



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

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Port of San Diego
U.S. Sand Sculpting Challenge
Returns to Downtown Waterfront
on Labor Day weekend 2020

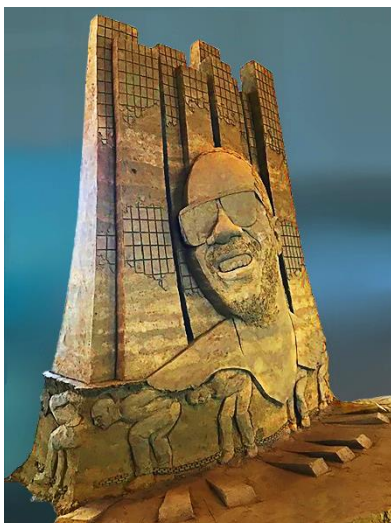
San Diego, CA. (Jan. 21, 2020) – The U.S. Sand Sculpting Challenge and Dimensional Art Exposition will return to the Big Bay downtown for its 9th year, Sept. 5-7, 2020. The signature event will again be located on one of the Port of San Diego’s Cruise Ship Piers on Harbor Drive, between the U.S.S. Midway Museum to the south and the brand-new Brigantine Restaurant and Maritime Museum to the north.

The event was hailed as the one of the Top 8 family activities in the U.S. by *CNN Travel* on the holiday weekend in both 2018 and 2019. It was listed as one of the top 20 seaside festivals in the world by *American Express* in 2017, and was given a 10Best accolade by *USA Today* in 2015.

By invitation only, many of the top sand sculptors in the world create 20 or more amazing works of art and compete for some \$60,000 in prize and appearance money, as well as, of course, their national pride. (Last year judges awarded the prestigious grand prize to Abe Waterman from Prince Edward Island, Canada. The year before it went to Tom Koet from Melbourne, FL. And Ilya Filimontsev from Moscow, Russia, won it back-to-back in 2016 and 2017.) The museum-worthy sculptures are created from just sand and water, weigh about 10 tons each and can reach as high as 15 feet.

Complementing the sand art are dimensional works in glass, acrylic, metal, wood, fabric, gemstones and mixed media that patrons can peruse, purchase and take home. Juried artists from California and throughout the Southwest offer decorative items for home and garden and personal items like apparel, jewelry and more, all hand-made and one-of-a-kind.

The festival is rounded out with live entertainment by bands that pay tribute to the Beatles, Beach Boys, Dylan, Journey and others, including Elvis, a Kid Zone with one of the Nation's largest sandboxes as well as rides and other activities, and food and beverages provided by a dozen of San Diego's finest purveyors. Proceeds from the event support a number of kids educational charities in the San Diego area. More information is available at www.USSandSculpting.com and will be released as we get closer to event time. ■■■



2019 Winner – Abe Waterman, Canada
“Living for the City;Stevie Wonder 1973”



2018 Winner – Tom Koet, USA
“Victory”



2017 Winner – Ilya Filimontsev, Russia
“Guardian Angel”