



NUMU IN 2019

BY MARIA GRUSAUSKAS

NUMU's team sharpens focus as hands-on community space

Over the last almost-four years since the Museum of Los Gatos re-branded as the New Museum of Los Gatos (NUMU), the museum's masterminds have made significant progress. They've brought in collections from guest curators in the community; introduced a rotating "In the Artist's Studio" exhibit that gives behind-the-scenes glimpses into how different artists work; expanded their Maker's Space; introduced artist-led workshops on everything from urban sketching to book art; established a relationship with Los Gatos' Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops; put together an art-themed birthday party package for children; made the space available as a rental facility for a variety of community functions; and began a monthly drop-in Coffee Talk series—just to name a few accomplishments.

"We consider ourselves a startup, and we're still small and nimble enough to pivot and change our programming," says Maureen Cappon-Javey, who became the Executive Director on the first of the year, after serving on the board and then as Deputy Director beginning in 2016. Moving forward, NUMU will continue its efforts to establish itself as a community space for Los Gatos.

"We really think how we are going to keep the community engaged is to find practical and exciting ways to have people come back again and again," says Cappon-Javey. "And I think these days it means participating in some hands-on way."

The participatory shift is one that Cappon-Javey, a lifelong museum goer, says she's seeing in many museums—and it's one that brings in all age groups. Lisa Coscino, who became Executive Director in 2014, will continue to offer her support as a board member.

"Lisa and I are still very much thought-partners in the overall management of the museum," says Cappon-Javey. Kimberly Snyder, NUMU's former Operations and Membership Manager, has stepped up as Deputy Director.

Cappon-Javey, whose background is in marketing, looks forward to getting out in the community to connect with people who want to help support NUMU and see it grow. "My professional background has not been as a museum director or gallerist, but here I am," she says. "So my approach is going to be probably a little different, it's going to be my own experience, and how I think I can respond to what the community is looking for or wanting or asking for."

2019 will be an exciting year for NUMU, as it tries out new events and expands its artist-led workshops and Maker's Space, including the ever-popular Atelier program—a classical painting and drawing series directed by Gabriel Coke. The Visiting Artist program will bring in professional artists from around the Bay Area to teach weekend-long intensives. NUMU also hopes to create a Junior Historian program, among a few other ideas percolating around youth participation.



'Lunch Break' by Warren Chang, whose exhibit 'Voices of the Fields' opens on Feb. 22 at NUMU.

Courtesy of Monterey Museum of Art

Opening on Feb. 22 and running through mid-June, *Voices of the Fields* will showcase the vibrant, large-scale paintings of farmworkers by renowned Monterey-based artist Warren Chang. Chang will also be featured in NUMU's In the Artist's Studio program through April 14, where visitors can come experience his virtual studio and learn about his creative process. Chang will also be teaching two drawing workshops in March and April as part of NUMU's Artist-Led Workshop program series.

Opening on March 21 is the eighth annual ArtNow exhibition, a curated, juried presentation of art by Santa Clara County high school students, which awards \$10,000 in scholarships. "We started out with 200 submissions. This year we'll probably get about 2,000," says Cappon-Javey. "It's a wonderful program unique to Los Gatos, and we've kept it growing in the new space."

Keep up with NUMU's 2019 offerings at numu.org.