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Sis Boom Bah! The Life and Times of Los Gatos High School Exhibition Celebrates 100 Year+ Wildcat History and Culture



LOS GATOS, CA – March 2018 – New Museum Los Gatos (NUMU) is thrilled to announce an expansive exhibition that takes a deep dive into the long history of the town’s high school. The exhibition will explore the legacy and legends of LGHS as well as the history of the Town - its triumphs and tragedies

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Sis Boom Bah! The Life and Times of Los Gatos High School | Sept 2018 - Jan 2020
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and impact and response to global trends, politics, lifestyles and culture – all through the lens of the teenage years. *Sis Boom Bah! The Life and Times of Los Gatos High School* opens on September 7, 2018.

The exhibition explores what it has meant to be a Los Gatos Wildcat over the course of the high school's lifetime. Visitors to the exhibition will relive highlights of Wildcat dominance in sports, the arts, student activities, and the social events that created lasting friendships and a distinct campus community. They'll experience the evolution of high school events and traditions over the last century, and check in on notable alumni who left their mark locally and on the world stage.

The exhibition format will resemble a yearbook that has broken out of its 2-dimensional form and sprung to life in 3D. The exhibit themes will follow yearbook sections: Sports, Activities, The Arts, Academics, Alumni and Faculty and Publications. In addition the exhibition will explore the history of the teenager, a word that came into the American lexicon in the early 20th century.

Visitors don't have to be a graduate or current student at Los Gatos High School to appreciate the exhibition because it is as much a history of the school as it is a history of the Town, its residents and the common experience of being a teenager, responding to local and global trends, politics, lifestyles and culture. Since opening its doors in 1908 atop the knoll on East Main Street, Los Gatos High School (LGHS) has remained one of the town's most iconic institutions. The historic trajectory of LGHS has run parallel to some of the most significant social and cultural events in this, and the last two, centuries.

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From its small town roots and the settling of the American West in the late 1880s to the optimism of the second industrial revolution at the turn of the 20th century; the rejection of social norms in the Roaring Twenties to tenacious patriotism in supporting the war effort against fascism during World War II, the high school has played a major role in the community. In the 1950s, the LGHS Wildcat legacy continued in the era of seemingly unlimited prosperity that birthed Rock 'n' Roll. LGHS survived the social upheavals of the tumultuous 1960s, catching its breath in time for the peaceful, easy feeling of the following decade. In the 1980s, students in the MTV generation shifted from a “peace and love” mentality to a “me first” mindset in an era of opulent excess. By the closing of the 20th century, and into this new millennium, multiple generations of Los Gatos teenagers left indelible footprints up and down the hallways of Los Gatos High School and in the town itself.

“Sis Boom Bah! is a rare opportunity to explore the cracks and crevices where culture and community collide. “A big goal of this exhibition is to spark community engagement,” explains NUMU Executive Director, Lisa Coscino. “We’re reaching out to alumni and students for stuff, support and suggestions as we develop the exhibition. We think of it as a community team building exercise.”

Yearbook Catalog

As a companion to the exhibition, the museum is producing a yearbook style catalog that follows the exhibition and expands and explores topics in more depth through photographs, stories and history. The catalog will be released at

a signing party in January 2019. To reserve a yearbook catalog, visit numulosgatos.org/yearbook.

Wildcats Roadshow, Saturday May 19 starting at 12pm.

The museum is also hosting an “Antiques Roadshow”-inspired community day to invite town folks to comb through their attics and closets for high school memorabilia and bring their treasures to the museum for review by the curatorial staff for possible inclusion in the exhibition. Sports, band and mascot uniforms, class rings, yearbooks, hats, pennants, and ephemera – theatre playbills, photographs, personal love notes or a secret Valentine cards – all are wanted and needed to bring the exhibition alive with LGHS spirit. The museum is also inviting folks to share and record their stories for an oral history project that will be incorporated into the exhibition. NUMU is partnering with local KCAT TV to record these stories during the Wildcats Roadshow.

Key Exhibition and Event Dates

Saturday, May 19, 2018 Wildcats Roadshow at NUMU

September 1 – 7, 2018 Exhibition Preview Week

September 7, 2018 *Sis Boom Bah!* Exhibition Opens

January 2019 Yearbook Catalog Release and Signing Party

January 2020 Exhibition Closes

Exhibition news and event information: numulosgatos.org/sbb

New Museum Los Gatos (NUMU), formerly The Museums of Los Gatos founded in 1965, is a public non-profit art and history museum located in the Civic Center Plaza in downtown Los Gatos. NUMU's mission is to engage the community at the intersection of art, history and education through innovative, locally connected and globally relevant exhibitions, programs and experiences. The NUMU Atelier offers classical instruction in painting and drawing. NUMU MakerSpace programs offer weekday, weekend and evening hands-on art instruction for children and adults.

Museum hours are Wednesday 1pm-5pm, Thursday – Sunday 11am-5pm. General admission is \$10. Admission for members of the military, seniors and students over 18 years is \$6, and free for members and visitors under 18 years of age.

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