



U.S.  
**SAND SCULPTING CHALLENGE**  
& dimensional art exposition

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Port of San Diego Presents**  
**The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual U.S. Sand Sculpting Challenge**  
**Labor Day Weekend on the Downtown Waterfront**

*\*\* The theme of the sculptures is "Celebrate," as the Port lights the night from the Broadway Pier and Landing\*\**

**San Diego, CA. (June 25, 2018)** – One of the top 20 "Must See" seaside festivals in the world according to American Express and USA Today's 10 Best, the U.S. Sand Sculpting Challenge and Dimensional Art Exposition will return to San Diego's downtown waterfront for 4 days, August 31 – September 3.

Presented by The Port of San Diego, this will be the seventh year one of the world's most prominent sand-sculpting competitions will be held on this built-for-the-occasion beach, with **over 300 tons of sand dumped on Broadway Pier.**

**World Master Sand Sculptors**

This invitation-only competition will feature 12 Master Class Sculptors, six from the United States and six from exotic countries around the world, to compete and carve museum-worthy sand sculptures made from only sand and water. These hand-made sculptures can reach up to 15 ft. tall and can weigh over 10,000 lbs. It's been called the most creative atmosphere in the world and you'll never see works of art like this anywhere else!

Making their Southern California debut this year and competing for the top prize are Meg Murray from Tasmania, Dmitry Klimenko from Russia, Leonardo Ugolini from Italy, Marielle Heessels from the Netherlands, Brian Turnbough from Mokena, Illinois; and Lucinda "Sandy Feet" Wierenga from South Padre Island, TX.

Returning international artists include 2017 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Winner Abe Waterman from Prince Edward Island, Canada and Agnese Rudzite-Kirilova from Latvia.

Returning and representing the USA are 2017 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize and 2012 Grand Prize winner Rusty Croft from Carmel, CA; 2017 Sculptors' Choice winner and 2016 Third Prize winner Thomas Koet from Melbourne, FL; 2015 Third Prize winner Dan Belcher from St. Louis, MO and Morgan Rudluff from Santa Cruz, CA.

At stake, more than \$60,000 in prize money and national pride. Where will this year's winner be from: the U.S., Canada, Europe, or Australia?

**Team Competition: The I.B. Challenge**

Back by popular demand, the newly named team competition, The I.B. Challenge, will be comprised of three championship teams who won the former U.S. Open Sand Sculpting Competition in Imperial Beach from 2000 until 2011. Each team will include four professional sand artists who will be carving for two days to create an out-of-the-box sand sculpture corresponding to the "Celebrate" theme.

**NEW Features**

- **Sculptures will "light the night"** and will be decoratively lit from top of bottom inside the Port Pavilion.
- **An exciting category of dimensional** (non-sand) art will be announced soon!
- **Electronically vote for your favorite sculpture** for the People's Choice Awards from your very own phone.
- **Expanded Arts for Learning/ San Diego Kid Zone** with rides such as European Bungie, Bubble Fun and FREE arts & crafts.
- **Meet professional sand sculpting artists** and learn how to build a sandcastle like a professional!

- **VIP ticket holders will receive unlimited access** to the event all weekend long, special accommodations, free beverages and more.
- **Active duty military, EMT's, fire and police personnel receive FREE admission any day** with valid ID (individual only).

### **The Dimensional Art Exposition**

No matter how much you love them, you can't take the sand sculptures home. But you can shop for more than 1,000 original works of art such as metal, wood, glass, ceramics, hand-made jewelry and clothing, wall-art and much more. Many of the finest artists in the Southwest will exhibit and sell their amazing one-of-a-kind art on the pier next to the majestic sand sculpture creations.

### **Family Fun -- Live Entertainment, Gourmet Food Trucks, Kids Giant Sandbox & Rides**

In addition to witnessing one of the most popular sand sculpture competitions in the world, patrons will enjoy live entertainment from bands paying tribute to the Beatles, Beach Boys, Dylan, Journey and other greats. Families can picnic on the bay with food and drink from over a dozen gourmet food trucks and a wine and beer garden.

In addition, children can play in a huge sandbox (what else?) and enjoy rides such as European Bungie, Bubble Fun and FREE activities in the expanded Arts for Learning/San Diego Kids Zone.

### **Your Attendance Supports Educational Charities:**

A portion of proceeds from the event will go to the following local charities to support children's education:

- *San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts*
- *Arts for Learning San Diego*
- *Junior Achievement*
- *Princess Project San Diego*
- *University of Saint Katherine*
- *San Diego Padres Foundation*
- *Maritime Museum kids' educational programs*

### **Stay Downtown:**

The wonderful boutique Sofia Hotel ([www.thesofiahotel.com](http://www.thesofiahotel.com)) in the heart of downtown on Broadway between First and Front is the official hotel of the U.S. Sand Sculpting Challenge and Dimensional Art Exposition.

### **Admission - Save on tickets right now!**

Tickets available at [www.ussandsculpting.com](http://www.ussandsculpting.com)

NEW - Active duty military, EMT's, fire and police receive *FREE admission* with valid ID (individual only)

NEW - VIP ticket holders will be able to visit the event as often as they wish throughout the weekend

#### **Online pricing - Prices valid only 7/9 - 8/12**

Friday only "Preview Day" ticket:

Adults - \$8

Seniors (62+) - \$7

Kids (2 - 12yrs) - \$6

Saturday - Monday ticket (1 day admission):

Adults - \$11

Seniors (2 - 12yrs) - \$9

Kids (2 - 12yrs) - \$8

VIP (includes 2 free drinks & weekend-long admission)

Adults - \$33

#### **Online pricing - Prices valid only 8/13 - 9/3**

Friday only "Preview Day" ticket:

Adults - \$9

Seniors (62+) - \$8

Kids (2 - 12yrs) - \$7

Saturday - Monday ticket (1 day admission)

Adults - \$13

Seniors (62+) - \$10

Kids (2 - 12yrs) - \$9

VIP (includes 2 free drinks & weekend-long admission)

Adults - \$35

**Gate prices: Days-of admission Friday - Monday**

Friday only "Preview Day" ticket:

Adults - \$11

Seniors (62+) - \$9

Kids (2 - 12yrs) - \$8

Saturday - Monday ticket (1 day admission):

Adults - \$15

Seniors (62+) - \$12

Kids (2 - 12yrs) - \$10

VIP (includes 2 free drinks & weekend long admission)

Adults - \$39

**Times:**

Friday, August 31st: 5pm - 9pm

Saturday, September 1st: 10am - 9pm

Sunday, September 2nd: 10am - 9pm

Monday, September 3rd: 10am - 7pm

**U.S. Sand Sculpting Challenge Producers:**

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We invite you to please find more information and pictures at [www.ussandsculpting.com](http://www.ussandsculpting.com).

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