



## Exhibition Statement:

### Garden Variety: A Collaborative Paper Garden

Fitting with our agriculture theme, artist Kiel Johnson will be featuring a collaboration paper garden that will bloom with paper leaves, flowers and various garden items made by our OC Fair guests. Along with the garden, a life-size cardboard crop-duster airplane and apple tree will be on display.

Kiel Johnson is a Los Angeles based artist, currently running around the west coast, getting involved in any creative project that will have him. With an emphasis on drawings and sculpture, his pieces say, "handmade, and having fun".

Collaboration has become a big part of his practice as well. Through epic workshops, artist talks & collaborative video projects, Kiel uses simple materials and handmade ingenuity to bring the infectious disease of creativity to anyone willing to engage.

His work has been exhibited widely throughout galleries and museums around the country, with recent solo shows at Mark Moore Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; Davidson Contemporary, New York, NY; The Taubman Museum, Ronaoke, VA. Johnson is also the recipient of numerous awards including The Pollock-Krazner Grant in 2008; Durfee Foundation ARC Grant, 2007; and the Outstanding Creative Achievement Award, 2003. Kiel has been found speaking about his work at TED events around the world with recent talks at TEDxAIAin, United Arab Emirates and TEDxChristchurch, New Zealand.

[kieljohnson.com](http://kieljohnson.com)  
[instagram.com/kieljohnson/](https://www.instagram.com/kieljohnson/)  
[facebook.com/KielErikJohnson](https://www.facebook.com/KielErikJohnson)



Overview of the exhibit in the visual arts building

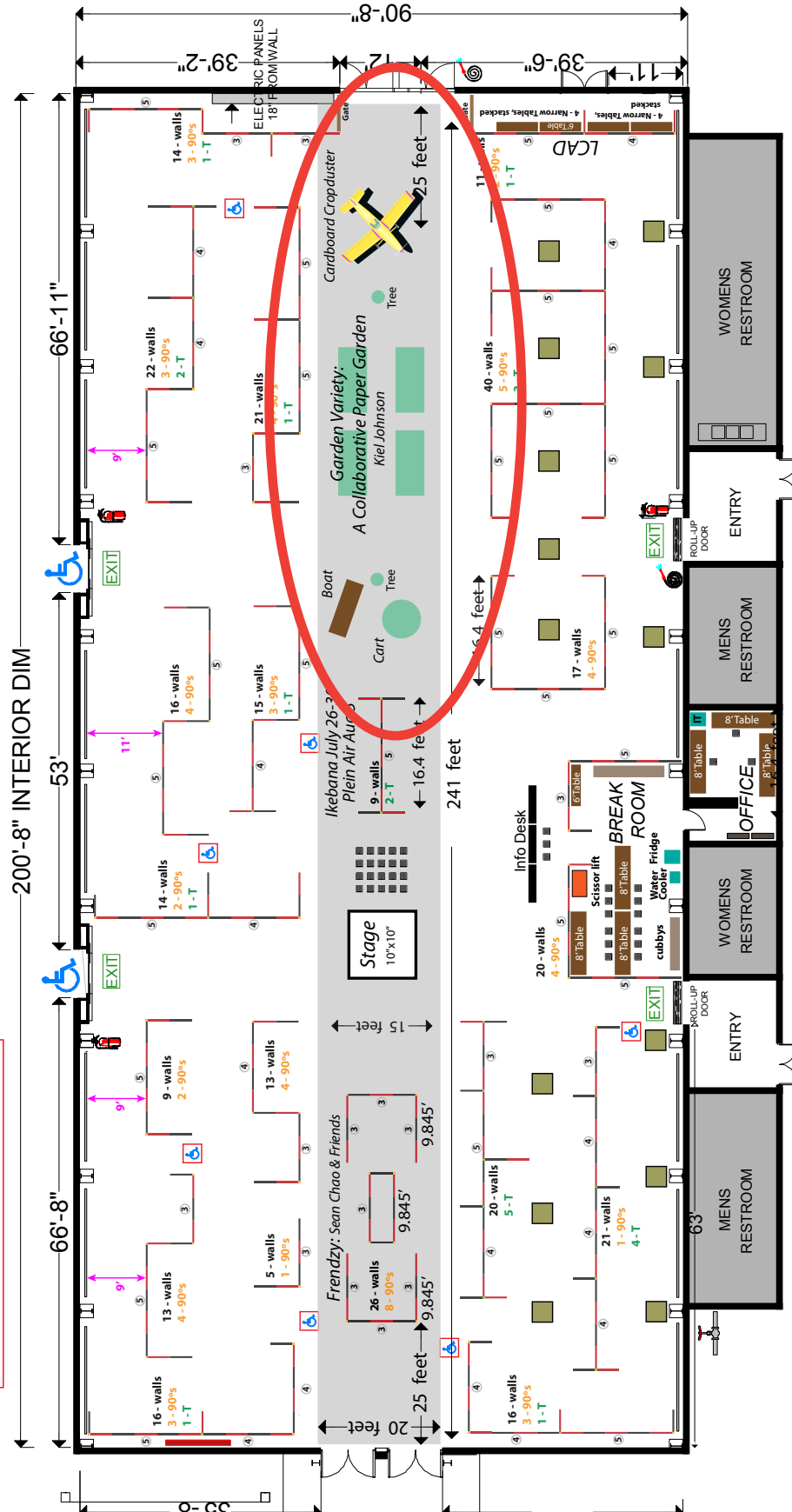
## Building layout with the Paper Garden area circled

6/20/17

### LOS ALAMITOS Visual Arts 2017

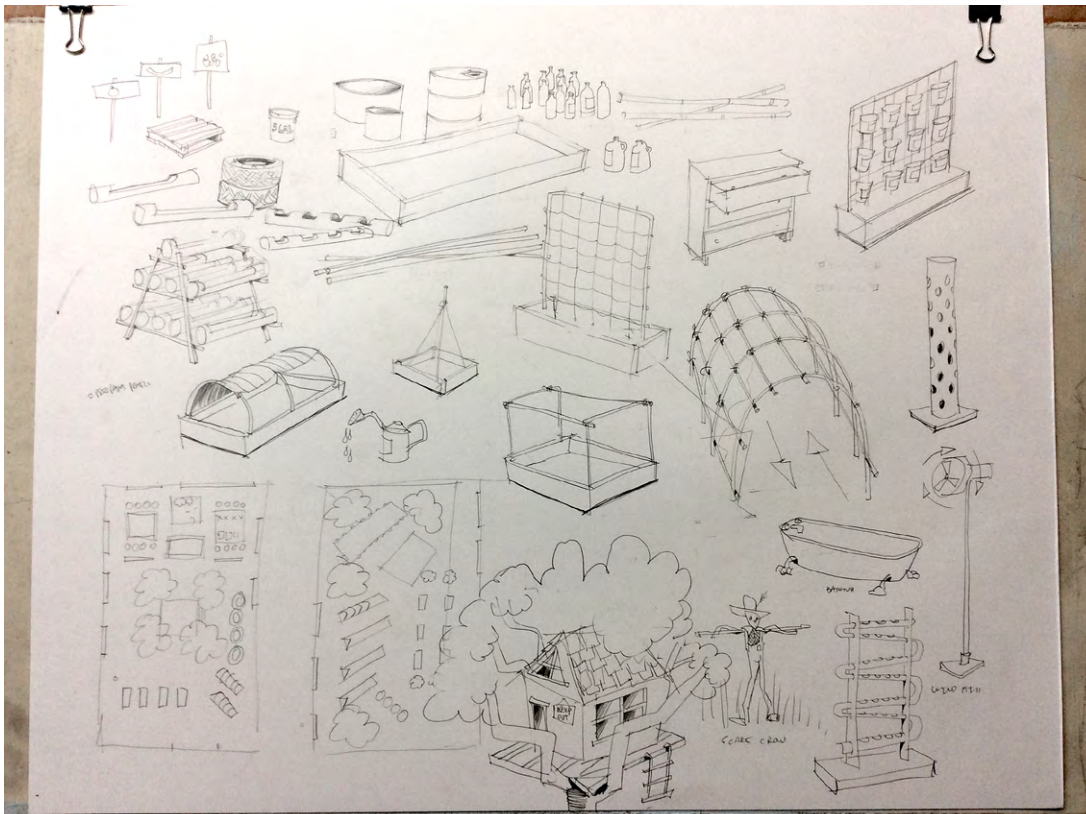
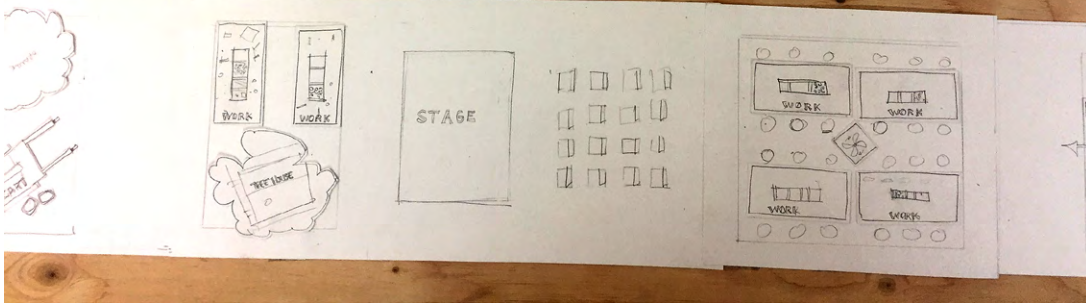
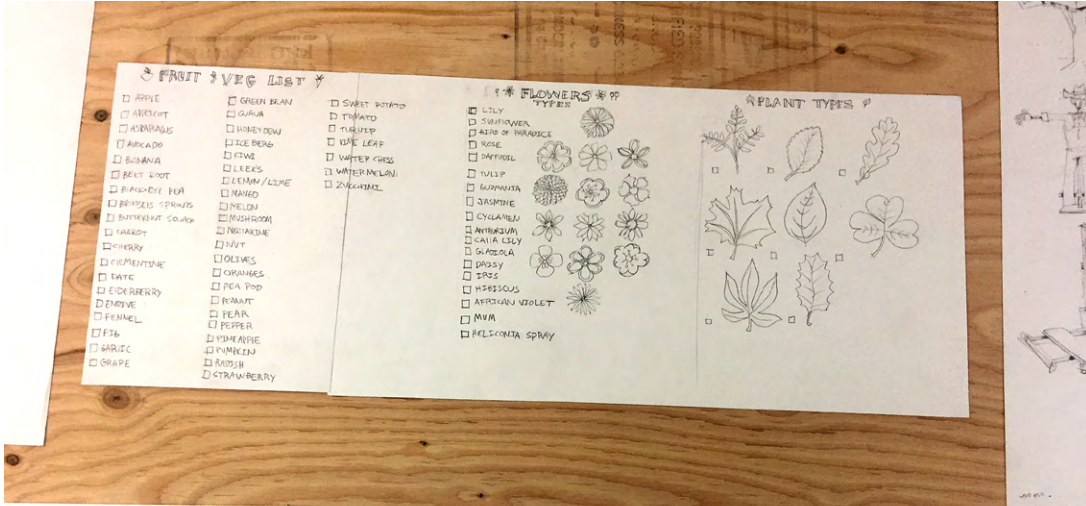
nailable mila-wall® series 400 modules,  
 1000mm (39.38" wide) 39.38"  
 14 Vitrines 36"x36" 36" x 36"  
 ADA Compliance 32" min. 32"

1" = 13'





## Concept Sketches





## Gallery overview



## Exhibition details



## Hands-on workshops



Artist Kiel Johnson (in grey shirt) conducting hands on workshops



Artist Kiel Johnson

## Staff working on the exhibit



## Young artist at work







## Press Mentions

Midway Moments: Now that's a paper airplane ... and it's landed at O.C. Fair's paper garden - Daily Pilot

10/24/17, 2:17 PM

### Midway Moments: Now that's a paper airplane ... and it's landed at O.C. Fair's paper garden



An airplane made of cardboard is displayed in "Garden Variety: A Collaborative Paper Garden" in the Orange County Fair's Visual Arts Gallery. (Don Leach | Daily Pilot)



By **Bradley Zint**

JULY 21, 2017, 11:15 AM

**A**rickety vintage airplane sporting orange wings that was piloted by a baby has landed at the Orange County Fair, and it's causing passersby to gaze on it with shock and awe.

Believe it.

Well, some of it anyway.

<http://www.latimes.com/socal/daily-pilot/news/tn-dpt-me-paper-garden-20170721-story.html>

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'World's Largest Paper Garden' to Grow at OC Fair - NBC Southern California

10/24/17, 2:38 PM

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Local U.S. & World California News Sports NFL in LA Health Tech Weird Weather NewsConference

### 'World's Largest Paper Garden' to Grow at OC Fair

Fair goers can contribute to artist Kiel Johnson's fanciful construction paper-filled world.  
By Alysia Gray Painter

**TRENDING STORIES**

- 1 **Video** Brush Fire Shuts Stretch of Freeway in Rancho Cucamonga
- 2 **Map** See Where Wildfires Are Burning in California
- 3 **'Cake Boss'** Bakery Coming to Santa Monica
- 4 **Video** Child's Body ID'd as Missing Texas Toddler; Father Arrested

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**WEATHER FORECAST**

WEATHER ALERTS [View all](#)

Los Angeles, CA

**103°** Clear Feels Like 103

Radar Forecast Maps

Colorful construction paper? It's one of our longtime go-to materials when we want to make a greeting card, a picture for the grandma, or a paper chain to decorate an entryway, Christmas tree, or impromptu birthday party.

The crafty substance can flower in numerous ways, in other words, but to see it flower as actual flowers, as in thousands of them, will surely be a fanciful sight to fair goers' eyes. And those fair goers? They'll be at the 2017 OC Fair, which opens at the OC Fair & Event Center in Costa Mesa on Friday, July 14.

No doubt about it, the twirly rides, racing pigs, and doughnut ice cream chicken sandwiches will surely catch a lot of the public's attention, but so shall artist Kiel Johnson's mega, and mega whimsical, undertaking. He hopes to "build the world's largest garden out of construction paper during the OC Fair."

But the LA-based creator of interesting artworks, artworks that arise from everyday materials, won't be undertaking this bright-of-idea, bright-of-eye project alone. Mr. Johnson is asking guests of the fair to also lend a hand by cutting out a few blossoms or stems or another addition to the unusual spread of papery petals.

Where to go to jump into this joyful slice of only-at-the-fair fun? "Garden Variety: A Collaborative Paper Garden" will be on view at the Visual Arts Gallery. And it is sure to grow, grow during the Costa Mesa merriment's month-long run

<https://www.nbcloseangeles.com/news/local/Worlds-Largest-Paper-Garden-to-Grow-at-OC-Fair-433861943.html>

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### Cardboard Yacht: Help Build One in Santa Monica

Artist Kiel Johnson will lead an art project that harkens back to the days of William Randolph Hearst's yacht.  
By Alysia Gray Painter

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**'Cake Boss'** Bakery Coming to Santa Monica

Artist Kiel Johnson will lead a project that harkens back to the days of William Randolph Hearst's yacht.

The OC Fair, which will take its final bow for 2017 on Sunday, Aug. 13, offered, like it always does, a little bit of absolutely everything one could dream up or imagine.

It even includes what has been billed as "the world's largest paper garden," a mega craft project that came together, petal by petal, under the eye and inspiration of artist Kiel Johnson.

Did you cut a daffodil out, or a daisy, while visiting the Costa Mesa event? Then take note that Mr. Johnson has a fresh goal in sight, and it is ramping up just as the OC Fair closes.

He'll be taking on the building of the Onetida, William Randolph Hearst's yacht, and he'll be doing so at the Arnerberg Community Beach House, a landmark that has wayback ties to the publishing magnate.

The estate of Marion Davies, Mr. Hearst's companion, once grandly stood on the site, decades ago. Today? The beachfront property serves as a cultural, social, and splash-fun beacon for Southern Californians searching out some history, some stories, and a place to swim.

And a place to make memorable art. For this yacht, under Mr. Johnson's direction, will not contain the typical materials, such as fiberglass and steel, found in a sta-



**PDF Entry Information**

**Exhibitor Name:** Chris Gunst OC Fair & Event Center

**WEN:** 7BB5ED

**Division:** Section 2 - Innovation & Managemen

**Class:** 14 New Event, Exhibit or Program

**Title:** Community Garden

**Description:**

**Notes:**

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