



MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 13, 2016

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**City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)
and the
Friends of Watts Towers Arts Center
present the
35th Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival
Saturday, September 24, 2016, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
and the
40th Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival
Sunday, September 25, 2016, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
at
DCA's Watts Towers Arts Center Campus**

FREE FAMILY FUN

Los Angeles – An all-star line-up of world-class musicians, singers, and dancers will come together once again at the **35th Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival** on Saturday, September 24, 2016, and, the **40th Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival** on Sunday, September 25, 2016, to celebrate *Watts Towers Arts Center: The First 55 Years 1961-2016 - Where Truth and 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 Jackson.**

In celebration of the Watts Towers Arts Centers' first 55 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 **Ndugu Chancler** and **James Janisse**, beginning with a Yoruba ground blessing ceremony by **Alaadun**, which unites all cultures based on common themes and principles. **Korean Classical Music and Dance Company** will follow before experiencing the rhythms of North African Moroccan music with **Amazigh 6/8**. Afternoon highlights include Afro-Venezuelan music by **Euro Zambrano, Aaron Serfaty, Pedro Eustache, Diego Alvarez, Anderson Quintero, Carlos Arias, Doc Gibbs, and Munyungo Jackson** followed by West African traditional



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music and dance from **Le Ballet Dembaya. Roy McCurdy** with **Doug Webb, Edward Livingston, and Don Littleton** - a group of four men who excel on their individual instruments, will come together to make music and celebrate Roy's 80th birthday, concluding the opening day's program.

Sunday's Jazz Festival is hosted by Masters of Ceremonies **Kamau Daáood** and **James Janisse**, and opens with the Yoruba ground blessing by **Alaadun. Sherwood Sledge** follows with his jazz trio offering a touch of gospel, blues, and jazz. **Jasmine Tommaso Quintet**, the famed father-daughter collaboration directly from Rome, Italy, **features Giovanni Tommaso, Lorenzo Grassi, Michael Ragonese, and Andres Salazar. Afronauts** follows, delivering spontaneous jazz with a touch of tradition that will bring down the house. Sunday's festival also features **Dayren Santamaria and Made In Cuba** where audacity and spirituality meet Afro-Cuban jazz. Another highlight is **The School of Healing Martial Arts' Tai Chi Chuan** demonstration before legendary jazz, blues, and R&B singer **Eloise Laws** takes the stage. Finally, to conclude this year's festivals, the **Jazz Mentorship Program All Stars featuring Patrice Rushen, Ndugu Chancler, Dr. Bobby Rodriguez, Munyungo Jackson, Reggie Hamilton, and Justo Almario** will light up the stage with "straight ahead jazz" classics and originals you won't want to miss!

The festivals' activities are complimented by two solo exhibitions, Carlos Spivey's **"The Power of Love,"** and Sammy Davis' **"It's All About the Bass"** both on view through March 5, 2017; 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

35th Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival
Saturday, September 24, 2016, 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. **Korean Classical Music and Dance Company**

1:00 p.m. **Amazigh 6/8**

2:00 p.m. **Afro-Venezuelan Featuring Euro Zambrano, Aaron Serfaty,
Pedro Eustache, Diego Alvarez, Anderson Quintero,
Carlos Arias, Doc Gibbs, and Munyungo Jackson**

3:00 p.m. **Le Ballet Dembaya**

4:00 p.m. **Roy McCurdy with Doug Webb, Edward Livingston, and
Don Littleton**

40th Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival
Sunday, September 25, 2016, 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. **Sherwood Sledge with his Jazz Trio**

12:30 p.m. **Jasmine Tommaso Quintet featuring Giovanni Tommaso,
Lorenzo Grassi, Michael Ragonese, and Andres Salazar**

1:30 p.m. **Afronauts**

2:30 p.m. **Dayren Santamaria and Made In Cuba**

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

3:30 p.m. **Eloise Laws, Legendary Jazz, Blues, and R&B Singer**

4:30 p.m. **JMP All Stars Featuring Patrice Rushen, Ndugu Chancler,
Dr. Bobby Rodriguez, Munyungo Jackson, Reggie Hamilton,
and Justo Almario**



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All Day Activities at the Festivals

Tribute to Jeanne Morgan Founding Member of the Committee for Simon Rodia's Towers in Watts Celebrating her 90th Birthday
11:30 a.m. in the Noah Purifoy Gallery

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 - Featuring Garden Activities, Turtle Pond, and Tiling Projects

Supervised Children's Activities

Exhibitions

The Noah Purifoy Gallery and Charles Mingus Gallery:

The Power of Love
Artist: Carlos Spivey
August 21, 2016 - March 5, 2017

It's All About the Bass
Artist: Sammy Davis
August 21, 2016 - March 5, 2017

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 (DCA)

As a leading, progressive arts and cultural agency, DCA empowers Los Angeles' vibrant communities by supporting and providing access to quality visual, literary, musical, performing, and educational arts programming; managing vital cultural centers; preserving historic sites; creating public art; and funding services provided by arts organizations and individual artists.

Formed in 1925, DCA promotes arts and culture as a way to ignite a powerful dialogue, engage LA's residents and visitors, and ensure LA's varied cultures are recognized, acknowledged, and experienced. DCA's mission is to strengthen the



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quality of life in Los Angeles by stimulating and supporting arts and cultural activities, ensuring public access to the arts for residents and visitors alike. DCA advances the social and economic impact of arts and culture through grantmaking, public art, community arts, and strategic marketing and development. DCA creates and supports arts programming, maximizing relationships with other city agencies, artists, and arts and cultural nonprofit organizations to provide excellent service in neighborhoods throughout Los Angeles.

For more information, please visit culturela.org or follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/culturela](https://www.facebook.com/culturela); Instagram [@culture_la](https://www.instagram.com/culture_la); and Twitter [@culture_la](https://twitter.com/culture_la).

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