festival

22. Take a look at [Fort Mason Center](#)'s June events and exhibitions

West Coast Craft at Fort Mason Center in San Francisco. Photo courtesy of West Coast Craft.

When's the last time you paid a visit to San Francisco's amazing Fort Mason Center? The popular art center hosts numerous exhibitions and events throughout the year, and there are some special ones coming up.

- **June 10-11:** [West Coast Craft](#)
- **Sundays:** [Fort Mason Center Farmers Market](#)
- [Forecast 2023](#) (SF Camerawork Exhibition)
- [David Simpson: *Smoke and Mirrors*](#) (Haines Gallery exhibition)
- [And more](#)

23. Enjoy a few more weeks of [Off the Grid food truck parties](#) before they go on hiatus



Photo: Fort Mason Center

Fridays through June 23

Off The Grid: Fort Mason Center (OTG:FMC) is back on the calendar for 2023! Enjoy the summer season on Friday evenings from **March 24-June 23**, followed by the fall season later in the year.

This is California's **largest weekly food truck event**, the only such market featuring a full bar and live music all season long. The free events bring dozens of gourmet food trucks to the Fort Mason Center parking lot on **Friday evenings from 5pm-10pm**.

24-29. Take stock of even more SF events happening throughout June

Photo by [@sundaystreets](#) on Instagram

[Union Street Festival](#)

June 3-4 – This historic Cow Hollow festival dates back to 1976. Check it out for a day of great entertainment and music, food and drink vendors, artisan and craft vendors, and the highly-anticipated “Waiters Race” in which relay teams must race up and down the street with a serving tray and drinks in hand.

[Festa Coloniale Italiana](#)

June 3-4 – Join the fun at this Italian street festival surrounding the 102nd Statuto Race. Festivities include live music, a pizza toss, an accordion symphony, and local vendors selling Italian products.

[Sunday Streets SF](#)

June 4 – This an ongoing event has celebrated **car-free streets in San Francisco** for 15 years and counting. Each month, a different neighborhood hosts a giant **family-friendly block party** with fun activities, food, music, dance, and fun. This month’s event is in the Tenderloin on June 4.

[World Oceans Day at Aquarium of the Bay](#)



Be Free Festival

June 10 – Support Filipino-owned businesses and enjoy live music at this marketplace at 5M.

Spring Into Summer Night

June 20 – Check out a special evening at the Academy of Sciences with storytelling and song from Ohlone tribe members, magic shows, science presentations, face painting, arts and crafts, and much more.

30. Explore the Academy of Sciences' new super-sized dinosaur exhibition

©AMNH/D. Finnin via the CA Academy of Sciences

San Francisco is gearing up for a major new exhibition that is already turning heads. ***The World's Largest Dinosaurs*** is dedicated to the biology of long-necked and long-tailed **sauro pods**, the biggest dinosaurs ever to walk the earth.

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2023-January 21, 2024 at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.

31. Check out some local film festivals taking place this month



San Francisco is home to the **second-largest film market in the country**, meaning that local cinephiles have an exciting lineup of film festivals to enjoy all year round. [View all the film festivals happening in June.](#) [Privacy](#)

- **June 9-11** – [Queer Women of Color Film Festival](#) – A free film festival 19 years running, showcasing works from queer women of color.
- **June 14-24** – [Frameline: San Francisco International LGBTQ+ Film Festival](#) – The largest and longest-running LGBTQ+ film festival in the world.

32. Watch [Bay Area cartoonists](#) interpret SF history at this new free exhibition

Rina Ayuyang, *The Man in the Macintosh Suit*

San Francisco’s innovative nonprofit arts organization **836M** presents an exciting new showcase of the work of **Bay Area cartoonists, graphic novelists, and zine makers**. [Cartoonists@836M](#) challenges four local artists to create brand new w

33. Enjoy fun new seasonal events at the Ferry Building

Photo by [James A. Molnar](#) on Unsplash

San Francisco's Ferry Building is one of the city's most iconic buildings, serving as a hotspot for tourists and locals alike. It's a center for events, pop-ups, a farmers' market, and countless excellent merchants who sell their wares daily in the building's many stalls.

- **June 11** – [Father's Day activities](#)
- **June 17** – [6th Annual Black Food & Wine Experience](#)
- **June 10** – [Pop Ups on the Plaza: Juneteenth on the Waterfront](#)
- **Wednesdays** – [Free Community Yoga](#)

34. Check out the June lineup of free concerts at the Bandshell

Photo by David Vives on Unsplash

The **Golden Gate Park Bandshell** has announced its 2023 season of ***Illuminate Live***, which runs all the way through mid-November. These **weekly free and family-friendly concerts** are some of the most beloved events in the park. Catch **over 100 performances** in a variety of genres including R&B, soul, jazz, funk, big band, strings, indie, rock, reggae, salsa, electronic, and EDM.

35. Enjoy June **After Dark events** at the Exploratorium

© Exploratorium, www.exploratorium.edu

These 18+ After Dark events are a must for some epic kid-free fun at the Exploratorium. After Dark happens each Thursday from 6-10pm with a different theme every week, featuring guest speakers, films, great music, and more.

- **June 1 – After Dark: The Future is Retro** – Experience filmmaker H.P. Mendoza’s *Attack, Decay, Release*, a queer sci-fi journey to the future.
- **June 15 – After Dark: The Sounds of Life** – Learn about the scientists studying the meaning of secret sounds in the natural world.
- **June 29 – After Dark: Ecological Futures** – Join an immersive dreamlike meditation by Miwa Matreyek about humans’ impact on the climate.

36. Don’t miss out on the Pride-themed NightLife event at the Academy of Sciences

Photo by Kathryn Whitney, courtesy of California Academy of Sciences

NightLife at the [California Academy of Sciences](#) is one of our favorite ongoing events. It's a popular adults-only Thursday night event with live DJs and music, outdoor bars, ambient lighting, and more. Keep your eye out for rotating themes, many of which feature fantastic local community partners and a variety of activations. Activities include hands-on crafting, science talks, silent discos in the aquarium, and fashion shows.

- **June 1 – [NightLife Says Who? Experience](#)** – An examination of how diverse experiences shape human connection.
- **June 8 – [NightLife: Under the Sea Prom](#)** – Dress up for this popular adult prom NightLife event.
- **June 15 – [NightLife](#)** – No set theme.
- **June 22 – [Pride NightLife](#)** – Kick off SF Pride at this event featuring performances by The Oaklash Festival.
- **June 29 – [NightLife Says Who? Gender](#)** – Learn about how scientists push the gender binary.

37. The [Yerba Buena Gardens Festival](#) is the place to be this summer

Rosangela Perry via Shutterstock

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival is now hosting fantastic free programming multiple days a week, and their upcoming schedule is worth putting on your radar. Highlights include the ever-popular weekend session flagship series, which presents unique multicultural concerts on Saturdays at lunchtime. Bay Area bands headline a Thursday lunchtime concert series, and Poetic Tuesdays bring the best local poets and spoken word artists to the stage.

38. Look for wildflowers and superblooms around the Bay Area



[@snapndee](#) on Instagram

California superblooms come highly-anticipated every year, but 2023 is shap

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even **visible from space.**

39. Pay a visit to one of these queer-owned businesses recommended by San Franciscans, for San Franciscans

Photo by [Javier Castro](#), courtesy of Arcana

We asked our Instagram followers for recommendations about queer-owned businesses that they love supporting in the Bay Area. Y'all didn't disappoint, and here you'll find a variety of businesses that proudly represent the Bay Area's LGBTQ+ community, all while providing stellar service and products.

- [Lion Dance Cafe](#)
- [Alexander Nurseries](#)
- [Local Brewing Co.](#)
- [Arcana](#)



marvelous rooftop bar

Photo by [@hotelviasf](#) on Instagram

Everyone knows that rooftops in San Francisco are few and far between, but we managed to round up some stellar spots to try out when you're looking to grab dinner or drinks with a view. Whether you prefer a swanky environment with craft cocktails, or a laid-back terrace to enjoy a cold beer, you'll find something on this list for every sensibility.

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- [And more!](#)

41. Here's the scoop on SF's must-try [ice cream shops](#)

Photo by [@eatswithaubrey](#) on Instagram

The weather is warming up, summer is just around the corner, and we're stoked [Privacy](#)



- [Smitten](#)
- [Bi-Rite Creamery](#)
- [Swensen's](#)
- [Castro Fountain](#)
- [And more!](#)

42. Enjoy a meal at one of these charming [picnic spots](#) recommended by locals

[@anetfotos](#) via Instagram

San Francisco is home to some of the best parks and gardens in the world, so there's no shortage of awesome picnic spots for you to enjoy a meal with friends.

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See also: [35 free things to do in the Bay that aren't hiking](#)

Featured Image: [@anetfotos](#) via Instagram]

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