

# Around Town: 2 Great Events Off the Beaten Path: Watts Towers Hosts Jazz & Drum Fests!

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Posted By [Stevie Wilson](#) on Sep 29, 2017 |

Two incredible cultural festivals are happening at Watts Towers ([wattstowers.org](http://wattstowers.org)) this weekend and they are free and open to the public, bringing the community and visitors together to celebrate the arts.

Presented by City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) and Friends of Watts Towers Arts Center, an all-star line-up of world-class musicians, singers, and dancers will take attendees on a musical journey at 36th Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival on Sat, Sept 30.



Plus the very next day, on Sunday, Oct. 1 2017, the 41st Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival will run from 10 – 6 p.m. (1727 East 107th Street, Los Angeles, CA, 90002).



Saturday's Day of the Drum Festival is led by Masters of Ceremonies Ndugu Chanler and James Janisse, beginning with a Yoruba ground blessing ceremony by Alaadun, which unites all cultures based on common themes and principles.



Nonosina Polynesia music will follow, highlighting more than a half-century of culture, art, song, storytelling, and

Tahitian Dance before experiencing Bate Batuque-Bloco Obini “All Queen Ensemble.” Afternoon highlights include The Drum Apostles, Kouman Kele West African Dance & Drum Company, and Rhythm Roulette, a soulful infusion of musical elements to conclude the opening day’s program.

**Sunday’s Jazz Festival** is hosted by Masters of Ceremonies Kamau Daáood and James Janisse and kicks off with the Yoruba ground blessing by Alaadun. Greg Clayborn & Message Groove follows with “groovy” music and a message to move the soul.



Next up is former Lady of the Watts Prophets, Dee Dee McNeil Jazz Band, an artful blend of jazz and poetry. Roy Gaines & his Orchestra Tuxedo Blues follows, delivering authentic blues that will bring down the house. Sunday’s festival also features Danny Cortez & Tony Harris Big Band, a tribute to great artists and music of musicians from the past.



Two great events on two successive days will fill your heart and soul with music!

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