

# LA Networking Events — May 5 → June 7, 2026

**Anthony Tedesco · arrives LHH May 5 · open-ended · solo**

**Goals (in priority order):** 1. **Kala raise** — close \$25K+ SAFE tickets at the \$5M cap (consumer / sports-tech / creator-economy / outdoor-rec angels & Pre-Seed VCs) 2. **AI consulting floor** — \$5K from one engagement to LA Series-A/B operators (Heads of Eng / CTO / Head of AI) 3. **General network expansion** — every founder, operator, and angel in the room

**Fit codes used below:** - **K** — Kala fundraising fit - **C** — AI consulting fit - **N** — General network / wildcard -  
— Highest-priority do-not-miss

## Tier 0 — Must attend (highest expected ROI)

Date	Event	Venue	Window	Fit	Why
<b>Wed May 6</b>	<b>Scalable Summit</b> (creator economy)	The Lighthouse, Venice	day		Twitch CEO Dan Clancy, TikTok biz exec Khartoon Weiss, Tubi creator chief Rich Bloom, Slow Creator Fund partner Megan Lightcap. Creator-economy angels on tap; perfect for the "Strava-for-fishing" pitch.
<b>Tue May 12</b>	<b>Bulletpitch LA Founder &amp; Investor Dinner</b>	Santa Monica	7:00 – 9:30 PM		Multimedia format that puts founders across the table from investors and operators. Smaller-room, higher-conversion than mixers.
<b>Wed May 14</b>	<b>Demo Day LA — May 2026</b>	BLANKSPACES Venice	4:30 – 9:00 PM		"Best technology, startup, AI, entrepreneurship, & venture capital events" — direct investor exposure.
<b>Tue May 20</b>	<b>Investor Connect: Pitch &amp; Networking — LA</b>	Audio Graph Beer Co.	6:00 – 9:00 PM		"Meet LA's AI & startup founders, investors & builders." Active pitching format.
<b>Thu May 21</b>	<b>AI in Production LA (monthly)</b>	160 Glendale Blvd	7:00 – 9:00 PM		Builder-grade audience: indie hackers shipping agents, founders dealing with enterprise reqs, engineers wrangling LLMs. Submit a Nucleus Brain demo.
<b>Thu Jun 18 – Sat Jun 20</b>	<b>VidCon Anaheim 2026</b>	Anaheim Convention Center	3-day		Creator-economy capital. Stay for at least Day 1 if still in CA. The Strava-for-fishing positioning lands here.

## Calendar — May 5 → June 7

### Week 1 (Tue May 5 – Sun May 10) — arrival + orientation

Date	Event	Venue	Window	Fit	Notes
<b>Wed May 6</b>	Startup Cafe: H5E Founders w/ Adam Miller (edtech founder, \$5.2B exit)	The KINN	8:45 – 10:30 AM		Small-room founder mindset / scaling.
<b>Wed May 6</b>	<b>Scalable Summit</b> (creator economy)	The Lighthouse, Venice	day		See Tier 0.
<b>Wed May 6</b>	Startup Founder Night: Where Ideas Meet	Audio Graph Beer Co.	7:00 – 10:00 PM		Same venue as the May 20 pitch night — scout the room early.
<b>Fri May 8</b>	Nucleate LA: Demo Day 2026 (biotech)	California NanoSystems Institute @ UCLA	2:00 – 7:00 PM		Biotech / medtech investors — adjacent ecosystem; AI-stack consulting prospects in the room.

### Week 2 (Mon May 11 – Sun May 17)

Date	Event	Venue	Window	Fit	Notes
<b>Tue May 12</b>	Startup / Entrepreneur / Design / Tech / AI Happy Hour	All Season Brewing (La Brea)	6:00 – 9:00 PM		Monthly 2nd-Tuesday institution.
<b>Tue May 12</b>	<b>Bulletpitch LA Founder &amp; Investor Dinner</b>	Santa Monica	7:00 – 9:30 PM		See Tier 0. Pick this over the Happy Hour if you can only do one.
<b>Wed May 14</b>	<b>Demo Day LA — May 2026</b>	BLANKSPACES Venice	4:30 – 9:00 PM		See Tier 0.

### Week 3 (Mon May 18 – Sun May 24)

Date	Event	Venue	Window	Fit	Notes
<b>Mon May 18 – Thu May 21</b>	LABest Week 2026 (bioscience / medtech / biotech)	UCLA	multi-day		Adjacent investor ecosystem; receptions Wed/Thu evenings.
<b>Tue May 20</b>	<b>Investor Connect: Pitch &amp; Networking — LA</b>	Audio Graph Beer Co.	6:00 – 9:00 PM		See Tier 0.
<b>Thu May 21</b>	Founder Communication Essentials: Lead With Listening (workshop)	The KINN	2:00 – 5:00 PM		Skip unless your morning is empty — lower ROI than a meeting.
<b>Thu May 21</b>	<b>AI in Production LA</b> (monthly)	160 Glendale Blvd	7:00 – 9:00 PM		See Tier 0.
<b>Sun May 24 – Mon May 25</b>	LayerOne 2026 (hardware hacking / offensive security / IoT)	Pasadena	multi-day		Wildcard. Hardware-OEM / verification angle for Kala. Lockpicking village + IoT labs make for memorable conversations.

## Week 4 (Mon May 25 – Sun May 31)

Date	Event	Venue	Window	Fit	Notes
Sat May 30	Space-based Abundance	1216 E California Blvd, Pasadena	10:00 AM – 12:30 PM		Wildcard — Pasadena tech crowd.

## Week 5 (Mon Jun 1 – Sun Jun 7)

Date	Event	Venue	Window	Fit	Notes
Wed Jun 3 – Thu Jun 4	Space Tech Expo USA	Anaheim Convention Center	multi-day		Free-to-attend — wildcard for hardware / aerospace conversations.
Tue Jun 9	Venture Capital World Summit	LA (venue TBD)	10:00 AM – 5:00 PM		International VC; if still in CA, attend.
Tue Jun 9 – Thu Jun 11	AWE USA 2026 (AR / VR / XR)	Long Beach Convention Center	multi-day		AR/VR investor density; reconnects to the Fish Card / on-chain story.
Wed Jun 10	AWS Summit Los Angeles 2026	LA Convention Center	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM		Free dev-targeted summit; great for AI consulting prospecting.

## Recurring meetups — sign up TODAY (warmth compounds)

Group	Cadence	Vertical	Action
<a href="#">AI Tinkerers Los Angeles</a>	Monthly · 3-hr format · live demos, no slides	Builder AI / agents / RAG / CV	Apply (screened) — submit a Nucleus Brain or DerbyFish-CV demo
<a href="#">AI in Production LA</a>	Monthly · next May 21	Indie hackers + agent-shippers	RSVP + offer to demo
<a href="#">LA AI/LLMs/ML Meetup</a>	Monthly · talks + workshops	Generalist AI/ML	Join now, intro at first session
<a href="#">LA Startup Pitch &amp; Networking Group</a>	Periodic · 1-min elevator-pitch format	Real-estate, construction, startup founders	Join the Meetup so notifications start
<a href="#">Founders Network LA Global Startup Community</a>	Member-only · monthly events	Founder peer support	Apply now — multi-week vetting

## Communities to apply to (longer payoff, worth filing during trip)

Community	What it is	Why it matters
<b>The Founders Club — LA chapter</b> ( <a href="#">foundersclubofficial.com</a> )	Private, invite-only dinners (20–50 founders)	Right size for the Kala raise; investor-adjacent dinners
<b>Nfluence Partners Salon Series</b> ( <a href="#">nfluencepartners.com/events</a> )	Jeffersonian-dinner-style 12–20 person salons	Founder + investor + thought-leader mix
<b>Founder Institute LA — Spring 2026</b> ( <a href="#">fi.co/program/los_angeles</a> )	Pre-seed accelerator, demo days throughout the program	Cohort runs through May 2026 — find demo-day attendance
<b>Mucker / Upfront / Bonfire / Science / M13 / TenOneTen / Crosscut</b> (Santa Monica VC row)	Portfolio dinners, mixers, office hours — all unannounced publicly	Email each fund's events alias asking to be added to the LA founder mailer

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## Tier 1 — Out-of-LA worth the flight

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Event	Date	Where	Why
<b>ETHGlobal NYC 2026</b>	Jun 12 – 14	NYC	Direct overlap with Toll Road Music / x402 / Filecoin pedigree. Big credibility boost for the on-chain investor cluster.
<b>Tech Week Boston</b>	May 26 – 31	Boston	First-ever Boston Tech Week; broad VC density. Skip unless you have warm intros there.
<b>PEAK 2026 (SportsTech)</b>	Apr 20 – 22	Las Vegas	Already past — note for Apr 2027.
<b>NAB Show 2026</b>	Apr 18 – 22	Las Vegas	Already past — note for Apr 2027.

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### Notable absent / already-past events (for context)

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- **LA Tech Week 2026** — Oct 12–18 (post-trip). Optimize trip return for this if extending.
  - **Pacific Coast Sportfishing Show** — Costa Mesa, Mar 5–8 2026. Past. Closest direct fishing-industry gathering.
  - **CAA World Congress of Sports** — Apr 14, 2026. Past.
  - **ICAST 2026** — Jul 14–17, Orlando. Worth its own dedicated trip later for industry validation.
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### Tactical playbook (do this before May 5)

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1. **RSVP all Tier 0 events today.** Lock the calendar — most fill within the week.
  2. **Apply to AI Tinkerers LA + AI in Production LA + Founders Network.** Screening lag is 1–3 weeks.
  3. **Email the events alias at every Santa Monica VC row fund** (Mucker, Upfront, Bonfire, Science, M13, TenOneTen, Crosscut) asking to be added to LA founder mailers. One-line ask, includes one paragraph on Verified Fishing's \$5M-cap SAFE.
  4. **Pre-build the Apollo lists** (per prior turn) using attendee scrapes from Lu.ma / Eventbrite event pages.
  5. **Pack the deck.** Have a 10-slide Kala teaser + a 1-slide consulting one-pager on your phone for every event.
  6. **Tagging discipline.** Every business card / LinkedIn add gets a tag in Apollo within 24 hours: `event-may14`, `lead-25k`, `intro-via-X`, `passed`, `ghosted`.
  7. **Daily metrics during the trip.** 3 sequence-adds + 5 personal follow-ups + 2 IRL meetings/day. If a number stalls 2 days, retune.
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### Sources

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- [LA Startup Events Calendar](#)
- [AI Tinkerers Los Angeles](#)
- [AI in Production LA](#)
- [Eventbrite — LA startup mixers May 2026](#)
- [Scalable Summit \(Tubefilter\)](#)
- [Founder Institute — LA program](#)
- [Founders Network LA](#)
- [LA Tech Week calendar](#)
- [LA Tech Events 2026](#)

- LayerOne 2026
- AWS Summit LA 2026
- AWE USA 2026
- VidCon Anaheim 2026
- Inc. Founders House LA
- The Founders Club
- Bonfire Ventures
- TenOneTen Ventures
- ETHGlobal events