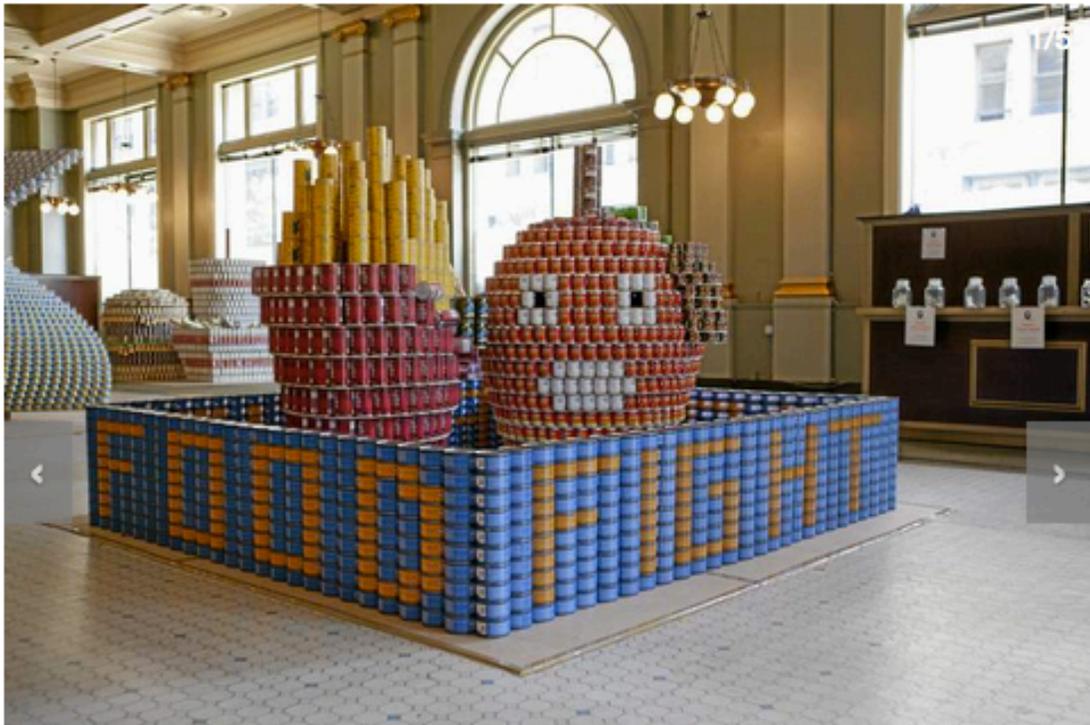


## Canstruction LA aims to feed artistic passion and the hungry



PCL&KPFF entered "Food Fight" in the 2014 Canstruction LA exhibition to raise money and awareness for the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank.

By [Suzanne Sproul](#), *Inland Valley Daily Bulletin*

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### Ninth annual Canstruction LA

Where: Farmers and Merchants Bank Building, 401 S. Main St., Los Angeles.

When: Noon-10 p.m. April 9; 11 a.m.-8 p.m. April 10; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. April 11-12.

Admission: Free. Visitors are encouraged to pay \$1 to vote for their favorites, with donations going to Los Angeles Regional Food Bank.

Information: 213-924-8661, [www.canstructionla.com](http://www.canstructionla.com).

<http://www.dailynews.com/arts-and-entertainment/20150406/canstruction-la-aims-to-feed-artistic-passion-and-the-hungry>

Structures made of cans upon aluminum cans sport pun-inspired titles, pay homage to pop culture and even showcase some whimsical looks, but the message behind them is serious: Hunger hurts.

That message is why Los Angeles architects, designers, builders and engineers are putting their heads together for the colorful and innovative ninth annual Canstruction LA, which runs April 9-12. The competition is part of the Downtown Los Angeles Art Walk and challenges participants to create art made entirely of canned foods to bring attention — and donations — to the [Los Angeles Regional Food Bank](#).

“Those who are involved are committed to hunger issues and doing something creative about it,” said Julie Taylor, vice chairwoman of the Canstruction LA steering committee. “The structures are imaginative and engaging.”

Canstruction LA participants have created canned food structures depicting everything from surrealistic faces to LAX’s Metro station. A jury of architecture, media and culinary experts judge the structures in categories including Juror’s Favorite, Best Meal, Best Use of Labels and Structural Ingenuity.

The public event also encourages attendees to view and vote for their favorite design for the People’s Choice Award. Each vote costs \$1, which will be donated to the local food bank. At the end of the competition, the canned goods are also donated.

“They present a great opportunity to teach children about hunger and ways of helping,” Taylor continued. “It’s so visceral to realize that the cans used to build these structures are going to end up in someone’s hands.”

The exhibition, which is part of the international program organized by the Society for Design Administration, started in New York and has been duplicated throughout the country and the world. When Taylor found out Los Angeles wasn’t a participant, the public relations executive went to work garnering support from many of her building industry clients. The first all-volunteer effort Canstruction LA was in 2006 and has grown steadily throughout the years.

“These are amazing and fanciful structures that showcase the great talents participating in this design/build competition,” Taylor said. “We want it to be fun and joyful, while still spreading the message and encouraging people to think creatively about ways to combat a serious problem.”

Last year, Canstruction LA donated 27,249 pounds of food and \$15,799 to the food bank. In addition, each vote of \$1 helps the food bank provide enough food for four meals.

“We do have a local hunger problem, although we’ve seen some improvement with the situation the past couple of years,” said Michael Flood, CEO of the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank. “The Canstruction LA project does help us at the food bank and our food funding efforts. It brings local awareness to the issue of hunger and shows that people are doing something about it locally.”