

# LA WEEKLY

A man in a dark hoodie is shown in profile, looking towards the right. He is wearing a t-shirt with a 'Ringer' logo and the text 'AMERICA'S FAVORITE CHERRY LOS ANGELES EST. 1977'. The background is a deep red, with a vertical strip of light on the left side.

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## KASKADE RETURNS TO COACHELLA

THE PLACE  
WHERE HE  
MADE  
HISTORY

WITH  
ORIGIN //

BY MARK STEFANOS

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## LA WEEKLY

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## CULTURE

# YOUR GREEN GUIDE: WHERE TO CELEBRATE

# 4/20 2026 IN L.A.



PHOTO: LEONARDO MUNOZ/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

**W**ith April 20 falling on a Monday this year, Los Angeles cannabis enthusiasts are shifting their celebrations to this weekend. LA has everything from large-scale music festivals to immersive dispensary takeovers and underground drum-and-bass parties, all in unapologetic celebration of the plant. Consumption remains legal for adults 21 and older in designated areas, but organizers emphasize responsible use and compliance with local rules. Here's a rundown of some 4/20 events that will get you lifted — make sure you visit each event's page to get all the updated details.

### Kushstock

Kushstock returns as a cannabis-friendly live music and culture event that brings together artists, vendors, and the community in an elevated concert setting. Organized since 2016, the event emphasizes curated performances and a celebratory atmosphere with on-site cannabis consumption allowed.

**Date and Time:** Saturday, April 18, 2026, 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. (some listings extend to 10:00 p.m.)

**Location:** Likely in downtown, address will be sent upon ticket purchase.

**Tickets and Cost:** Tickets available via EventHi.io or kushstock.life with a free, \$20 GA+ tier, and \$100 VIP tier.

**More Information:** Visit kushstock.life.

### 420 Weekend featuring Babyface Ray

Upscale LA and High Rise Agency present this music-focused 420 kickoff featuring Detroit rapper Babyface Ray performing live. The event offers a polished, high-energy party Downtown.

**Date and Time:** Saturday, April 18, 4:20 p.m. to 11:59 p.m.

**Location:** Stage This – Hill, 3820 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90037

**Tickets and Cost:** Tickets available online via Eventbrite and at the door, with a \$20 GA tier, and a \$100 VIP meet and greet.

**More Information:** Visit @theupscalela and @highrise.agency on Instagram for lineup and updates.

### Underground 420 Festival

Presented by LA On Lock and True Potheads, this annual cannabis culture festival returns with live music, DJs, games, food vendors, product giveaways, celebrity appearances, and a dedicated indoor smoking area. It aims to deliver a large-scale yet underground celebration of the plant.

**Date and Time:** Sunday, April 19, 4 p.m. to 12 a.m.

**Location:** Downtown area

**Tickets and Cost:** \$20 presale / \$30 at the door

**More Information:** Tickets and details via laonlock.com/underground-420-festival or Eventbrite. Visit @underground420festival or @laonlock on Instagram.

### Mecca's Vice City 420: The Immersive Experience

Mecca Mid City hosts its annual 420 retail takeover, transforming the dispensary into an immersive celebration with storewide blowout sales, a \$5,000 cash raffle, themed wactivations, giveaways, and community-focused energy. This all-day event is ideal for shopping, sampling deals, and casual hangouts.

**Date and Time:** Sunday, April 19 and Monday, April 20, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily

**Location:** Mecca Mid City, 5738 Washington Blvd.

**Tickets and Cost:** No ticket required for entry; raffle tickets available on-site or in advance.

**More Information:** Visit meccamidcity.com or follow @meccamidcity on Instagram.

### I Love LA 420 Celebration (19th Annual)

Ghetto Life and Subfactory present this long-running underground drum-and-bass event, now in its 19th year. Expect high-energy sets across multiple stages with local DJs and MCs, a medicated vendor marketplace, food and clothing pop-ups, world-famous ganja chip cookies, and a live graffiti art exhibit.

**Date and Time:** Sunday, April 19, 4 p.m. to 12 a.m.; 21+ only

**Location:** TBA in Los Angeles

**Tickets and Cost:** \$15 presale / \$20 before 5 p.m. at the door / \$25 all night at the door

**More Information:** Updates and presale tickets via Instagram: @djapx1 or @tankdubz



Detroit rapper Babyface Ray set to perform at 420 Weekend.

PHOTO: ERIKA GOLDRING/GETTY IMAGES



PHOTO: LEONARDO MUNOZ/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

FOOD

# WHAT'S POPPING UP

Danielle Chang Takes Lucky Chow to Europe

BY MICHELE STUEVEN



Danielle Chang in Italy



Lucky Chow in Berlin



London



Paris

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PBS

The eighth season of **Lucky Chow**, the PBS series that follows culinary expert **Danielle Chang** around the world, goes to Europe, exploring its cultures and discovering traditions that compare and contrast with those of Asia.

In the five-part weekly season premiering on Friday, May 1, Chang treks from England to Denmark, with a few pit stops in between, including Berlin, Paris, London, Copenhagen, and Northern Italy, to explore how Asian culinary culture has rooted itself in European terroir.

Episodes include:

**COPENHAGEN: SCANDIASIAN – Premiering May 1**

Copenhagen changed the rules of fine dining by insisting that food reflect the land and the seasons. Chang meets Asian chefs who take that ethos seriously and apply it through their own traditions. Chinese, Korean, Indonesian, and Japanese techniques shape Nordic ingredients, regenerative farms, and Baltic seafood. The result is cooking that is contemporary yet deeply tied to place.

**ITALY: CHINESE ITALIA – Premiering May 8**

Danielle travels through Italy to experience the deep fusion between Chinese and Italian cultures. From Milan's Chinatown to Prato's working-class dumpling shops and Florence's street food, she discovers unexpected overlaps:

hand-worked dough, reverence for butchery, and a shared belief that feeding people well is an act of care.

**BERLIN: EDIBLE ART – Premiering May 15**

For decades, Berlin's affordability and artistic freedom have drawn artists from around the world. Chang spends time with multihyphenated Asian creatives in Berlin who cook, perform, sing, and dance—sometimes all at once.

**LONDON: EMPIRE ON THE PLATE – Premiering May 22**

London's Asian food culture is inseparable from the history of the British Empire. Chang moves through Chinatown, Brick Lane, and beyond to trace how tea, curry spices, and peppers arrived through trade and colonial rule, and how migrants adapted those ingredients into everyday food. From legacy restaurants to new voices, she explores who gets to tell these stories today.

**PARIS: BY WAY OF VIETNAM – Premiering May 29**

Paris is home to one of the largest Vietnamese communities outside Asia, and its food has been part of the city for decades. Chang explores how Vietnamese cooking took root in France through colonial history and continued resettlement. From pho and coffee to bánh mì and pastry, she traces how Vietnamese flavors reshaped Parisian taste. 🇻🇳



Copenhagen



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MUSIC

# KASKADE RETURNS TO COACHELLA — THE PLACE WHERE HE MADE HISTORY — WITH ORIGIN II

BY MARK STEFANOS

“Oh my God, he has so many songs!” It’s about halfway through Kaskade’s set on Coachella 2026’s Weekend 1 Sunday eve. After debuting a new track, the producer has just transitioned to a familiar one, and I can see tears in the eyes of the woman next to me, reflecting off a barrage of lights and lasers, synced meticulously to the massive wall of sound enveloping the endless Sahara stage crowd.

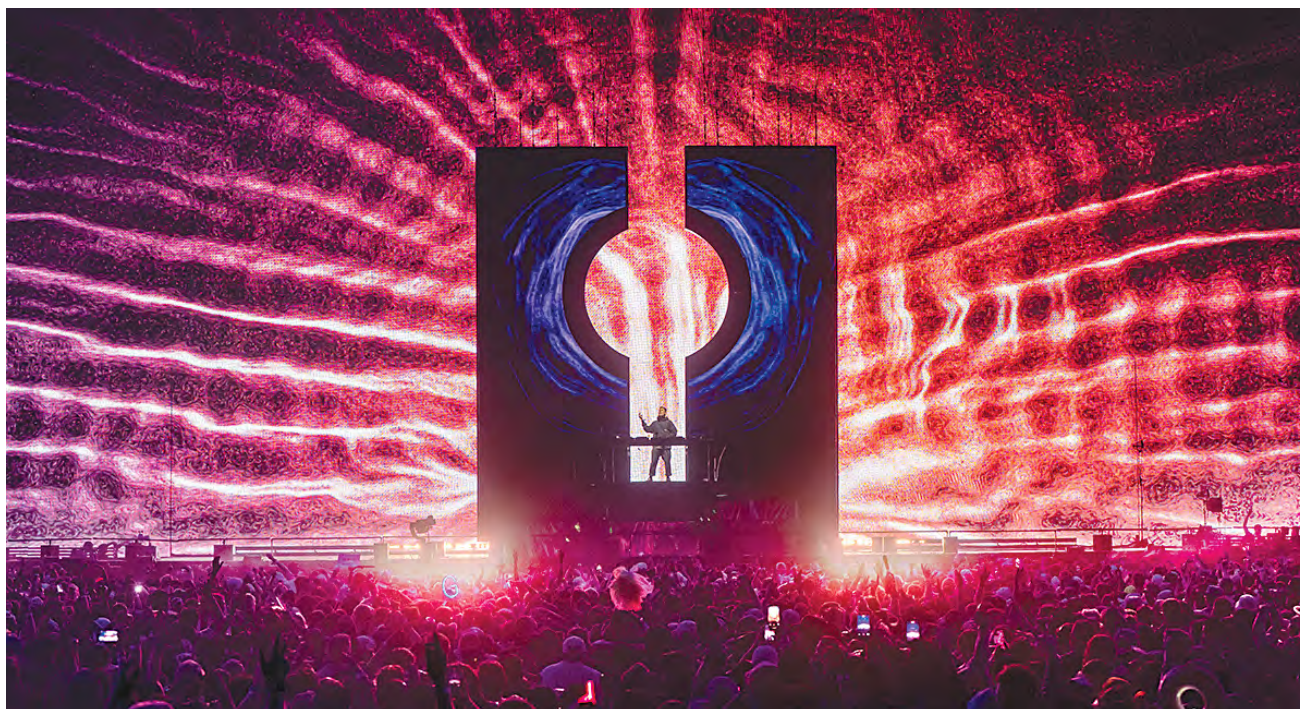
The set would run the gamut of Kaskade’s 30 years in music — deep and melodic house, big room anthems that defined the heyday of Vegas where he had a pioneering residency, and even some new wub sounds never heard before.

“We got Kaskade dubstep before GTA 6,” guest DJ and producer Crankdat says of his collaboration with the icon after they play the unreleased track.

Eleven years after delivering one of the most monumental performances in Coachella history, Kaskade (Ryan Raddon) returned to close out the 2026 fest. In 2015, his main-stage set drew more than 90,000 fans — one of the largest crowds in Coachella history at the time — and is widely credited as a pivotal turning point that helped cement electronic music’s place on major festival stages.

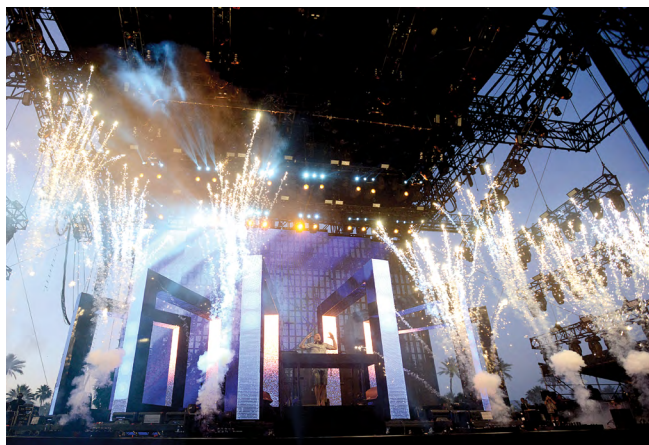
This year, he returned with his ambitious new live concept “Origin II,” which felt like a coronation following a three-decade journey. Despite challenging high winds that forced other artists to scale back or cancel elements, Kaskade and his team delivered the full vision: a towering monolith structure, elevated DJ platform atop a pyramid of prismatic mirrors, extensive pyro, and sweeping custom visuals.

Kaskade has long stood as one of electronic music’s most influential and grounded pioneers. A Chicago native raised in a Mormon household, he



Kaskade at Coachella 2026.

COURTESY OF MARK OWENS



Kaskade at Coachella 2015

COURTESY OF TIM MOSENFELDER/WIREIMAGE



2015

COURTESY OF ROBYN BECK/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

honed his skills early, served an LDS mission in Japan, and broke through in the early 2000s via San Francisco's Om Records scene. Over 30 years and more than 5,000 shows across 75 countries, he helped pioneer Las Vegas DJ residencies, became the first in-game DJ at the Super Bowl, and the first starting-grid DJ at Formula 1 Miami.

An eight-time Grammy nominee, he has consistently blended his iconic sound with emotional storytelling while maintaining a drug-free, faith-centered lifestyle that sets him apart in a bonkers industry.

His 2025 album *undux* drew from real-life upheaval, including the loss of his Pacific Palisades community in the devastating LA wildfires. The record's introspective themes of renewal and resilience expanded into the large-scale "Origin // " live experience, which fans couldn't get enough of, both in-person and on the Coachella live-stream.

"One last time with me, Coachella!" Kaskade finally roars after an hour-long thrilling set, over the gentle tones of "obvious" from *undux*, which he plays out to fade with the crowd then roaring back with gratitude.

The lasers cease and the stage lights come on. There's a pause as the fans around me soak it all in after the final release of the weekend culminating in this massive high. For some, it's not enough. The group next to me starts to chant, "One more song!"

Kaskade could play many more songs if they gave him the time — hours, if not days, worth — but alas, like all good things, Kaskade's set is over, and so is the weekend.

But the prolific DJ has much more in store. Of course, he will be returning this Sunday, April 19, at Coachella Weekend 2. And following up last year's *undux*, he has plenty of new music to come, and this Coachella run is where he is testing it. "The album isn't finished yet and these Coachella weekends are part of finishing it," Kaskade says.

We spoke with him ahead of his Weekend 1 set. He reflects on the evolution of electronic music, the difference between proving a genre's worth in 2015 and simply representing where he stands as an artist today, and what the stage reveals about the next chapter.

**LA WEEKLY: It's been 11 years since your landmark 2015 main-stage headline set, widely credited as a pivotal moment for electronic music at Coachella. Looking back now, how has the festival, and the broader cultural acceptance of electronic music on main stages, evolved in a way that makes this 2026 return feel like a full-circle moment for you?**

**Kaskade:** When I think about where I



**Kaskade at Coachella 2026.**

COURTESY OF MARK OWENS

started versus where we are now, it's absolutely wild. I remember getting electronic music onto big stages back in the day was a massive negotiation. The audience wasn't convinced it was real music. And now you look at a Coachella lineup and it's loaded up with electronic music. This community of artists and our audiences just kept showing up until we got a seat at the table — or on the stage.

Coming back in 2026 feels big. I've cut my teeth over the years on small stages, with passionate crowds, years where I could conjure up the faces of 50 fans that always showed up in front. That's grown and grown over the years, it's now crowds of 50,000, 80,000, 100,000 sometimes. So

that chapter is done. I get to walk out on that stage knowing the culture caught up to what we always believed in.

The full circle moment isn't just Coachella. It's the whole arc. From Chicago to SLC to OM Records, the Vegas residencies, the Super Bowl, Sun Soaked, we did that together. This return feels like we all earned it together. It's a celebration and acknowledgement that when a person works hard, is surrounded by people with integrity and courts an audience that understands the art, sometimes it just works out.

**What does this 2026 set represent for you personally, and how does that compare to 2015?**

2015 was about standing at the edge of a cliff and then jumping. I had to grow wings on the way down. Electronic music was still earning its place, and every big set felt like there was more at stake than just the music. It's interesting that I've been making and performing this music for decades and still bump up against feeling like an outlier. So in 2015 I truly felt like an ambassador. Or a kid on prom night. I needed it to go well, there was a lot riding on it, and not just for me. There was this weight to it.

2026 is different. I'm not out here trying to prove anything. I'm out here because I'd like to build on what's happened over all these years. I have something new to show everyone! New music, a completely rebuilt live show, a whole creative melee I've been sitting on. It represents expectations inverting from external to internal, which I think will translate to the experience my audience will have.

In 2015, I was representing a genre trying to gain momentum. In 2026, I'm representing myself, and where I actually am as an artist right now. In my career, this has always been my North Star, and I think that I'm there now.

**Playing on Sunday often feels like the "closing ceremony" of the festival. What's the feeling you want fans to carry with them as they walk toward the exit after your final song?**

I want them to feel what it feels like to breathe after holding your breath. The relief of exhaling. Coachella is a lot. It's sensory overload and that's the point. By Sunday night, people have been through something. So when my last song plays, I don't want the feeling to be hype. I want it to be warm. I want everyone to feel like for that small amount of time, we all stepped away from whatever it is that is hard in our lives. We hold our breath Monday to Friday, nine to five, or whatever hours we work. I want to be the one that provides a place to breathe. I know all those things don't disappear, but they can, just for this time together. We can all let that deep breath out after a really full weekend, after a really full time in the world. It will still be hype, don't get me wrong. But that kind of hype that feels like you might have just healed something.

That's the whole thing. That's always been the whole thing.

**The 2026 performance is being shaped as a precursor to your next conceptual album — can you share how this live performance is helping shape or test ideas for that project?**

The stage has always been my laboratory. I can spend months in the studio convinced something is working, and then play it for 50,000 people and I'll know within a few phrases whether it is

landing the way I hoped. There's no faking that feedback. There have been flops and there have been surprise "hands in the air" moments I didn't see coming.

So this Coachella set is very deliberately a testing ground. There are new ideas woven throughout that are directly connected to where the next album is headed. And part of what makes this particular show special is that I'm bringing some collaborators out with me. Artists I've been working with both on stage and on the album itself. It's high stakes, but the chance to see how the crowd responds to these moments together, that energy between us live, that is my data. It shapes what stays and what gets put back under my pillow.

I won't give too much away because some of the best moments need to be discovered in real time. But it's fair to say that if you pay attention during the set, you'll experience moments of something bigger.

**undux was inspired by personal upheaval you experienced in 2025 along with losing your Palisades community from the devastating LA wildfires — do you feel like there's still something you're chasing?**

Always, and I hope that never goes away.

Chasing is moving. Chasing is staying a little hungry. Once that isn't there, this just might end up feeling like a job. The things I chase change constantly, though. Early on it was validation and trying to pay rent. Now it's something a little more beautiful. Certain feelings, points of interest, details. I'd say it's not as blunt or concrete as the early days but something that didn't really exist for me before because it brings peace in the pursuit.

**You've often spoken about staying grounded through family, faith, and a drug-free lifestyle while touring at this level. As the industry becomes even more high-pressure and spectacle-driven, what advice would you give to younger artists trying to build longevity?**



Kaskade (Ryan Raddon) hosting a "Ryan Meetup" for his fellow Ryans at Coachella 2026.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARK OWENS

The most important thing is to know who you are before the industry tries to tell you who you are. When the offers come, when the pressure to perform a certain way kicks in, when you're surrounded by people who wouldn't dream of saying "no" to you (and you will be), the thing that keeps you anchored is having already decided what you stand for. For me that's been my faith. And it hasn't been a limitation in my career. It is my career, it's the reason I'm still here doing this with a genuine love for it.

Every form of entertainment rewards spectacle, and music is no different. But spectacle burns hot and fast, and you can see the effects of it on people who get caught up in that. Longevity lives in the choices you make at 2 a.m. when nobody's watching. It lives in the way you protect yourself from burning out. Artists I've watched burn out didn't lose their talent. They lost their ability to advocate for themselves. Music will sustain you if you let it. But you have to be sustainable first.

**With 30 years in music and over**

**5,000 shows across 75 countries under your belt, what have been the biggest shifts in the dance-music industry that you've seen, and what core principles have helped you sustain such a long, consistent career?**

Oh man, somebody did their math! Those numbers are crazy. Thirty years is a long time to watch an industry reinvent itself, but it has, over and over.

The biggest shift is access. When I started, the gatekeepers were real. Labels, distributors, radio, promoters, agents, publicists — you needed all of them to be taken seriously. Now a kid in his bedroom can release a record tonight and have it in front of a million people by morning. I'm not mad at that. I don't believe we need to be overly precious with music. Has it made the landscape noisier and harder to navigate? Sure. But the hustlers are going to get through that just fine.

The second big shift is claiming our spot in the musical world. We went from fighting for any stage to headlining the biggest ones on the planet. Electronic music isn't a footnote anymore. That happened fast, and I don't think we've fully absorbed it yet. We still have a ways to go, but I'm watching the needle move.

As for principles — I'd say the guiding one would be that authenticity is king. To get the success you want, you have to keep showing up. Consistently and with something real to offer. Five thousand shows across seventy-five countries (!!) has taught me that the audience doesn't owe me anything. I will stand up there and earn the room every single time. And I do it because I love the music more than I love the industry. That keeps me on track.

*Follow Kaskade on Instagram @kaskade and watch his Coachella Weekend 2 set streamed live on YouTube.*



## LA WEEKLY CLASSIFIEDS

**WANTED: 35MM+70MM FILM REELS (Features & Trailers)** Collector seeking 35mm+70mm theatrical film reels, including Full movies and trailers — open to any, but especially animated, Pokémon, Disney, and Star Wars. Serious buyer. Please contact: Email: nag3822@yahoo.com Phone: 310-882-9598

### EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

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Comp. game studio seeks a **QA Engineer** to validate functionality & performance of company products. Req. Bachelor's in Game Dev't, Comp. Sci., Engr., or rel., plus 2 yrs. exp. in job offered, or as QA Analyst, or rel. Exp. must include with Windows, MS Visual Studio, C++, Python, JavaScript & Windows SDK. Salary \$70K - \$95K/yr. Job site: Santa Monica, CA. Work from office required (M-W-F). Hybrid allowed. Work Auth. req'd if hired. Send resume to: Naughty Dog, 2425 Olympic Blvd, Ste. 3000 W., Santa Monica, CA 90404. Principals only.

**Accountant, F/T.** Bachelor's in accounting, economics, finance, or any related. Mail resume: Ultimate Auto Shop, 7009 Reseda Blvd, Reseda, CA 91335.

**Developer Partnership Lead:** Bachelor's in Mass Communication, Marketing or related degree plus 5 yrs wk exp req'd. Wage: \$137,717/Yr. Send resumes to: Krafton Americas, Inc., 2121 Park Pl Ste 250, El Segundo, CA 90245, Attn: H. Yoo.

Globalink Securities, Inc. seeks **Fin. Analyst.** Mstrs. in Fin. or rel. field req'd. Conduct fin. analysis & consult w/ clients re investments/money mgmt. Salary \$115,877. Worksite: Pasadena, CA. Mail resumes to: 3452 E. Foot-hill Blvd. #1040, Pasadena, CA 91107.

**TEACHERS Foreign Language (Mandarin),** multiple positions available at elementary, middle school & high school levels. Jobs with Los Angeles Unified School District in L.A. County, CA. Starting Salary: \$68,966/year, per CBA. Fax resumes to Attn: Jorge Amador at (213) 241-8410.

**Marketing Manager** for Wefluens LLC @ Los Angeles, CA. JD: Dev & imp influencer mkt strategy; Supervise influencer initiatives & influencer negotiation; Integrate influencer progs; Establish marketing objectives & etc. Req: MA in Marketing, Design, Bz Analytics or related (or foreign equiv edu ok) +2 yrs influencer mktng, social media mktng on Tiktok, Inst. & Youtube, consumer brand mktng exp and etc. Full job desc. & reqs at caljobs. ca.gov Job # 19841535. Salary: \$139984/yr. Email resume to yang@wefluens.com.

**Business Development Analyst:** M.B.A. or related degree plus 2 yrs wk exp req'd. Wage: \$74K-105K/yr. Send resume to Krafton Americas, Inc., 2121 Park Pl Ste 250, El Segundo, CA 90245, Attn: H. Yoo.

The Hoffmitz Milken Center for Typography at Art-Center College of Design seeks to hire a **Senior Designer** for Exhibitions and Programs focusing on typography and letterform design at our campus in Pasadena, CA. Forward resume to: susan.malmstrom@artcenter.edu.

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Farmers Group (Woodland Hills, CA) seeks **Decision Science Manager** to provide critical decision support across the enterprise by gathering/analyzing & synthesizing data to address bus. challenges. Occ. travel w/in the U.S. Remote work option 40% of the time. Salary: \$158,808/yr. Apply at Farmers.com/Careers, Job ID: 33675.

Creative Behavioral Consultants Inc. seeks **Clinical Supervisor** (BCBA) in Calabasas, CA. MS in Applied Behavior Analysis, Psychology, or rtd w/24 mos exp in the field of ABA. BCBA Cert req'd. \$56,909/yr. Res: Vittorio Matinata, 4500 Park Granada, #202, Calabasas, CA 91302.

**Business Administrator** — plan & coord. co.'s admin. operations & info.; analyze existing bus. processes. Req.: Bachelor's or foreign equiv. in Bus. Admin., Mgmt. Info. Sys., or related. Sal:\$79,768/yr. Mail resume to job-site: Abella & Azores Care Services LLC dba: 1Heart Care-giver Services — Northridge 9017 Reseda Blvd., #200, Northridge, CA 91324 Attn: I. Abella.