

# LAVA's making downtown hot this weekend

By Hunter Drohojowska  
Herald staff writer

Once again, it is time to celebrate the art of downtown Los Angeles: the galleries, the artists and the Museum of Contemporary Art. Los Angeles Visual Arts, an association of downtown commercial and nonprofit galleries, annually promotes itself with a weekend festival. This year, downtown theaters, too, have joined the act. And it's all free, beginning tomorrow at 11 a.m. in front of the Temporary Contemporary at First Street and Central Avenue. (The TC itself is not included in the LAVA tour.) At this writing, however, festival preparations were, ummm, not exactly organized, so

you might find a weekend of fun-filled chaos.

As in past years, Kainara Taiko, a Japanese drumming group from Sen Shin Buddhist church, will officially beat the festivities into being at 10:50 a.m. in front of the Temporary Contemporary.

As far as we can tell, city councilman and arts maven Joel Wachs will begin the beguine with a few words of encouragement for downtown art. Other notables at the morning ceremony will include Valerie Fields from the mayor's office; Ray Remy from the chamber of commerce; the venerable Frederick S. Wight, who created this year's LAVA poster; Alan Sieroty of the cultural commission; and Olympics sculptor Robert Graham

Artist Adam Leventhal has constructed a 200-foot balloon sculpture to show Graham what public art is really all about, and a blimp will offer good tidings from overhead. There's also a rumor that someone calling himself "Bananaman" will zoom by, dressed in a yellow suit, at 40 mph on his skateboard.

Those of adventurous spirit can take bus tours from the corner of First and Central — which will be closed to traffic — to 26 different galleries. LAVA guides will describe different exhibitions and discuss the various artists. After seeing a show at one gallery, you wait in front and, with luck, a bus should arrive in five to seven minutes to take you to the next stop.

Daniel Gouro Associates isn't taking chances that its gallery will be overlooked on the tour. Director Emanuel Culman set up a booth of their artists' work in front of the museum.

This year's special exhibition was organized by New York critic Peter Frank. "To the Astonishing Horizon" features 131 works of California art on the sixth floor of the Design Center.

Meanwhile, in front of the TC, a county fair atmosphere has been created by Fred Harpman, who usually employs his talents as art director at 20th Century Fox. ("Rich and Famous" and "Terminal Man" are his most recent productions.) Booths have been set up by four theater groups that will be performing all weekend. L.A. Actors Theatre (soon to open its new complex on Spring Street) will stage something called BOLT in "The Faux Theatrical Experience," described as "Richard III and Richard III in a number of

material ranging from Shakespeare to Donald Freed, under direction of Robert Harders." It stars Michael Heywood, Clifton Wells, Phil Roth and Richard Hochberg and takes place Saturday and Sunday at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Pipeline Theater will present Rotondi, a New Wave polka band, at noon on Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. This "musical theater celebration" will officially open at the Pipeline on March 1 for a six-week run.

Something called 40-Fringe Theater has three of its actors performing all afternoon on both days at a booth where LAVA is selling tickets to its Beaux Arts Costume Ball, to be held in April. (As new LAVA director Ruth Ellen Taylor quipped, "It should be pretty noisy around there.")

The avant garde dance group INR/Moebius Project has taken its act to the plaza in front of the Japanese American Cultural Community Center, starting at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

Back in front of the TC, booths will be selling T-shirts, souvenirs and soft drinks and offering free "bus food" such as apples, cookies and popcorn. But restaurants and shops all around the area should come out with special temptations for LAVA visitors.

Parking will be \$1 per car per day in lots surrounding the TC.

LAVA Billboard at Wilshire and Mansfield was designed by UCLA students to promote the festival.



What	Los Angeles Visual Arts
Where	The Temporary Contemporary on the corner of First Street and Central Avenue, downtown
When	11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat, noon to 5 p.m. Sun
Admission	Free
Info	680-4097