

FRESNO ARTS & CULTURE

JANUARY 2026 CALENDAR

WEEKLY

Fort Washington Farmers Market (Sundays) 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Fort Washington Shopping Center. Local products.

Sunday Jams (Sundays) 4 p.m.–7 p.m. California Catering. Live music.

Acoustic Honkey Tonk Jam (Mondays) 4 p.m.–6 p.m. Santa Fe Basque. Hosted by E.Z. Marc.

River Park Farmers Market (Tuesdays) 5 p.m.–9 p.m. River Park. California certified-fresh market.

Open Mic Night (Tuesdays) 7:30 p.m.–2 a.m. Strummer’s. Open mic 7:30 p.m., karaoke 9:30 p.m. Free

Kenny Hall’s Friends (Wednesdays) 5 p.m.–7 p.m. Santa Fe Basque. Old-time music song circle.

Pass the Aux (Wednesdays) 8:30 p.m.–11:30 p.m. Strummer’s. Open-format DJ night.

Arte, Pero Later (Thursdays) 6 p.m.–8 p.m. Arte Américas. From live music to bilingual book club.

- 01 Linda Lomahaftewa (~Jan. 11) Fresno Art Museum. The Hopi/Choctaw artist’s works are featured.
- Stone Sculpture of Zimbabwe (~Jan. 11) Fresno Art Museum. Stone carvings from Zimbabwe.
- The Fruit of Life (~Jan. 11) Fresno Art Museum. New works by local painter Eliana Saucedo.
- Something Rotten (~Jan. 18) Roger Rocka’s. Set in 1595 England, struggling playwrights want to unseat Shakespeare. \$45+
- Renaissance (~Feb. 1) Fig Tree Gallery. Featuring member artists.
- 02 Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Elusive Ear (~Feb. 22) 2nd Space Theatre. \$29.49
- K-Pop Night! 8 p.m.–11:30 p.m. Strummer’s. DJ theme party. \$15
- 03 Bilingual Story Time 10 a.m. Arte Américas. Free
- Nate Butler at the Silent Movies 7 p.m. Vista Theater. Classic silent movies with live piano music.
- I Love R&B: Violin on Fire 9 p.m. The Rosé. Featuring Patrick Contreras (“see Arts Profile”). \$17.85+
- 07 Close Enemies 8 p.m. Tower Theatre. With Tom Hamilton of Aerosmith. \$32+
- 09 15-Year Anniversary Kickoff Party 7:30 p.m.–11:30 p.m. Fulton 55. With Let’s Go Bowling. \$27+
- 10 A Pen of Your Heritage 10:30 a.m. Dulce UpFront. Pareu creation and painting workshop. Registration required.
- Old Time Fiddlers & Music Jam 2 p.m.–4 p.m. Santa Fe Basque. Free
- Bobby Lee 8 p.m. Tower Theatre. Comedian. \$32+
- 11 Irish & Breton Session 1 p.m.–3 p.m. La Boulangerie. Open session of Irish and Breton tunes. Free
- The Special Consensus 4 p.m. Tower Theatre. With Ripe for Pickin’. \$32+
- 13 Silent Book Club 6:30 p.m. Dulce UpFront. Bring a book, your reading list and a friend.
- 15 ArtHop 5 p.m.–8 p.m. Fresno Metro Area. Exhibitions, gallery shows, special performances and unique art experiences. Free

- 16 Candlelight: Vivaldi’s Four Seasons 6:15 p.m. The Grand 1401. Performed by the Listeso String Quartet. \$32+
- Inner Ear Beat Down Slams 7 p.m.–9 p.m. River Park Art Groove. 7 p.m. open mic, 7:30 p.m. slam.
- LSD & the Search for God 7 p.m.–11 p.m. Strummer’s. Underground psychedelic shoegaze band. \$32+
- Metalachi 8 p.m.–11 p.m. Fulton 55. Heavy metal mariachi band. \$32+
- Candlelight: Tribute to Fleetwood Mac 8:30 p.m. The Grand 1401. Performed by the Listeso String Quartet. \$33.60+
- 17 Volunteer Day 8:30 a.m.–noon. Shinzen Friendship Garden. Contribute to the care of this beautiful space.
- Bilingual Story Time 10 a.m. Arte Américas. Free
- Seasons of Stories Book Club 1 p.m.–3 p.m. Shinzen Friendship Garden. Literature inspired by Japanese culture. Free
- Jazz Jam Session 4 p.m.–7 p.m. Vibez Lounge. Rick Heller’s Trio Expression. Free
- Motley Crue Tribute 8 p.m. Tower Theatre. \$24+
- 18 Sunday Night Blues Jam 6 p.m.–9 p.m. Club One Casino. Featuring the Richie Blue Band. Free
- Jamie Lissow: Better Off Dad 8 p.m. Tower Theatre. Actor and comedian. \$24+
- 20 Jazz at the Library 6:30 p.m.–8 p.m. Woodward Park Library. Live jazz performance.
- 21 Why Not Wednesday? 5 p.m.–9 p.m. Fulton St. (Mono to Fresno). Vendors, food trucks, artists and live music.
- Art Grooves Got Jokes 7 p.m.–9 p.m. River Park Art Groove. 7 p.m. open mic, 7:30 p.m. comedian talent contest.
- 22 Trevor Wallace 7:30 p.m. Warnors Theatre. The Alpha Beta Male Tour. \$52.55+
- Gary Owen 8 p.m. Saroyan Theatre. No Hard Feelings Tour. \$45+
- 23 Mary Poppins (~March 22) Roger Rocka’s. This family favorite is “supercalifragilisticexpialidocious.” \$45+
- 24 An Evening with Black Flag 8 p.m.–11:30 p.m. Strummer’s. \$34+
- Rob Schneider 8 p.m. Tower Theatre. Rescue Husband Tour. \$65+
- 28 Martin Amini 7:30 p.m. Tower Theatre. I’m Not Toxic, I’m Healing Tour. \$46+
- 29 Disney on Ice: Let’s Dance (~Feb. 1) Selland Arena. DJ remix of favorite Disney tunes. \$32+
- 30 Ailey II from New York City 7:30 p.m. Tower Theatre. Forging a new path for contemporary dance.
- Katt Williams 8 p.m. Save Mart Center. The Golden Age Tour. \$85+
- 31 Rian’s Riot Fest 2 7 p.m.–11:30 p.m. Strummer’s. \$21+
- Nick Hexum 8 p.m. Fulton 55. With Water Tower. \$43+

Submit arts-related events to calendar@fresnoalliance.com by the 15th of the month preceding publication, or you can post anytime online at fresnoalliance.com (select Calendar).

ARTS PROFILE

Violin on Fire

Patrick Contreras has never been interested in playing it safe. Known widely as Violin on Fire, the Fresno-born electric violinist has built a reputation for transforming any space—walkways, clubs, theaters, festival grounds—into an electrifying mini-concert.



His strolling performances stop crowds mid-stride, blending fiery Latin rhythms, pop favorites and jaw-dropping violin solos into a high-energy experience that feels both intimate and explosive. With his signature up-close style, Contreras connects instantly with audiences of all ages, turning every corner into a stage and every moment into a show.

Raised in Fresno, Contreras forged his own musical identity by fusing genres that rarely share the same stage. His sound draws from hip hop, mariachi, rock, soul, jazz, electronic, classical, blues and EDM—an eclectic mix that has made him one of the violin’s most distinctive rising stars.

Whether performing his original music or reimagining icons like Jimi Hendrix, Led Zeppelin and Carlos Santana, Contreras delivers performances that are as technically dazzling as they are emotionally charged. One local musician summed it up well after hearing him at a B.B. King tribute: “He’s truly amazing. He can make an acoustic violin sound like an electric guitar.”

Contreras’ artistic evolution has only accelerated in recent years. His expansion into EDM and hip hop earned him a feature on World Star Hip Hop and opened doors to collaborations across genres. He has shared stages with artists as varied as Johnny Mathis, Datsik, The Wailers, Porter Robinson and Salvador Santana.

His acoustic blues interpretations of Hendrix have been recognized among select Hendrix recordings, and his international reach grew after he was invited to create a video supporting an African nonprofit following a visit to West Africa.

His influences reflect the breadth of his sound: Hendrix, Carlos Santana, Astor Piazzolla, Rachmaninov, Itzhak Perlman, Miles Davis, Lila Downs, Ravi Shankar, Stephane Grappelli, Eazy-E, Amy Winehouse, Daft Punk, Buena Vista Social Club, Eminem, Beethoven, Jacqueline du Pré, Buika, Paco de Lucia, Vicente Amigo, Nero and Deadmau5. This wide-ranging palette fueled projects like *El Violin*, which blends mariachi, rock, soul and hip-hop into a bold new musical language.

KVPR captured his genre-defying artistry well: some call him a rock violinist, others a jazz musician, still others a blues or Latin artist. In truth, Contreras is all of these at once—and something entirely his own.

The future continues to burn bright for Violin on Fire. Wherever he goes, Contreras brings a sound that is unmistakable, uncontainable and unforgettable.

Catch Contreras/Violin on Fire on Jan. 3 at The Rosé (see listing in the arts calendar).



The San Joaquin Valley Media Alliance is funded in part by the City of Fresno Measure P Expanded Access to Arts and Culture Fund administered by the Fresno Arts Council.

VENUES	2nd Space Theatre • 928 E. Olive Ave. • 559-266-0660	Fig Tree Gallery • 644 Van Ness Ave. • 559-485-0460 / figtreegallery.us	River Park’s Art Groove Event Center • 80 E. Via Del Oro • 559-840-8886	Selland Arena • 700 M St. • 559-621-8789	Tower Theatre • 815 E. Olive Ave. • 559-485-9050
	Arte Américas • 1630 Van Ness Ave. • arteamericas.org	Fort Washington Shopping Center • 447 Fort Washington Rd. • 559-490-3600	Roger Rocka’s Dinner Theatre • 1226 N. Wishon Ave. • 559-266-9494	Shinzen Friendship Garden • 114 W. Audubon Dr. • 559-478-4848	Vibez Lounge • 724 E. Olive Ave. • vibezlounge.com/
	California Catering • 1603 E St. • 559-222-4202	Fresno Art Museum • 2233 N. First St. • 559-441-4221	Santa Fe Basque Restaurant • 3110 N. Maroa Ave. • 559-226-7499	Strummer’s Bar & Grill • 833 E. Fern Ave. • 559-485-5356	Vista Theater • 1298 N. Wishon Ave. • 559-222-7464
	Club One Casino • 3950 N. Cedar Ave. • clubonecasino.com	Fulton 55 • 875 Divisadero St. • info@fulton55.com / fulton55.com	Saroyan Theatre • 700 M St. • 559-445-8100	The Grand 1401 • 1401 Fulton St. • thegrand1401.com	Warnors Theatre • 1400 Fulton St. • 559-264-2848
	Dulce UpFront • 2026 N. Van Ness Blvd. • 559-202-3099	La Boulangerie • 730 W. Shaw Ave. • 559-222-0555	Save Mart Center • 2650 E. Shaw Ave. • savemartcenter.com	The Rosé • 820 Van Ness Ave. • 559-801-1393	Woodward Park Library • 944 E. Perrin Ave. • 559-600-3135
Note: All locations are in the city of Fresno unless otherwise noted.					