



MEDIA ALERT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 16, 2013

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**City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs
and
Friends of Watts Towers Arts Center
present the
32nd Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival
Saturday, September 28, 2013, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
and the
37th Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival
Sunday, September 29, 2013, 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 **32nd Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival** and the **37th Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival** on Saturday, September 28, 2013, and on Sunday, September 29, 2013, to celebrate the **Watts Towers Arts Center: The First 52 Years, 1961 to 2013 - Where Truth & Art Connect**. The festivals run both days from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

These arts festivals are free events 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 52 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 **Cuauhtemoc Mexica Dance Group**. The program also includes the Southern Italian percussionist **Alessandra Belloni**, the multi-ethnic group **Kishin Daiko** sharing traditional and contemporary Japanese taiko music, **Kevin Ricard & Creole Journey from Santiago Cuba to New Orleans**, the drums of **Futa Toro**, and the Afro Brazilian rhythms of **Ron Powell's LA Samba** from Rio. The first day's program will end with **Clayton Cameron Old School Swing** ensemble. 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 **Ultra Sound** performing in the tradition of Jazz with a progressive approach. Also on stage will be **La Palabra y Calle 6**, a fusion of Jazz and Afro Cuban flavor; **Get Lit Players**, a classic and spoken word teen troupe; followed by **Jalaludin Nuriddin of the Last Poets**; **Wadada Cultural Soul World Beat**, and **Gregg Wright, King of the Rockin' Blues Guitar**. The **Jazz Mentorship Program All Stars** featuring **Patrice Rushen, Ndugu Chancler, Dr. Bobby Rodriguez, Justo Almario, Nedra Wheeler, Munyungo D. Jackson, and T.C. Carson** vocalist, will close the weekend celebration. Sunday's Masters of Ceremonies are **Kamau Daáood** and **James Janisse**.

The festivals' activities and programs also include the arts exhibition **Through the Eyes of Charles Dickson**; 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-E freeway at the Wilmington Avenue by taking Exit #10; or via the 108th Street Bus Stop (the 305 and 612 routes); or from the 103rd Street / Kenneth Hahn Station via Metro's Blue Line. Self-parking and valet parking are free.

Schedule of Events for the Festivals:

32nd Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival

Saturday, September 28, 2013, 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**
- 11:30 a.m. Alessandra Belloni**
- 12:00 p.m. Kishin Daiko**
- 1:00 p.m. Kevin Ricard & Creole Journey from Santiago Cuba to New Orleans**
- 2:00 p.m. Futa Toro**
- 3:00 p.m. Ron Powell's LA Samba**
- 4:00 p.m. Clayton Cameron Old School Swing**



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37th Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival

Sunday, September 29, 2013, 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. Ultra Sound**
- 12:30 p.m. La Palabra y Calle 6**
- 1:15 p.m. Watts Towers Community Action Council - Charles Mingus Award**
 - **Jameel Brunner, Student**
 - **Munyungo D. Jackson, Jazz**
 - **John Outterbridge, Community****The Mooney Twins - Tribute to John Outterbridge**
- 1:30 p.m. Get Lit Players**
- 2:00 p.m. Jalaludin Nuriddin of the Last Poets**
- 2:30 p.m. Wadada Cultural Soul World Beat**
- 3:30 p.m. Gregg Wright, King of the Rockin' Blues Guitar**
- 4:30 p.m. JMP All Stars featuring Patrice Rushen, Ndugu Chancler, Dr. Bobby Rodriguez, Justo Almario, Nedra Wheeler, and Munyungo D. Jackson featuring T.C. Carson, vocalist**

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

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

Noah Purifoy Gallery and Charles Mingus Gallery

**Through the Eyes of Charles Dickson
Paul Von Blum & Rosie Lee Hooks, Curators**

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

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



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About the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA):

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 overnight and day visitors. DCA advances the social and economic impact of the arts and ensures access to diverse and enriching cultural activities through: grantmaking, marketing, 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 projected operating budget and managed portfolio totals \$50 million in fiscal year 2013/14. It consists 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 \$.5 million raised to date in private and public funds from foundation, corporate, government, and individual donors.

DCA significantly supports artists and cultural projects through its Public Art Division by administering a portfolio totaling \$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, is attributable to artists' fees.

DCA's Executive Director and Marketing and Development Division have raised \$22 million since FY07/08 to re-grant to LA-based artists and arts and cultural organizations for re-granting initiatives, 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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