

**“THERE’S SOMETHING  
HAPPENING HERE  
WHAT IT IS AIN’T  
EXACTLY CLEAR”**

*From Buffalo Springfield’s  
For What It’s Worth, 1966*

**THERE’S  
SOMETHING  
HAPPENING  
HERE...  
ON THE  
SUNSET  
STRIP  
1 9 6 6**

**@WeHoArts**



Crosby, Stills & Nash  
© HENRY DILTZ, 1969



Joni Mitchell, Laurel Canyon  
© HENRY DILTZ, 1970



Frank Zappa & The Mothers  
© HENRY DILTZ, Date Unknown



Buffalo Springfield  
© HENRY DILTZ, Date Unknown



The Mamas & the Papas, Hollywood  
© HENRY DILTZ, 1967



The Doors, Los Angeles  
© HENRY DILTZ, Date Unknown



Beatles Abbey Road Billboard, Sunset Strip  
© ROBERT LANDAU, 1969

To walk down Sunset Strip in 1966 was to see a sidewalk thronging with groovy guys, Beatle-haired teens, and flower children. Teenagers came to catch a glimpse of their favorite musicians, many of whom lived in Laurel Canyon, in part because of its close proximity to the Sunset Strip clubs.

Some businesses and residents were unhappy with the traffic and crowds. By late 1966, authorities began imposing a decades-old 10 pm curfew law for those under age 18. Seeing this as an infringement on their rights, ‘Striplings’ as they were called, invited people to demonstrate at Pandora’s Box.

Reports vary, but perhaps between 900 to 3,000 demonstrators, including celebrities Jack Nicholson and Peter Fonda, erupted in protest.

As Cecilia Rasmussen wrote in an August 5, 2007 LA Times article, ‘the confrontation with police also inspired musician Stephen Stills of Buffalo Springfield to write “For What It’s Worth,”...“Riot is a ridiculous name,” he said in an interview. “It was a funeral for Pandora’s Box. But it looked like a revolution.”’

Stills’ song, with its famous line “There’s something happening here...” debuted during a short-lived truce on Christmas Day at Pandora’s Box, and eventually became an anthem of the protest era.

Several more demonstrations took place over the next few nights and for months afterward.

On February 11, 1967, organizers banded together with groups

that were also facing police harassment. Two leading gay groups, PRIDE and the Council on Religion and the Homosexual, endorsed the February 11 demonstration, and planned a simultaneous demonstration that predated the Stonewall riots by over 2 years, with 500 people demonstrating outside the Black Cat Tavern in Silverlake.

Other February 11 demonstrations were planned in Chicano and Black communities in Watts, East L.A. and Pacoima, but were largely unsuccessful. As protests on the Strip began to identify with the far more deadly police brutality in South-Central LA, civil rights hero Julian Bond addressed a crowd on the Strip in March 1967.

On February 22, 1967, a CAFF (Community Action for Facts and Freedom) held a benefit concert to pay for the damages businesses suffered during the Sunset Strip Riots. Peter, Paul and Mary reminded the audience that the teenagers of the “Sunset Strip are not the first, nor the last, to have to fight to be individuals.” Fresh off success of the concert, organizer Alan Pariser set up shop on Sunset Boulevard and joined with Ben Shapiro, Lou Adler, Derek Taylor, John Phillips, and Jim Dickson to organize an even bigger event which would be a pivotal moment in the 1967 Summer of Love, the Monterey Pop Festival.

*For more information on the Sunset Strip riots, and further reading and listening material please visit <http://bit.ly/SunsetStrip66>*

**EXHIBITS**

**There’s Something Happening Here...**

An exhibit of photographs by Henry Diltz on view at the West Hollywood Library, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd., during regular operating hours from October 19, 2016 through May 3, 2017.

**Rock ‘n’ Roll Billboards on the Sunset Strip**

An outdoor exhibition of historic billboards as captured by photographer Robert Landau on display at 8775 Sunset Boulevard beginning in late February 2017.

**EVENTS**

**Friday, October 28, 2016, 6:30 pm – 9 pm**

Join photographer Henry Diltz for a slideshow and talk in the City Council Chambers from 6:30 pm -7:45 pm, followed by a reception for the exhibit ‘There’s Something Happening Here...’ in the Library.

**Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 7 pm**

The Rise of Counterculture in West Hollywood: Art, Music, and Poetry held in the City Council Chambers, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd.

This talk covers that specific moment between 1965 and 1966 when West Hollywood absorbed, then advanced the folk music movement that had previously been harbored in Greenwich Village. One year after The Beatles broke Pop beyond its previous limitations, Bob Dylan came to Ciro’s on the Sunset Strip to help launch The Byrds, which in turn, opened it up for Frank Zappa, Buffalo Springfield, Love, The Doors

and others to break from the local scene. From that moment on, social consciousness would become the modus operandi internationally, an important and previously overlooked part of how the 1960s truly changed the world. Presented by Domenic Priore, author of Riot on Sunset Strip: Rock ‘n’ Roll’s Last Stand in Hollywood (2015 Jawbone Press, London).

**Thursday, April 6, 2017, 7 pm**

As Far as You Can See . . . Sunset Strip through the Eyes of Poets held in the West Hollywood Library, 625 N. San Vicente Blvd.

In celebration of the Sunset Strip folk era as well as the 50th anniversary of the Sunset Strip curfew riots, join a variety of wonderful poets for a unique and memorable trip up the Sunset Strip. “There’s something happening here . . .” then and now! Join us for a reading of both original work and work by poets who captured a time we hold dear. Celebrate National Poetry Month and experience a rainbow of colors, emotions, and memories, through words that are certain to evoke your own electric visions! Organized by Kim Dower, West Hollywood City Poet Laureate.

**ALL EVENTS AND EXHIBITS ARE FREE TO ATTEND.**

# IT ALL STARTED HERE

## Historic Clubs and Locations

\* designates venue still exists

DOHENY DRIVE



**1 Troubadour**  
9081 Santa Monica Blvd

**3 Rainbow Bar and Grill\***  
9015 Sunset Blvd  
Opened in 1970, on the site of the *Villanova Restaurant*, musicians such as John Lennon, Keith Moon, Grace Slick, Ringo Starr, and Janis Joplin all reportedly ate here.

**1 The Troubadour\***  
9081 Santa Monica Blvd  
Both The Byrds and Buffalo Springfield played their very first gigs in the bar at *The Troubadour*.

**2 Gazzarri's**  
9039 Sunset Blvd  
Gazzarri's was site of the first big reviews for The Doors. Currently this is *10AK* nightclub.

**6 The Galaxy**  
8917 Sunset Blvd  
Breakout spot for Iron Butterfly, October Country and others.

**7 Unicorn Coffee House**  
8907 Sunset Blvd  
In the late 50-60s, this was a Beatnik hangout.

**5 The London Fog**  
8919 Sunset Blvd  
The Doors had regular gigs there before becoming the house band at the *Whisky A Go Go*.

**4 The Roxy Theatre\***  
9009 Sunset Blvd  
Opened in 1973, this was the site of Frank Zappa Live, John Lennon's 'lost weekend', and where the *Rocky Horror Show* was first performed in the US.

SAN VICENTE BOULEVARD

9 10

**10 Cinematheque 16**  
8816 1/2 Sunset Blvd  
An art film house which opened in 1966.

**9 The Melody Room**  
8852 Sunset Blvd  
Predecessor of *Filthy McNasty's* ('70s), *The Central* ('80s) and *Viper Room* ('90s 'til now).

**8 Whisky A Go Go\***  
8901 Sunset Blvd  
The Whisky was the birthplace of the go-go dancer, and the house venue for The Doors for years.

**12 The Trip**  
8572 Sunset Blvd  
Former site of *The Crescendo* jazz club.

**13 Playboy Club**  
8560 Sunset Blvd  
Established jazz stars like Stan Kenton performed at this West Coast branch of Hugh Hefner's club.

**11 Duke's Coffee Shop at The Tropicana Motel**  
8585 Sunset Blvd  
According to Frank Zappa, *The Tropicana Motel* was a groupie's paradise where most of the touring groups stayed when they hit town, along with members of The Byrds and The Doors.

**15 Ciro's/It's Boss/ The Comedy Store\***  
8433 Sunset Blvd  
*Ciro's Le Disc* was an elite hang out in the '40s and '50s. In the '60s it became a rock and roll club where The Byrds were first joined by Bob Dylan on stage on March 26, 1965. Subsequently it became a Pop Art themed club called *It's Boss* featuring Tom Jones and Petula Clark which closed at the end of '66 in the wake of the demonstrations. The site became *The Comedy Store* in 1972.

**17 Gene Autry's/ Continental Hyatt House/Andaz\***  
8401 Sunset Blvd  
Now the *Andaz, West Hollywood\** this hotel was nicknamed the 'Riot Hyatt' in the 1960s, when many musicians lived or stayed there for easy access to the live music venues.

**16 The Renaissance**  
8428 Sunset Blvd  
This club was the catalyst for the beatnik bebop scene and jazz scene. The site is where The Monterey Pop Festival was organized in '67, and the '90s, the building became *House of Blues*.

15 16 17

**19 P.J.'s**  
8151 Santa Monica Blvd  
The spot for the Twist craze in Hollywood when it opened in 1961. In 1964 this became home base for The Standells who hit with "Dirty Water" and "Riot on Sunset Strip."

**18 The Fifth Estate**  
8226 Sunset Blvd  
Many teenagers hung out at this coffeehouse, where both The Los Angeles Free Press operated out of from 1964-66, as well as RAMCOM (the Right of Assembly and Movement Committee) which called for the original protest.

18 20 21

P.J.'s 8151 Santa Monica Blvd

**20 Laurel Canyon**  
Was home to many rock stars such as Frank Zappa, Jim Morrison, Carole King, and members of The Eagles, Love, The Mamas and the Papas, and The Monkees among others.

**21 Pandora's Box**  
Crescent Hts Blvd & Sunset Blvd  
The closing of this club in late 1966 incited the so called 'Sunset Strip Riots' which later inspired Buffalo Springfield's song "For What It's Worth," an anthem of the protest era.

CRESCENT HEIGHTS



## CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

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