



MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)
and the
Friends of Watts Towers Arts Center
present the
34th Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival
Saturday, September 26, 2015, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
and the
39th Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival
Sunday, September 27, 2015, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
at
DCA's Watts Towers Arts Center Campus**

FREE PUBLIC FESTIVALS

Los Angeles – An all-star line-up of world class musicians, singers, and dancers will come together once again at the **34th Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival** and the **39th Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival** on Saturday, September 26, 2015, and Sunday, September 27, 2015, to celebrate ***Watts Towers Arts Center: The First 54 Years 1961-2015 - Where Truth & Art Connect.***

The festivals take place both days from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and are free for the entire family. The events are presented by the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) and the Friends of Watts Towers Arts Center under Artistic Directors, **Rosie Lee Hooks, Patrice Rushen, and Munyungo D. Jackson.**

In celebration of the Watts Tower's Arts Center's first 54 years, this fall's line up will take you on a musical journey around the world. Saturday's Day of the Drum Festival is led by Masters of Ceremonies **James Janisse** and **Ndugu Chanler** and will begin with a Yoruba ground blessing ceremony by **Alaadun**, uniting all cultures based on common themes and principles. Balinese music and dance will follow with **Gamelan Burat Wangi** before experiencing the rhythms of the Caribbean coast with the **Garifuna Cultural Group**, as well as Afro Cuban Folkloric music from **Nclave**. Healing music from



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Africa’s Ivory Coast by **Farfina** and drumming and dynamic rhythms by **Michael White** will conclude the opening day’s program.

Sunday’s Jazz Festival is overseen by Masters of Ceremonies **Kamau Daáood** and **James Janisse**, and opens with the Yoruba traditional drum ensemble, **Alaadun. Jasmine Tommaso Quartet** follows with the debut of a “Father-Daughter” collaboration of a lifetime. The day’s festival also features **Big Llou** with his **Chicago Blues Band** to bring down the house before the **Phil Ranelin Jazz Ensemble** serves up a large dose of “straight ahead jazz” with an Afro Cuban tinge. **City of Los Angeles Poet Laureate Luis Rodiriguez** will bring his powerful words to the stage preceding **A Tribute to Johnny Polanco by Jazz flautist Art Webb**.

The School of Healing Martial Arts’ Tai Chi Chuan demonstration will happen on Sunday, as well, before vocalist, composer, and genuine Jazz original, **Carmen Lundy** captivates the stage. Finally, to conclude this year’s festivals, the **Jazz Mentorship Program All Stars** featuring **Patrice Rushun, Ndugu Chancler, Dr. Bobby Rodriquez, Munyungo Jackson, Nedra Wheeler, and Justo Almario** will light up the stage with “straight ahead jazz” classics and originals you won’t want to miss!

The festivals’ activities and programs also include: **Remembering Brian Breye**; the arts exhibition, **50 Years and I Still Can’t Breathe, Remembering the 50th Anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion and Now**, guided tours of “**Nuestro Pueblo**,” the Watts Towers of Simon Rodia; supervised children’s activities; and food along with arts and crafts for sale.

Both festivals take place at DCA’s Watts Towers Arts Center Campus at: 1727 East 107th Street, Los Angeles, CA, 90002. For more information, please call **213.847.4646**, or visit **wattstowers.org**.

The Campus is easily accessible from: 1) the 105-East Freeway at Wilmington Avenue by taking Exit #10; or 2) via the 108th Street Bus Stop, the 305 and 612 Routes; or 3) the 103rd Street / Kenneth Hahn Station via Metro’s Blue Line. Self-parking and valet parking are free.

ADA: Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request.



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Schedule of Events for the Festivals

34th Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival
Saturday, September 26, 2015, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Masters of Ceremonies: **Ndugu Chancler** and **James Janisse**

11:00 a.m. **Alaadun**

12:00 p.m. **Gamelan Burat Wangi**

1:00 p.m. **Garifuna Cultural Group**

2:00 p.m. **Nclave featuring Jesus Diaz**

3:00 p.m. **Farfina**

4:00 p.m. **Michael White**

39th Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival
Sunday, September 27, 2015, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Masters of Ceremonies: **Kamau Daáood** and **James Janisse**

10:30 a.m. **Alaadun**

11:30 a.m. **Jasmine Tommaso Quartet * featuring Giovanni Tommaso,
Lorenzo Grassi, Michael Ragonese, and Andres Salazar**

12:30 p.m. **Big LLou Johnson**

1:30 p.m. **The Phil Ranelin Jazz Ensemble**

2:20 p.m. **City of Los Angeles Poet Laureate Luis Rodriguez**

2:30 p.m. **Art Webb**

3:20 p.m. **Tai Chi Chuan – School of Healing Martial Arts**

3:30 p.m. **Carmen Lundy Quintet featuring Patrice Rushen,
Victor Gould, Curtis Lundy, and Jonathan Pinson**

4:30 p.m. **JMP All Stars** featuring **Patrice Rushen, Ndugu Chancler,
Dr. Bobby Rodriquez, Munyungo Jackson, Nedra Wheeler,
and Justo Almario**



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All Day Activities at the Festivals

Remembering Brian Breye

Guided Tours of "Nuestro Pueblo," the Watts Towers of Simon Rodia, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Drum Pavilion: Universal Drum Circle Led by Matt Gibson III

Garden Studio - Dominique Moody featuring the NOMAD Garden, Turtle Pond, and Tiling Projects

Supervised Children's Activities

Exhibitions

**The Noah Purifoy Gallery and Charles Mingus Gallery:
50 Years and I Still Can't Breathe, Remembering the 50th Anniversary
of the 1965 Watts Rebellion and Now
Rosie Lee Hooks and Michael Massenburg, Curators**

**Dr. Joseph and Bootsie Howard Gallery:
International Musical Instruments
Permanent Exhibition**

Free Parking and Valet Parking

Food and Arts and Craft Vendors

*** Sponsored in part by the Italian Consulate General of Los Angeles
and the Instituto Italiano di Cultura**

About the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs

The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) generates and supports high quality arts and cultural experiences for Los Angeles' 4 million residents and 40 million annual visitors. DCA advances the social and economic impact of the arts and ensures access to diverse and enriching cultural activities through: grantmaking, marketing, development, public art, community arts programming, arts education, and building partnerships with artists and arts and cultural organizations in neighborhoods throughout the City of Los Angeles.



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DCA’s operating budget and managed portfolio totaled \$56 million in fiscal year 2013/14. It consisted of: \$13.4 million in City related and indirect cost allocations; \$10.5 million in Transient Occupancy Tax funds; \$9 million in one-time City funding; \$9 million in funds from the Public Works Improvements Arts Program (PWIAP); \$7.5 million from the Private Arts Development Fee Program (ADF); and \$6.3 million in private and public funds raised from foundation, corporate, government, and individual donors.

DCA significantly supports artists and cultural projects through its Public Art Division by administering a portfolio that totaled \$16.5 million in PWIAP and ADF funds in FY13/14. Of this amount, typically 15% to 20%, or between \$2.5 and \$3.3 million, was attributable to artists’ fees.

DCA’s Marketing and Development Division has raised \$34 million over the last 12 fiscal years to re-grant to LA-based artists and arts and cultural organizations, and to support DCA’s special programming and facilities. DCA also grants approximately \$2.3 million annually to 268 artists and nonprofit arts and cultural organizations through its long-established Grants Administration Division. Additional special project support of more than \$1.5 million is also awarded annually for a total of approximately \$3.8 million invested each year in LA’s creative community.

DCA provides arts and cultural programming through its Community Arts Division, managing numerous neighborhood arts and cultural centers, theaters, historic sites, and educational initiatives. DCA’s Marketing and Development Division also markets the City’s arts and cultural events through development and collaboration with strategic partners, design and production of creative catalogs, publications, and promotional materials, and management of the culturela.org website visited by over 3 million people annually.

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