

"We Create Community Through
People, Parks, and Programs"



Redwood City Parks, Recreation &
Community Services Department
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For Immediate Release
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Redwood City presents
Redwood City Salsa Festival
Community Celebration

Redwood City, CA – Redwood City is going to be sizzling during its 9th annual Salsa Festival, on Saturday, September 24th, 2016. Multiple stages featuring a variety of music, including Salsa, Latin Jazz and Reggae, will fire up Redwood City with music and dancing all day long. Amateur and professional Salsa Chefs will compete for fun, prizes and Salsa Glory, at the mouth-watering and exciting Salsa Tasting & Competition, where the public takes part in the judging. Public tasting is from 12-5pm, but come early to be sure to sample the most popular! Along with tasty salsa, local restaurants will also offer their delicious fares throughout the day. The festival features public Tequila Tasting, FREE hands-on art projects, a Children's Play Area complete with bounce houses, and much more. Redwood City's Salsa Festival guarantees a fun-filled day of savory salsa, great activities, music, entertainment, dancing, food, beverages, and a wonderful time for the entire family from noon until 8 pm.

** Salsa Tasting end times vary from booth to booth depending on how many gallons they make.*

Music spread throughout downtown!

- Courthouse Square Salsa Stage
- Latin Jazz Stage
- Reggae Stage

Competitions galore!

- People's Choice Award
 - \$500 prize and award for 1st place
 - \$350 prize for 2nd place
 - \$250 prize for 3rd place
- \$250 prize and award for "Best Mild" salsa
- \$250 prize and award for "Best Hot" salsa
- \$250 prize and award for Best Decorated Booth

- Public Salsa Tasting from 12-5pm

Fun activities for the entire family:

- Hands-on FREE Art Projects
- Tequila Tasting
- Microbrew Tasting
- Children's Play Area

Culture abounds in Downtown:

- City and Community Booths
- Local food vendors offering their delicious fares

Encompassing 11 city blocks of Downtown Redwood City, much of the event takes place on Broadway between Middlefield and Hamilton and on the beautiful Theatre Way. Theatre Way and parts of Broadway will be pedestrian-only, making this a family-friendly event not to miss! Downtown Redwood City, with its lively and active music, theater, dining, and shopping scene, is truly the heart of the community and is know as the entertainment hub of the San Francisco Peninsula. Plus, Redwood City’s Caltrain station is just a short walk from Downtown and the festival. Be a part of the community with Redwood City’s Salsa Festival and celebrate the culture and heart of the SF Peninsula.

Stage Schedule

Salsa Stage

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| <i>12:00pm</i> | <i>Fito Reinoso y su Ritmo y Armonia</i> |
| <i>2:00pm</i> | <i>Orquesta Bembé</i> |
| <i>4:00pm</i> | <i>Carlos Xavier y su Orquesta</i> |
| <i>6:00pm</i> | <i>Salsa Tasting Winners Announced</i> |
| <i>6:15pm</i> | <i>Edgardo y Candela</i> |

Latin Jazz Stage

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| <i>1:00pm</i> | <i>Kat Parra</i> |
| <i>3:00pm</i> | <i>Cabanijazz Project</i> |

5:00pm Ray Obiedo and the Urban Latin Jazz Project

Reggae Stage

12:00pm Native Elements

2:30pm TBA

Salsa Festival Artist Information - September 24, 2016

Courthouse Square (Salsa) Stage

12pm Fito Reinoso y su Ritmo y Armonia

Originally from Cuba, Fito Reinoso is a long time Bay Area resident and is celebrating over 30 years in the US. Mr. Reinoso is considered one of the best sonero's and songwriters of Cuban music. Currently working on his fourth album, his live act is one not to be missed, as the energy inherent in his performance ensures that an unforgettable party will occur!

Called "the Bay Area's up-an-coming band" by Latin Beat magazine, the group features an undeniable Cuban sound, which reflects Cuba's street beat as well as its broad musical heritage. "Ritmo y Armonia" plays primarily original music, composed by Fito and inspired by contemporary Cuban rhythms. The orchestra plays more traditional Cuban genres such as son-montuno, cha-cha-cha, and bolero but always with a sound that is authentic.

<http://fitoreinoso.com/>

2pm Orquesta Bembé

Orquesta Bembé was formed in 2012 by GRAMMY® Award Winning & 2016 GRAMMY® Nominated Percussionist / Producer and Clinician Christian Pepin and Pianist / Composer and Arranger Erick Peralta. The concept was very simple, a 10 piece band with the sound and elegant sophistication of a big orchestra. It is a very unique sound when it pertains to Salsa, Latin Jazz, Tropical and Traditional Cuban & Puerto Rican music. Bembé has been taking the Bay Area by storm; in 2013 fans caught wind of the group and immediately started raving about each show and their high energy performances.

Since then, Bembé has been secretly putting together a record bringing global edge to timeless salsa records, infused with their own unique styles and rhythms. Bembé is a band you will never forget, so look out for this 10 piece ensemble whose intention is simple... to entertain the fans and always raise the bar with fresh new music and to spread SWING all over the world.

<http://www.pepinproductions.com/#!/orquesta-bembe/c23d9>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6yY8Xp0hIk>

4pm Carlos Xavier y su Orquesta

Carlos Xavier is a Bay Area vocalist, raised in the Salsa music scene, who has been singing in nightclubs for over fifteen years. He draws influence from the music of his upbringing; urban hip-hop, R&B, and rock, and combines them with the affluent Latin rhythms. His roots in the

Latin power vocal style produce warm, beautiful tones as he exhales his melodies. Carlos engages his audience with his pure, passionate vocals. Backed by his band and his years of musical experience Carlos is able rise up and shine. His music has taken his groups all over the world. He has played with Los Mocosos at the East Coast Blues and Roots Festival in Australia as well as throughout the Caribbean as a cruise ship entertainer.

His sound is very identifiable to the Latin American community as it draws from Latin Balada roots and meshes them with the rock and pop. His melodies are expressed through his passionate lyrics and his desire reach people's souls. Carlos Xavier is his name and singing is his game!

<http://www.carlosxavieronline.com/>

6:15pm Edgardo y Candela

CD Release Concert "Tatuajes del Alma"

"Edgardo y Candela" is a **Salsa group** based in the San Francisco Bay Area for almost 30 years, making them one of the most established *Salsa Orchestras in California*. The instrumentation is piano, bass, trombone, sax, flute, guitar, conga drums, bongo drums, timbales and vocalists. Better known as simply "**Candela**," their trademark is their high energy level performance, featuring great vocals, a tight rhythm section and the powerful sound of the horns. The band features the crop of professional musicians in the Bay Area, which makes for an incredible musical experience at every show!

Edgardo speaking on the new CD: "We are now in the recording stages of our 4th production entitled "Tatuajes Del Alma" (Tatoos of The Soul). The CD includes many danceable styles of Latin Music, Mambo, Cha-Cha-Chá, Guajira, as well as the more current styles of Cuban Timba and Dominican Bachata. This musical pallet also draws inspiration from Uruguayan Candombe and even Brazilian Samba, allowing me to say that "Tatuajes Del Alma" is not just another Salsa CD, but a collage of my musical journey."

<http://www.musicandela.com>

Latin Jazz Stage

1pm Kat Parra

Kat Parra is an award-winning jazz vocal musician, composer, lyricist and arranger with an international perspective. She has performed in Amsterdam, Brazil and Mexico as well as top-tier venues throughout the United States, and sings fluently in English, Spanish, Portuguese and Ladino (Judeo-Espanol). Kat is as comfortable singing the American songbook as she is singing songs from across Latin America, the Caribbean and beyond. She sings

Kat is celebrating the release of her 5th CD as a leader, **SONGBOOK OF THE AMÉRICAS**. The CD pays tribute to women composers from both North, Central and South America as well as original music and lyrics penned by Parra. With this multi-lingual and multi-musical experience, Kat Parra is able to transport her audiences to an exciting and vibrant journey of world and Latin music. Joining Kat Parra for this event will be **Murray Low**: piano, **Masaru Koga**: woodwinds, **Aaron Germain**: bass and **Dan Foltz**: drums.

www.katparra.com

3pm Cabanijazz Project

Cabanijazz Project infuses Mambo Jazz & Retro Latin Dance music together gathering inspiration from the Mambo of the 40's & 50's, Jazz of the 60's, and Funk from the 70's; we marinate those genres together and compose original music as well as rearranging some classic compositions for the listening and dancing crowds. That is CABANIJAZZ PROJECT! Instead of adding organic spices to your food, we transmit all the flavors the your ears, feet, and heart!

Cabanijazz Project is led by GRAMMY® Award-Winning Composer and Conguero, Javier Cabanillas. Since his relocation to San Francisco from Mexico in 2011, he has performed at International festivals with several local and touring bands including "first-call" conga player with Pacific Mambo Orchestra, Brian Andres & The Afro-Cuban Jazz Cartel, Jamie Dubberly & Orquesta Dharma, and Somos El Son among others...

www.javiercabanillas.com

5pm Ray Obiedo and the Urban Latin Jazz Project

The Urban Latin Jazz Project is made up of some of the finest jazz musicians the San Francisco Bay Area has to offer. With its heavy influence of Afro Cuban and Brazilian rhythms, a traditional West Coast Latin Jazz sound is always at the core of the ensemble.

Guitarist/composer, Ray Obiedo, formed this group in 2002 to further explore his love of world music. His compositions for the group are drawn from many musical influences, including mainstream Jazz, Afro/Funk, and Caribbean, as well as other musical genres. A unique aspect of the group is its ability to incorporate funky R & B groove elements into its various arrangements. The Urban Latin Jazz Project works with a wonderfully rich array of textures and colors, melding together all of it's musical elements for a delightfully distinct Bay Area flavor.

www.rayobiedo.com

Reggae Stage

12pm Native Elements

San Francisco powerhouse, Native Elements has been keeping the energetic, feel-good reggae tradition alive in the Bay Area for over 20 years. Comprised of 10 seasoned musicians with decades of experience in rock, metal, blues, jazz, R&B and hip hop, this eclectic and fearless crew meld their unique influences into a contemporary, melodic horn-driven party taking their listeners through improvisational peaks and valleys from blazing guitar to soaring saxophone wails. Having grown up together since elementary school, playing in garage bands and skateboarding, Native Elements bring a uniquely warm experience to the stage that is both entertaining and uplifting...Fun for all!!

<http://www.reverbnation.com/nativeelements>

2:30pm TBA

Redwood City's Salsa Festival is proud to be supported by the following sponsors:

Tasting Area Sponsor: Chavez SuperMarket

Supporting Sponsors: Xfinity, Blu Harbor, Dos Equis, Tecate, County Consumer Plumbing and Repair Group

Community Partners: Redwood City Parks & Arts Foundation

For more information please email albertromero@redwoodcity.org or go to <http://www.redwoodcityevents.com/salsafest.html>. Visit Redwood City's award-winning website at www.redwoodcity.org for information about the City and its services, the community, recreation programs, education, City government, and local business. Subscribe to Redwood City's event newsletter by emailing recnews@redwoodcity.org.

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