

**STREET SCENES**  
CAPTURED IN PHOTOS

**DINING AND ARTS**  
MAKING THE BEST OF IT

**STAYING AT HOME**  
HOW LOCALS HAVE COPEd

# Sacramento

MAGAZINE

# DISRUPTION

LIFE IN THE DAYS OF COVID-19

SACMAG.COM MAY2020 \$4.95



**PLUS:**

**VOLUNTEERS • ALL ABOUT COYOTES • A SEX THERAPIST'S ADVICE**





## DJ Larry Rodriguez

When his weekly Sunday-night dance parties at The Press Club stopped during the pandemic, DJ Larry Rodriguez decided to bring the funk to people's houses by live-streaming his Flower Bomb Dance Party on Facebook.

"I put a lot of time into setting the whole thing up and curating the visuals for it and of course the mix," he says. "People have been really appreciative of being able to dance in the confines of their comfy home. It's a good way to keep us all at a distance, but still enjoy life and keep our spirits up."

Once bars and clubs reopen, Rodriguez says he looks forward to making a comeback, spinning pop, disco, electro-boogie and psychedelic music to get everybody moving together again.

"I miss having the energy of the audience being there because it bounces off them. Part of being a DJ is feeling that," Rodriguez says. "Then you throw out the jams accordingly. It's an instinctual thing after a while."

*Dance to Rodriguez' energetic mixes every Sunday night on Facebook: Dance Party w/DJ Larry/Flower Vato*

*Donate to Rodriguez: [venmo.com/larryr68](https://venmo.com/larryr68)*

### JULIAN SANDPAPER

On a thick black pole on K Street, there's an image of Smokey Bear wearing a surgical mask, surrounded by the words "Only You Can Prevent COVID-19... Stay Home." The eerie warning was created by artist Julian Sandpaper with the use of a stencil and a spritz of temporary spray paint.

"I wanted to put my creative energy into something that people could see and benefit and learn from," Sandpaper says. "I'm coming up with new messages, too, to sprinkle around the city."

Messages such as "Six feet apart. Never been closer" and "Social distance makes the heart grow fonder" may pop up on a sidewalk or bus stop near you.

Under Sacramento County's stay-at-home order, Sandpaper admits to feeling isolated. Creating street art is his way of communicating with people while trying to keep the community engaged.

"I've been handing out stencils, stickers and cans of temporary paint, and people are going all around the city and spreading that message," he says. "I've sent stencils to nine different states now. As an artist, I'm taking in the world around me. Seeing the streets so empty is the perfect time to run around creating street art."

*Visit: [juliansandpaper.com](http://juliansandpaper.com)*

*Follow Sandpaper: [instagram.com/julian\\_sandpaper](https://www.instagram.com/julian_sandpaper)*



## Nicole McKeever

The hallways of CLARA Studios for the Performing Arts were silent as dancers, musicians and actors stayed home. That silence was deafening to Nicole McKeever, owner of the McKeever School of Irish Dance, an occupant of the midtown campus.

"For Irish dance schools, March is huge," McKeever says. "We lost 25 shows. Some were really wonderful opportunities, so that was hard."

With the help of her sister, Natalie, a visual artist and videographer, McKeever posted prerecorded dance lessons and live classes online.

She says Irish dancing is an intimate art form that speaks to audiences and artists during the pandemic. "This style of dance was built for small spaces, with small groups of people," McKeever says. "It's got this quality to it that's perfect for this time of isolation. It's kind of crazy that it's perfectly made for this time."

*Learn with McKeever: [mckeeverdance.com](http://mckeeverdance.com)*

*Donate to CLARA: [claramidtown.org](http://claramidtown.org)*

Middle: Bri McKi Photography; bottom left: @occupiedthoughts and @crookedcap