



City of
OAKLAND
California

Media Contact:

Karen Boyd
510-238-6365
kboyd@oaklandnet.com

News from: City of Oakland

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 25, 2012

History, Culture, Diversity Highlight Oakland's 160th Birthday

City to Host Week-long Oakland Lovefest April 27 – May 4

Oakland—The City of Oakland will host “**Celebrating 160 Years of Oakland Love,**” a week-long series of events to take place April 27 - May 4 commemorating the City's 160th birthday. Officially incorporated on May 4, 1852, Oakland has welcomed and inspired generations with its rich history, unparalleled diversity, eclectic cultural scene, vibrant neighborhoods and forward-thinking policies.

Showcasing what its 400,000 residents love most about Oakland, the City's celebration—to be held in Frank Ogawa Plaza—kicks off Friday, April 27 with a spring/summer recreation showcase sponsored by the Office of Parks & Recreation. The celebration continues throughout the following week, **spotlighting Oakland's diverse history, arts, music, cuisine and neighborhoods that are the heart and soul of the city—and what prompted the *New York Times* to recently rank Oakland the #5 place to visit in the world.** The festive week-long celebration will culminate in a birthday party and cake-cutting with Mayor Jean Quan and City Administrator Deanna J. Santana on the City's actual birthday, Friday, May 4.

Other highlights include a **musical tribute to the late Khalil Shaheed**; free concerts by the **Redwood Day School Activities Rock Band** and **Bay Area Blues Society Caravan of All-Stars**; special performance by the **Oakland School for the Arts** from its current production of *Les Miserables*; live performances by Oakland Cultural Funding Program grantees **Kitka, Stagebridge Theater, Crosspulse Percussion Ensemble** and others; **history presentations by noted authors**; City Hall and Old Oakland tours; artist demonstrations and **participatory art-making with ProArts**; and a huge **illustrated birthday card** on which members of the public can offer their thoughts on what they love most about Oakland.

Leading up to and during birthday week, the City is also inviting the public to participate in a “**160 Ways I Love Oakland**” poll being conducted on the City's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofOakland>.

“Oakland has been a national leader in innovation, civil rights, the environment and the arts for 160 years and we are prepared to continue to do so for the next 160 years,” said **Mayor Jean Quan**. “Oakland is a ‘real’ city—diverse in ethnicity, age, socioeconomic status and opinion. We're a city where you CAN live, work and play. Oakland is on the rise as a national leader in green building, technology and international trade. And we're a nationally acclaimed center for dining, arts and entertainment. It is why those of us who live here, love our city. Happy Birthday, Oakland!”

-more-

The following is a schedule of events and activities for “Celebrating 160 Years of Oakland Love” to be held April 27 - May 4, 2012.

Unless otherwise noted, all events will be held in Frank Ogawa Plaza.

**Friday, April 27, 12 noon - 1:30 pm, Frank Ogawa Plaza
Come Out & Play the OPR Way!**

160th Birthday and Summer Recreation Season Kick-off

Celebrating the launch of the 2012 summer recreation season. Games, Zumba instruction, volleyball, rowing machines and a release party for the Office of Parks & Recreation’s 2012 Summer Program Guide.

Monday, April 30, 12 noon – 1:30 pm

Oakland Loves the Arts!

Celebrating the vast artistry of Oakland—one of the nation’s largest and most diverse arts communities. Live performance by Oakland School for the Arts from its current production of *Les Miserables*. Special performances by City of Oakland Cultural Funding Program grantees Kitka, Stagebridge Theater, Crosspulse Percussion Ensemble and others. History displays throughout City Hall in association with the Oakland History Room, Pardee House Museum, Oakland Heritage Alliance and Alameda County Historical Society. Participatory art-making and artists demonstrations with ProArts.

Tuesday, May 1, 12 noon – 1:30pm, Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall

Oakland Loves its History!

Celebrating Oakland’s history before and after its incorporation in 1852. Hosted by City of Oakland Walking Tours coordinator and *Oakland Tribune* Landmarks Columnist **Annalee Allen**. History presentations and readings by noted Oakland authors, including **Ed Clausen** (Oakland Postcards), **Jerry Thompson** (Oakland Black Artists), **Geoffrey Hunter** (Oakland Firefighters), and **Amelia Marshall** (Oakland’s Equestrian Heritage) – all of whom along with Annalee Allen have written books about Oakland published by Arcadia Publishing. History displays throughout City Hall in association with the Oakland History Room, Pardee House Museum, Oakland Heritage Alliance and Alameda County Historical Society. Participatory art-making and artists demonstrations with ProArts. Also, free 90-minute guided walking tour of Old Oakland (starts at 10:00 a.m. in front of Ratto’s, 821 Washington).

Wednesday, May 2, 12 noon – 1:30 pm

Oakland Loves Dance!

Celebrating Oakland as the regional center for ethnic and urban dance. Live performances by local dance troupes presented by Carla Service and Dance-A-Vision, producers of the World Dance Stage at Oakland’s annual Art & Soul festival. History displays throughout City Hall in association with the Oakland History Room, Pardee House Museum, Oakland Heritage Alliance and Alameda County Historical Society. Participatory art-making and artists demonstrations with ProArts. Plus, a huge interactive, illustrated birthday card on which the public can share what they love most about Oakland.

more-

Thursday, May 3, 12 noon – 1:30 pm

Oakland Loves Music!

Celebrating Oakland's rich musical heritage and emerging talent in tribute to the **late jazz great Khalil Shaheed**, founder of Oaktown Jazz Workshops and Mo'Rockin Project. Free concert with **Oaktown Jazz Workshops** and **Friends of Khalil Shaheed Ensemble** featuring local all-stars who performed alongside with and loved Khalil Shaheed: **Ron Belcher** (double bass), **Mark Wright** (trumpet), **Marco Diaz** (keyboards), **Jack Dorsey** (drums) and **Richard Howell** (saxophone and vocals). History displays throughout City Hall in association with the Oakland History Room, Pardee House Museum, Oakland Heritage Alliance and Alameda County Historical Society. Participatory art-making and artists demonstrations with ProArts. Plus, a huge interactive, illustrated birthday card on which the public can share what they love most about Oakland.

Friday, May 4, 2012, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

City of Oakland 160th Birthday Party/Finale

“Celebrating 160 Years of Oakland Love.” Birthday cake cutting with Mayor Jean Quan and City Administrator Deanna J. Santana at 11:30 a.m. Free concert featuring **Redwood Day School Activities Rock Band** and **Bay Area Blues Society Caravan of All-Stars**. “Inspire Oakland” billboard design contest winners presented by the Oakland Digital Arts Literacy Center. History displays throughout City Hall in association with the Oakland History Room, Pardee House Museum, Oakland Heritage Alliance and Alameda County Historical Society. Participatory art-making and artists demonstrations with ProArts. Plus, unveiling of a huge birthday card from the community illustrating what locals love most about Oakland. Also, 90-minute guided tour of City Hall starting at 10:00 a.m.

In celebration of Oakland's hot dining scene and diverse cuisine, throughout the birthday week area restaurants and mobile food trucks will offer American and global cuisine including the popular FiveTenBurger, Anakoot Indian Street Food Truck and Doc's of the Bay.

Also in conjunction with the City's birthday on Friday, May 4, from 4 – 6 pm, the **KONO District** (Koreatown-Northgate) will host a **ribbon-cutting ceremony with Mayor Quan to celebrate the culmination of a major re-branding and beautification project**, including 50 new street banners and the planting of 83 street trees. An art walk is also planned to view colorful new treatments for 13 utility boxes in the district. www.konooakland.org. Later that evening, the popular first Friday **Art Murrmur** gallery hop will be held from 22nd to 26th streets along the Broadway/Telegraph corridor from 6 – 9 pm. www.oaklandartmurrmur.com

Admission to all events is free. Frank Ogawa Plaza is located in front of Oakland City Hall on 14th Street between Broadway & Clay, adjacent to the 12th Street - City Center BART station. The plaza is also served by City's **free Broadway Shuttle** (www.bshuttle.com).

For more information on the City of Oakland's 160th Birthday celebration, visit www.oaklandnet.com or call 510-444-CITY.

#