Gingerbread City

Forward Together

33RD ANNUAL HOLIDAY GALA

THURSDAY 11.19.2026

Fairmont
GRAND DEL MAR



Gingerbread Artists

EPILEPSY FOUNDATION
SAN DIEGO COUNTY

11.19.2026

Gingerbread City

Fairmont GRAND DEL MAR

Thank You!

Dear Gingerbread Artists,

Before you even begin, we want to say **thank you**.

We know that every Gingerbread City creation represents countless hours of planning, designing, baking, building, problem-solving, and painstaking attention to detail. The talent, artistry, creativity, and technical skill you bring to these remarkable structures is truly extraordinary.

This year feels especially meaningful as Gingerbread City moves to Thursday, November 19, Epilepsy Awareness Month. Your artistry will help us shine a brighter light on epilepsy, bring our community together, and create greater awareness for the individuals and families we serve.

Year after year, you transform simple ingredients into extraordinary works of art that delight our guests, inspire our community, and make Gingerbread City such a beloved tradition.

We cannot thank you enough for sharing your time, your talent, and—most importantly—your passion and creativity with us. Gingerbread City simply would not be possible without you.

With our deepest gratitude,

The Epilepsy Foundation of San Diego County



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Forward Together

This year's Gingerbread City Gala theme, **Forward Together**, invites you to imagine what's possible when we build, grow, and move forward as one community. Let gingerbread, candy, frosting, and holiday magic tell a story of connection, support, and the strength we find in one another. Whether grand or playful, traditional or unexpected, let your creation celebrate the extraordinary things that happen when we move **Forward Together**.

Grand Category
1st place $1000
2nd place $500

Petite Category
1st place $600
2nd place $300

Imagine:

A magnificent gingerbread bridge connecting two festive villages, symbolizing the relationships that bring people and communities together.

A whimsical holiday train winding through a snowy gingerbread landscape, with every car carrying something different but all traveling toward the same destination.

A towering gingerbread tree of connection, with intertwined branches, sparkling ornaments, and roots extending outward—representing the strength of a community that grows together.

A gingerbread city connected by pathways of candy and light, where homes, gathering places, and neighborhoods come together to create one vibrant community.

A soaring gingerbread staircase or pathway, climbing toward a brilliant star or glowing horizon and celebrating progress, possibility, and the journey ahead.

A gingerbread circle of homes or figures, gathered around a glowing holiday centerpiece, representing belonging, support, and the idea that no one should ever have to face life's challenges alone.

Whatever you choose to build, let it be bold, beautiful, imaginative, and full of heart. Each creation can tell its own story of connection and possibility while helping support the 50,000 San Diegans living with epilepsy. Together, every structure becomes part of something even bigger—a Gingerbread City moving **Forward Together**.

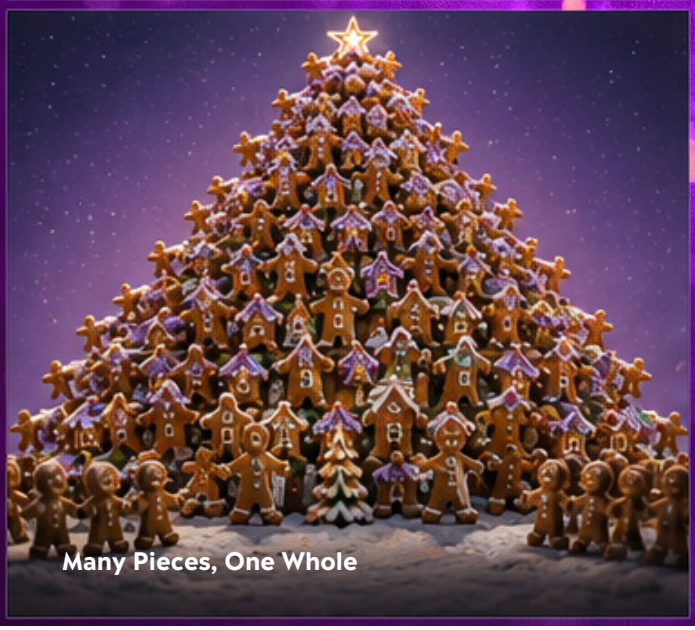
Artistic Inspiration


Bridging Communities


Gathered in Community


Many Lights, One Flame


Rising Together


Many Pieces, One Whole


Moving Forward Together

Artistic Inspiration


Pathways of Light


Stronger Together


A Place for Everyone


We Lean on Each Other


From Many Paths, One Hope


Together We Create Magic

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Structure Guidelines





Petite Category

Structure base limited to 20”x 20” with no height restrictions

Grand Category

Structure base* limited to 32”x 42” with no height restrictions

- **Structure should convey an interpretation of the theme**
- **Structure must be comprised of mainly gingerbread with at least 70% visible gingerbread from exterior façade**. The remaining materials must be comprised of other edible materials
- **Prevent structure collapse!** The frame (base, reinforcements, etc.) may be made of non-edible materials
- **Entire structure must be covered in edible materials**
- **Decorations** *may include lights and small motors, but ALL other decoration must be of edible materials. Please use preservatives. Structures are for display purposes.*

**Base restrictions are designed to ensure transportability of structures. Please note that 32”x 42” is the dimension limit for the complete and covered base board; cut board smaller than 32’x 42” if necessary to accommodate the thickness of your chosen covering.*

STIPEND

A small stipend to help offset the costs of materials and supplies. A stipend of $200 will be offered to artists in the Grand Category. A stipend of $150 will be offered to entries in the Petite Category. You may request a stipend on the entry form.

If you cancel your participation, the stipend must be returned to the Epilepsy Foundation of San Diego County within ten days of cancellation.

Requested stipends will be processed and mailed to the postal address listed on the entry form. Please make sure your form includes your full address, including any apartment number.

11.19.2026

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Event Details

Judging

Structures will be judged using a standard 5 point scale, based on the following criteria:

Petite Category

- Use of gingerbread
- Artistic use of color
- Overall design/appearance
- Precision
- Creative interpretation of the theme
- Degree of difficulty

Grand Category

- Creative use of edible media
- Artistic use of color
- Overall design/appearance
- Precision
- Creative interpretation of the theme
- Degree of difficulty

Event Attendance

Each team may request **one complimentary Gala ticket**. A second ticket is available at a **reduced rate of $150**, with additional tickets offered at a **reduced rate of $250** each to help cover event costs.

Schedule

Event Date:

Thursday, November 19, 2026

Place:

Fairmont Grand Del Mar
5300 Grand Del Mar Court, San Diego, CA 92130

Time:

Artists may load-in structures at 1 pm on November 19, 2026, at the Fairmont Grand Del Mar Hotel. Structures must be fully assembled by 3 pm. More details will be provided prior to the event. Please bring anything you may need to move your structure from your vehicle into the hotel ballroom, including anyone needed to move the structure. We will not have carts available and we will not have anyone available to unload structures.

Structure Load-In:

Information for load-in access will be provided closer to the event date.

Questions:

Email Dayna Bondurant at
dayna@epilepsysandiego.org

The online entry form can be found at:

https://forms.gle/D3svzf4D9BQDqcfJ8

Please complete your entry **by October 20th, 2026**.