



MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 11, 2014

Media Contact: **Will Caperton y Montoya**
DCA Director of Marketing and Development
213.202.5538
will.caperton@lacity.org

**City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs
and the
Friends of Watts Towers Arts Center
present the
33rd Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival
Saturday, September 27, 2014, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
and the
38th Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival
Sunday, September 28, 2014, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
at the
Watts Towers Arts Center Campus**

Los Angeles - An all-star line-up of world class musicians, singers, and dancers will come together once again at the **33rd Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival** and the **38th Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival** on Saturday, September 27, 2014, and on Sunday, September 28, 2014 to celebrate the **Watts Towers Arts Center: The First 53 Years, 1961 to 2014 - Where Truth and Art Connect**. The festivals run both days from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

These arts festivals 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 Jackson**.

In celebration of the Watts Towers Arts Center's first 53 years, the festival's line-up will take the audience into a musical journey around the world beginning on Saturday with a synthesis of pre-Columbian and contemporary music and dance in the ancient Mexica tradition performed by the **Cuahtemoc Mexica Dance Group** follow by the Polynesian dance troupe **Hitia O Te Ra**, sharing their culture through songs, dance, and drums.

The event also includes **Abbos Kosimov**, a Master traditional percussionist from Uzbekistan, and **Batala Los Angeles**, with their beautiful melodies over exciting Afro Brazilian percussion followed by **Essence**, fusing the African Diaspora. The first day's program will end with the drum ensemble of **Rayford Griffin & Drumz**. Saturday's Masters of Ceremonies are **James Janisse** and **Ndugu Chancler**.



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Sunday's celebration opens with the Yoruba traditional drum ensemble **Alaadun** and the **Italian Surf Academy** in the tradition of jazz with a progressive approach. Also on the stage will be the **New Orleans Traditional Jazz Band** performing music from the 60s, **Backa Town Second Line Dancers**, celebrating more than 100 years of traditional Jazz Heritage, and **Phil Gates** playing fun up tempo blues with a New Orleans vibe.

Activist, singer/songwriter, and poet, **Dee Dee McNeil** will bring the whole package to the stage, featuring Sam Hirsh, John B. Williams, Quentin Dennard, and Rickey Woodard; and **Munyungo's Jungle Jazz** will be interpreting progressive Jazz with a danceable groove. The **Jazz Mentorship Program All Stars** featuring Nedra Wheeler, Dr. Bobby Rodriguez, Munyungo Jackson, Jamael Dean, Tony Austin, and Kamasi Washington will close the weekend celebration. Sunday's Masters of Ceremonies are **Kamau Daáood** and **James Janisse**.

The Noah Purifoy Gallery will present the book signing of **Sabato Rodia's Towers in Watts: Art, Migrations, Development** by Luisa Del Giudice, PhD., on Sunday at 12:30 p.m. Both galleries feature "**hot house**," a solo art exhibition by **Alison Saar**. The festivals' activities and programs also include guided tours of the Watts Towers, supervised children's activities, and food for sale along with arts and crafts.

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 the 105-East Freeway at Wilmington Avenue by taking Exit #10; or via the 108th Street Bus Stop (the 305 and 612 Routes); or from the 103rd Street / Watts Towers Station via Metro's Blue Line. Self-parking and valet parking are free.

Schedule of Events for the Festivals:

33rd Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival

Saturday, September 27, 2014, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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

- 11:00 a.m.** **Cuauhtemoc Mexica Dance Group**
- 12:00 p.m.** **Hitia O Te Ra**
- 1:00 p.m.** **Abbos Kosinov**
- 2:00 p.m.** **Batala Los Angeles**
- 3:00 p.m.** **Essence**
- 4:00 p.m.** **Rayford Griffin & Drumz**



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38th Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival

Sunday, September 28, 2014, 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. Italian Surf Academy featuring Marco Cappelli, Luca Lo Bianco, and Francesco Cusa**
Sponsored by the Instituto Italiano di Cultura, LA
- 12:30 p.m. New Orleans Traditional Jazz Band**
BackaTown Second Line Dancers
- 1:30 p.m. Phil Gates**
- 2:30 p.m. Dee Dee McNeil featuring Sam Hirsh, John B. Williams, Quentin Dennard, and Rickey Woodard**
- 3:30 p.m. Munyungo's Jungle Jazz**
- 4:30 p.m. JMP All Stars featuring Nedra Wheeler, Dr. Bobby Rodriguez, Munyungo Jackson, Jamael Dean, Tony Austin, and Kamasi Washington**

Book Discussion and Signing in the Noah Purifoy Gallery:

- 12:30 p.m. Luisa Del Giudice, PhD**
Sabato Rodia's Towers in Watts: Art, Migrations, Development

All Day Activities at the Festivals:

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

Drum Pavilion: Universal Drum Circle Lead by Matt Gibson III

Supervised Children's Activities: 12:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Garden Studio Open: 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Exhibitions:

Noah Purifoy Gallery and Charles Mingus Gallery:

Alison Saar *hot house*
Rosie Lee Hooks, Curator

Dr. Joseph and Bootsie Howard Gallery:

International Musical Instruments
Permanent Exhibition



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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.

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.