



City of  
**OAKLAND**  
California

## News from: City of Oakland

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 3, 2012

## Oakland Celebrates its 160<sup>th</sup> Birthday Tomorrow

*Events Culminate Week-long Oakland Lovefest April 27 - May 4*

*Oakland*—Tomorrow is the City of Oakland’s 160<sup>th</sup> birthday and will serve as the grand finale to “**Celebrating 160 Years of Oakland Love**,” a week-long series of events commemorating the occasion. 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.

#### Media Contact:

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

Showcasing what its 400,000 residents love most about Oakland, the City’s celebration kicked off Friday, April 27 with a spring/summer recreation showcase sponsored by the Office of Parks & Recreation. The celebration continued this 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.**

Throughout the birthday week, the City invited the public to participate in a “**160 Ways I Love Oakland**” poll conducted on the City’s Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofOakland>.

The festive, week-long celebration will culminate tomorrow with a birthday party and cake-cutting, as well as the unveiling of the newly restored City Hall model which was damaged by Occupy Oakland protestors who broke into City Hall in late January.

### Photo Opps:

**11:15 am**

***Unveiling the Repaired Model of City Hall***                      ***City Hall Lobby***

Lori Fogarty, Executive Director of the Oakland Museum of California, will unveil the model of City Hall, which was graciously and painstakingly restored by the Museum’s conservation team.

**11:30 am**

***160<sup>th</sup> Birthday Cake-cutting Ceremony***                      ***Frank Ogawa Plaza***

Mayor Quan and City Administrator Deanna J. Santana will cut a giant birthday cake from veteran Oakland bakery “A Taste of Denmark” (formerly known as Neldam’s).

**11:30 am – 1:30 pm**

***City of Oakland 160th Birthday Party/Finale***                      ***Frank Ogawa Plaza***

“Celebrating 160 Years of Oakland Love.” 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. Plus, unveiling of a huge birthday card from the community illustrating what locals love most about Oakland. Participatory art-making and artists demonstrations with ProArts.

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History displays throughout City Hall in association with the Oakland History Room, Pardee House Museum, Oakland Heritage Alliance and Alameda County Historical Society. Also, 90-minute guided tour of City Hall starting at 10:00 a.m.

### ***Other Oakland Festivities Tomorrow***

#### ***First-ever Oakland Police Department Open House***

From 5 to 7 pm, the Oakland Police Department (OPD) will open its doors to the community as it presents its first-ever **Open House Event** at the Police Administration Building located at 455 7th Street. Meet the Chief of Police, members of his command staff, and other OPD personnel. “Building lasting relationships with the community is one of my highest priorities; this is just one step in the right direction,” said Chief Howard Jordan.

In addition to a performance by the **Oakland School for the Arts Jazz Ensemble**, activities include a performance by the **OPD Motorcycle Drill Team**, an art exhibit by the award-winning **McCullum Youth Court**, and special recognition of **Mr. Geoff Collins** of the Oakland Police Foundation, co-sponsor of the event. Light refreshments will be served, and **free parking** will be available in the courthouse parking lot on 6th Street between Washington and Clay streets.

#### ***KONO District Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony***

In conjunction with the City’s birthday, 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](http://www.konooakland.org).

#### ***1<sup>st</sup> Friday Art Murmur***

Later that evening, the popular first Friday **Art Murmur** gallery hop will be held from 22nd to 26th streets along the Broadway/Telegraph corridor from 6 – 9 pm.  
[www.oaklandartmurmur.com](http://www.oaklandartmurmur.com)

### ***Highlights of the 160th Birthday Week Celebration***

Highlights of the birthday week included:

- 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.

