



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
City of Los Angeles

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

September 19, 2008

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**City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs**  
**and Friends of the Watts Towers Arts Center present**  
***A Tribute To Charles Mingus: Past, Present, and Future***

- **27<sup>th</sup> Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival:**  
Saturday, September 27, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- **32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival:**  
Sunday, September 28, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- **Grand Opening of the Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center:**  
Sunday, September 28, 11:30 a.m.

**Los Angeles** - The City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) and the Friends of the Watts Towers Arts Center are pleased to present the **27<sup>th</sup> Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival** and the **32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival** at the Watts Towers Arts Center. An all-star line-up of world-class musicians, singers, and dancers will come together to honor Charles Mingus and celebrate the opening of the Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center.

Both the Drum Festival, on September 27, and the Jazz Festival, on September 28, bring together talented musicians and music lovers, as well as civic leaders, community service organizations, retail and food vendors, and local artisans. The highlight of this year's festival will be the **Grand Opening of the Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center**, on September 28, which is scheduled for 11:30 a.m.

The new DCA facility in the Watts Community will present a full range of programs to young Watts residents by expanding the diverse array of cultural programs offered through the Department of Cultural Affairs. The center will also provide a safe and creative atmosphere for individual expression under the guidance and direction of professional artists dedicated to continuing the work provided by the Watts Towers Arts Center since 1959.

Visitors from all over Southern California, across the nation, and the world will join residents in South Los Angeles for this multicultural celebration. The Festivals feature both well-known local and internationally recognized Jazz, Gospel, Blues,

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Latin Jazz, and World musicians. Activities at the Festivals also include family entertainment, a children’s area, and the Universal Drum Circle. Guided tours of Simon Rodia’s Watts Towers will also be available from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day.

The Festivals are sponsored by the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs and the Friends of the Watts Towers Arts Center. Both Festivals take place at the Watts Towers Arts Center at 1727 East 107th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90002, and at the adjacent Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center. **Admission is free.**

Event schedules are as follows:

**27TH ANNUAL WATTS TOWERS DAY OF THE DRUM FESTIVAL**

A Tribute to Charles Mingus: Past, Present and Future

**Saturday, September 27, 2008**

Artistic Directors: Rosie Lee Hooks and Munyungo D. Jackson

Masters of Ceremonies: Ndugu Chancler and James Janisse

- 11:00 a.m. Cuauhtemoc Mexica Dance
- 2:00 p.m. Korean Classical Music and Dance Company
- 1:00 p.m. Drumline Challenge:  
Locke High School and Centennial High School
- 2:00 p.m. Lian Ensemble - Percussion Section
- 3:00 p.m. Taumbu Drum Ensemble
- 4:00 p.m. Drumspirit Chief Matsemala Camara and  
The Weusi Nat’l Drummers and Dancers
- 5:00 p.m. Sonship Theus

Events at the Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center:

- 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Giant Puppets: The Center for Celebration Arts
- 2:30 - 5:00 p.m. Chalo Eduardo - Interactive Circle Drumming
- 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Giant Puppets: The Center for Celebration Arts

**32ND ANNUAL SIMON RODIA WATTS TOWERS JAZZ FESTIVAL**

A Tribute to Charles Mingus: Past, Present and Future

**Sunday, September 28, 2008**

Artistic Directors: Rosie Lee Hooks and Patrice Rushen

Master of Ceremonies: James Janisse

- 10:00 a.m. Alaadun
- 11:00 a.m. Soul Seekers
- 12:00 p.m. LA Multi School Alumni Jazz Band



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- 1:00 p.m. Presentations:  
Poet Laureate Jerry Quickley  
Annual Charles Mingus Awards  
Watts Towers Community Action Council
- 2:00 p.m. Billy Mitchell
- 3:00 p.m. Ray Bailey and Friends, featuring Kevin Brandon
- 4:00 p.m. Nedra Wheeler's Bass Choir arrangements by James Leary
- 5:00 p.m. JMP Orchestra conducted by Patrice Rushen and Buddy Collette

**GRAND OPENING OF THE CHARLES MINGUS YOUTH ARTS CENTER**

- 11:30 a.m. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: Sue Mingus and the Mingus Family  
Presentations: Antonio R. Villaraigosa, Mayor  
Janice Hahn, Councilmember, 15th District  
Olga Garay, Executive Director, DCA  
Rosie Lee Hooks, Director, WTAC and CMYAC  
Lillian Mobley, Watts Towers Community Action Council  
Rudy Barbee, Friends of the Watts Towers Arts Center  
Special Guests
- 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Giant Puppets: The Center for Celebration Arts
- 11:30 a.m. Piano Student's Recital - Instructor: Brenda McGee
- 11:30 a.m. String Bass Workshop: Roberto Miranda
- 2 – 3:30 p.m. Giant Puppets: The Center for Celebration Arts

**ALL DAY ACTIVITIES**

- Guided Tours of the Watts Towers
- Universal Drum Circle led by Matt Gibson
- Prof. Peter Abilogu, Stilt dancer
- The **Noah Purifoy Gallery** will feature *1+1+1 = Carlos Spivey, Kevin Tidmore, and Ramsess.*
- **Dr. Joseph and Bootsie Howard Gallery**  
Permanent Exhibition: International Music Instruments and Film Festival featuring The Watts Towers, The Jazz Mentorship Program, Community Artists, and Previous Festivals.

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- **Mingus Gallery** will feature The Summer Arts Camp Showcase.
- Supervised Children's Art Activities 12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Fabulous Food
- Yoga Classes
- Arts and Crafts

The Watts Towers Arts Center and the Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center are facilities of the Department of Cultural Affairs and provide quality arts programming to the Watts community. For more information, please call 213.847.4646 or visit DCA's website at [www.culturela.org](http://www.culturela.org).

**About DCA:**

The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) generates and supports high quality arts and cultural experiences for Los Angeles residents and visitors. DCA advances the social and economic impact of the arts and assures access to arts and cultural experiences through grant making, marketing, public and community arts programming, arts education, and creating partnerships with artists and arts and cultural organizations in every community in the City of Los Angeles.

DCA grants \$3.4 million annually to over 300 artists and nonprofit arts organizations and awards the Artist-in-Residence (A.I.R.) and City of Los Angeles (C.O.L.A.) Individual Artist Fellowships. The Department provides arts and cultural programming in its numerous Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers, theaters, and historic sites, and manages several arts and education programs for young people. It directs public art projects and manages the City's Arts Development Fee and Percent for Arts Programs, and the Art Collection and Murals Programs. DCA markets the City's cultural events through development and collaboration with strategic partners, design and production of creative promotional materials, and management of the culturela.org website.

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