



**MEDIA ALERT**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Juan Garcia  
Public Information Director  
[juan.garcia@lacity.org](mailto:juan.garcia@lacity.org)

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES NAMES INTERSECTION  
BARBARA MORRISON SQUARE  
AND  
SUPPORTS FIRST ANNUAL  
BARBARA MORRISON JAZZ & BLUES MUSIC FESTIVAL**

On the occasion of her 73rd birthday, the City of Los Angeles commemorates the late Barbara Morrison, internationally-known musician of jazz and blues, community activist, educator and entrepreneur, with the dedication and unveiling of *Barbara Morrison Square* at 43rd Street and Degnan Blvd. Permanent ceremonial signs created by the Department of Transportation will be displayed at this location. The ceremony is sponsored, and will be officiated by, the Office of Council District 10, on Saturday September 10, 2022, at 10 AM.

“I am excited to partner with the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs to celebrate the life and legacy of Barbara Morrison. Barbara Morrison was a musical trailblazer and international icon. Although she could have put her roots down anywhere in the world, Barbara chose to settle in Leimert Park; and she was a steady pillar in this community,” said 10th District Councilmember, Heather Hutt. “I remember when this motion first passed to rename the intersection of 43rd Street & Degnan Boulevard as “Barbara Morrison Square,” and to see this come to fruition is such an honor. We will forever love and remember Ms. Morrison; and we hope that this recognition will be a tribute to her legacy.”

“On behalf of the Department of Cultural Affairs, we celebrate Barbara Morrison as a pioneering and history-making jazz artist with roots in Leimert Park,” said Daniel Tarica, Interim General Manager of the Department of Cultural Affairs. “Not only was Ms. Morrison known worldwide for her artistic talent, but her ever present commitment to fostering art, creativity, and community was felt by everyone she interacted with.

The intersection naming will be followed by the inaugural *Barbara Morrison Jazz & Blues Music Festival* until 7:00 p.m.. This DCA commissioned festival produced by Tim Morganfield, Morrison’s longtime partner, now CEO of the Barbara



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Morrison Performing Arts Center and the California Jazz & Blues Museum, present a day-long line up of music performances including celebrities as well as local musicians, singers and DJ's. The festival footprint also includes an art walk (featuring works from Morrison's CA J&B Museum), Kids Korner (Leimert Plaza Park), and a variety of vendors and food trucks.

The music festival will be hosted by actor and television host, Jay Jackson and KJMJ radio host, James Janisse. The musical line-up includes: Mike Mann and the Cowboy Soul; Al Threats & Amusement Park; Lady Rene Blues, presented by First Thursday Blues; Torrence Brannon-Reese & His Everything with Soul Band, featuring Melba Joyce; THEKareNA; Ray Baily and Friends, featuring Brenda Lee Eager; Chester Whitmore and his Opus One Big Band, featuring Dwight Trible; The Barbara Morrison Band (aka Bu Crew), featuring Elain Gibbs; Charles Wright and the Watts 103<sup>rd</sup> Street Rhythm Band; Sons of Muddy Waters – Big Bill & Mudd Morganfield; and Eloise Laws.

This event is free and open to the public. For ticket registration, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/barbara-morrison-jazz-blues-music-festival-tickets-404999944737>. For more information about the day-long activities and musical line-up, please visit [www.tbmpac.com](http://www.tbmpac.com).

### **About Barbara Morrison**

In 2010, National Public Radio members, listeners and staff voted Barbara Morrison as one of the "50 Greatest Jazz Vocalists," in the November issue of "All About Jazz." Her melodic voice, with its three-and-a-half-octave range, is known worldwide, as are her rich, unique, soulful and highly spirited interpretations of both, familiar Jazz and Blues classics and original contemporary tunes. A staple on the jazz scene, Barbara Morrison toured with her duo and trio extensively throughout the U.S. and abroad and was one of the most recorded jazz and blues artist of her generation.

Born in a suburb of Detroit in 1949, the three-time Grammy nominated performer and record producer spent her entire life singing. In the early 1970s, at the age of 21, Morrison moved to Los Angeles and went on the perform alongside such legendary musicians as Dizzy Gillespie, the Count Basie Orchestra, Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder, Tony Bennett, Etta James, Nancy Wilson and Dr. John.

During her six-decade career, she released several solo albums, including "I Know How To Do It" (1996), and "Visit Me" (1999). She also performed at famed jazz festivals including Central Avenue, Leimert, Montreux, Monterey, and Long Beach, and sang a Carnegie Hall. Barbara was also a consummate actress as demonstrated in her hit play, "I Wanna Be Loved", where she performed as Dinah Washington, with Jay Jackson as Brook Benton, and accompanied by the John Stephens Big Bluzzz Band.



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Beyond performing, Morrison dedicated her life to elevating the Los Angeles music community and fostering up-and-coming talent through the Barbara Morrison Jazz Scholarship Fund at the Herb Albert School of Music where Morrison was an associate professor; and the Los Angeles Harmony Project, an after school program Morrison created, where she provided performing arts education to over 2000 children. In 2008 she opened the Barbara Morrison Performing Arts Center in Leimert Park at the intersection of 43<sup>rd</sup> Street and Degan Boulevard, and in 2015 founded the California Jazz and Blues Museum.

**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 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 grant-making; public art; community arts; performing arts; and strategic marketing, development, design, and digital research. 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](http://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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