



**16TH ANNUAL  
ART + SOUL OAKLAND  
August 20 & 21, 2016  
Downtown Oakland  
ArtandSoulOakland.com**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Downtown Street Closures Planned for Oakland's 16th Annual Art + Soul Festival**

*Oakland, Calif.* – In preparation for the City of Oakland's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Art + Soul Festival, event organizers will close a few streets in downtown Oakland. As with past years, minimal impacts are anticipated.

The street closures will begin at **9:30 a.m. on Friday, August 19, 2016**, and will include:

- 14<sup>th</sup> Street from Broadway to Martin Luther King Jr. Way
- Clay Street from 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> streets
- 12<sup>th</sup> Street from Broadway to Martin Luther King Jr. Way
- Jefferson Street from 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> streets

These streets will re-open in time for the morning commute on Monday, August 22. All downtown parking garages will remain open and accessible on Friday, August 19. AC Transit riders are encouraged to check bus stops for detour information.

The two-day festival will be held August 20 & 21, kicking off on Saturday with the return of the Blues & BBQ Hotspot featuring the **3rd Annual Oaktown Throwdown BBQ Competition**. Still smokin' as it enters its third year, the premier contest is expected to draw up to 40 top pit masters from all over California competing for cash prizes. On Sunday, Oakland superstars **Tony Toni Toné** will headline the festival, joined by Bay Area jazz/R&B singer **Chanté Moore** and rising R&B sensation **Samaria**. Famed blues guitarist **Sonny Rhodes**, gospel star **Chrystal Rucker**, local funk favorites **The Funkanauts**, and Oakland up & comers **John Brothers Piano Company** will also be featured in the festival's eclectic lineup of more than 40 artists on four stages.

The ever-evolving festival blends annual favorites with new highlights, including the return of the popular **artisan marketplace**; scores of **food booths** reflecting the myriad cultures that abound in Oakland, America's most diverse city; an **urban dance stage** presented by Oakland's Dance-a-Vision; and the largest **Family Fun Zone** of any festival in the Bay Area, complete with kiddie rides, carnival games and interactive arts, in addition to free festival admission for ages 12 and under. New activities include an **instrument petting zoo** hosted by the Oakland Symphony where festival-goers of all ages are invited to pick up and play horns, strings and other instruments under the tutelage of local musicians and music instructors.

Taking BART or AC Transit directly to Art + Soul is a great way to avoid traffic. The festival is directly accessible via the 12<sup>th</sup> Street/City Center BART station and is served by many AC Transit lines that stop along Broadway. Info: 511.org. For those who choose to drive, \$5 parking will be offered for hundreds of cars in the City Center West parking garage at 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Way.

Art + Soul Oakland 2016 runs from noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 20 and Sunday, August 21. Admission is just \$12 for Adults; \$7 for Seniors (65 and older) and Youth (ages 13-17). Children 12 & under enjoy free admission. For more information, visit [www.ArtandSoulOakland.com](http://www.ArtandSoulOakland.com) or call (510) 444-CITY. Art + Soul Oakland 2016 is presented by the City of Oakland in association with Oakland Central.