

## New Roads Expands Innovative Interactive Media Program

**Top Local Independent School Expands Interactive Media Programs to Build Skills Needed to Succeed in the 21st Century.**

New Roads School never stands still. Throughout its 17-year history, this K-12 independent school in Santa Monica has worked hard to insure its curriculum incorporates ongoing research about how young people learn, and addresses the problem-solving, communications, and other skills students need to succeed in the 21st century.

President and Head of School David Bryan says, "Our world is changing at a pace we would all have found unimaginable even five years ago. More than ever before, young people need the skills to think critically, creatively, and entrepreneurially; they need the confidence to approach novel situations, novel tools and emerging technologies with confidence."

Reflecting this forward-thinking bent, New Roads is incorporating digital tools/digital media to enhance education across its curriculum, including expanded offerings this year in film, sound-editing and engineering, radio broadcast, and digital arts.

Completion of construction currently underway at New Roads' middle and high school campus on Olympic Boulevard will provide new



**A New Roads student in the Radio Journalism class.**

digital media classrooms and a state-of-the-art theater, enabling the school to launch an innovative Interactive Media Program next fall.

As Bryan observes, "Although it remains important, it is no longer sufficient for students to graduate with a foundation only in the traditional disciplines of education. To be 'educated' and successful in our continuously evolving world, they must become literate in, and nimble with, the digital tools and media that are transforming



**New Roads teacher Scott Roewe, right, with a student in the Music Composition class.**

the global landscape. Our Media Arts and new Interactive Media Programs are designed not only to engage students with the toys and gadgets, but with a way of thinking, seeing, and imagining."

### About New Roads School

New Roads School believe all children deserve access to education that places traditional academic pursuits in contemporary context, engaging students' hearts and minds to explore the opportunities and address

the challenges of the ever-evolving world.

Founded in 1995, New Roads is an independent K-12 school serving more than 650 students representing the kaleidoscope of communities that make up Los Angeles. Unique among independent schools, New Roads devotes no less than 40 percent of its tuition budget to need-based financial aid every year.

Visit [www.newroads.org](http://www.newroads.org) to learn more.

## Local Investors Acquire Two Bunch Palms Resort In Desert Hot Springs; Plan Major Renovations

An investment team comprised of Hollywood executives Steve Markoff, Donald Kushner, Elie Samaha and real estate investor Gidi Cohen have closed on an unusual SoCal acquisition, having purchased the Two Bunch Palms Resort & Spa in Desert Hot Springs. The new owners plan a multi-million dollar renovation on the property, a favored haunt by film stars and the Southland well-to-do for nearly a century.

Two Bunch Palms Resort & Spa is surrounded by 270 acres, approximately 110 miles due east of L.A.. The rock-wall compound secures 52 private bungalows, most graced with private backyards or patios along with its highly prized natural hot springs and mud baths.

The naturally flowing thermal waters of Two Bunch Palms is well known for its purity and lithium content, considered to be a natural mood stabilizer. Its lushly landscaped grotto boasts two hot pools, which has been sought out by guests for the water's healing and restorative powers. The smaller of the two pools is naturally heated to 104 degrees, while the larger one is maintained at 99 degrees. The combination of the grotto/mud bath/spa experience, known as being Two Bunched, was made famous by the 1992 film, *The Player*.

Two Bunch Palms was named "Best for Mineral Springs" each year 2004 through 2010 by the readers of *Spa*

*Finder Magazine* and ranked by *USA Today* as one of 10 great places to relax mind and body.

The new owners are also planning to market a line of spa products and beverages which will be made from the spa's prized natural waters. "There is something special in the water here," stated said Cohen, president of L.A.-based Cohen & Associates who will manage the asset on behalf of the new ownership. "People seem to be drawn here specifically for effects of the water."

The new owners are laying the groundwork for major renovations throughout the resort, including a joint venture with a spa operator, and expansion of additional acreage to include stand-alone 3,000-square foot villas, senior housing and a private post-operative surgery rehab facility. There are also discussions with several proprietors of chef-driven restaurants to reinvent The Casino Dining Room.

Two Bunch Palms' history dates back to the 1920s. Al Capone, the gangland bootlegger allegedly built and used the sprawling complex as his West Coast hideout. Capone's personal bungalow is believed to feature not only bullet holes, but also underground escape tunnels and a sentry tower for armed bodyguards.

Andrew Kirsh of Beverly Hills-based Raines Feldman acted as lead counsel for the buyer in the transaction.



**We are growing!**  
New facilities, expanded enrollment.  
Learn more about our future.

Admissions Information Available  
[www.newroads.org](http://www.newroads.org) • 310 828-5582

**new roads school**

Pre-K-12 College Preparatory Independent Education

### Lucent Capital Arranges \$10.6 Million Loan On BH Building

Real estate advisory firm Lucent Capital has arranged \$10.6 million bridge loan for Brighton Way, Ltd. on a 22,000-square foot office/retail building, 9629 Brighton Way, announced Managing Director Farzin Emrani.

The transaction was time-sensitive and particularly challenging because of the high loan per square foot (\$483) and luxury high fashion retailers who occupy the retail component.