

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**CALENDAR EDITORS**

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**CELEBRATING ARTS, COMMUNITY AND RICHMOND'S  
RENAISSANCE**

*Month-long series of events celebrates the completed renovation of  
East Bay Center for Performing Arts*

**WHAT:** During the month of October, the public is invited to a series of events and performances to celebrate the \$16 million transformation of East Bay Center for Performing Arts in Richmond and begins its next chapter of service to the community. The grand re-opening events celebrate the rich diversity of the Center's programs and its contributions to the community with a sampling of concerts, festivals, performances, theater and art from local and international artists – many of them alumnae of the Center.

**WHERE:** East Bay Center for Performing Arts, 339 11<sup>th</sup> St., Richmond

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:**

- **Saturday, October 1, 6:00pm – Premiere Gala co-hosted by Alice Waters and Stanley Clarke:** an elegant evening of Chez Panisse food and wine with a sampling of the vibrant talents at the Center. (Tickets start at \$500; reserve in advance.)
- **Thursday, October 6, 6:00 – 10:00pm – Community Launch Party:** a benefit to welcome the greater community to the Center featuring Richmond Jazz Collective, Richmond Bloco Steel Band, Kpanlogo Drumming along with DJ's and dancing (Tickets start at \$50; reserve in advance.)
- **Saturday, October 8, 10:00am – 4:00pm – Iron Triangle Legacy Family Day:** A day of entertainment and fun for the entire family, including performances honoring the history and legacy of the Iron Triangle neighborhood; music and dance performances; spoken word from Richmond youth; music and dance workshops; arts and crafts and much more. (Free public event)
- **Sunday, October 9, 3:00 – 8:00pm – Encuentro del Son, a Mexican Rural Fandango:** A Mexican celebration for the entire family featuring poetry, song, dance and celebration with artists from the Center. (Suggested donation \$10 at the door.)
- **Friday, October 14, 7:00 – 10:00pm – Hip Hop International:** An evening to celebrate the Bay Area's urban youth and hip hop culture, featuring East Bay Center's Urban Ballet, and TBA hip-hop artist and spoken word artists. (Suggested donation \$10 at the door.)
- **Saturday, October 15, 8:00pm and Sunday, October 16, 3:00pm – World Premiere of Konyifafa:** Konyifafa is a commissioned dance theater work weaving together Classical West African Dance Drumming and Brazilian Capoeira that was created and choreographed by two world renowned artists, Ghanaian Master Drummer and Dancer CK Ladzekpo and Brazilian Capoeira Master Ubirajara Almeida aka Mestre Accordeon. (Tickets: \$25 per person, \$15 students and seniors; reserve in advance.)

- **Friday, October 21, 8:00 – 10:30pm – Jazz Heritage Concert:** An evening featuring the Center’s own jazz alumni all stars with tenor saxophonist Howard Wiley and the Center’s resident jazz company, the Richmond Jazz Collective. (Tickets: \$15 per person, \$10 students and seniors at the door.)
- **Saturday, October 22, 6:00 – 10:00pm – Mien Ceremonial Feast and Cultural Festival:** A celebration of the local vibrant Mien/Southeast Asian community with an evening of authentic music, food, drink, and entertainment featuring East Bay Center’s Mien Legends, and a special screening of the Lao Community Project documentary. (Suggested donation \$10 at the door.)
- **Sunday, October 23, 4:00 – 7:00pm – Iron Triangle Legacy Film Screening:** A special screening of short film works commissioned by East Bay Center’s Iron Triangle Legacy Project that depict the cultural renaissance happening now in Richmond; includes live music and discussions following the films. (Suggested donation: \$10 at the door.)
- **Wednesday, October 26, 7:00-8:30pm – La Colmenita:** La Colmenita, a children’s theater group from Cuba, will be performing “Abracadabra” a part of their national tour in the United States. With their interdisciplinary focus, La Colmenita weaves music, dance and theater together to explore Cuban folkloric and universal themes of humanity and generosity. (Suggested donation: \$10 at the door.)
- **Friday, October 28, 7:00 – 9:00pm – Iron Triangle Legacy Theater Showcase:** The premiere of two original theater pieces commissioned through the Center’s Iron Triangle Legacy Project including: Actor/comedian/writer Luis Santiago Juárez, along with the Center’s Iron Triangle Theater, will present a piece that explores race relations in Richmond; and East Bay Center alumni and renowned actress/comedian, Side 2 Side, will present a one-woman show that explores the history of the Iron Triangle neighborhood. (Suggested donation: \$10 at the door.)
- **Saturday, October 29, 7:00 – 9:00pm – World Master Artist Series:** Shakuhachi (Japanese bamboo flute) master, Masayuki Koga, one of Japan’s national music treasures, will be joined by guest artists in a rare program of traditional Japanese music and new works. (Suggested donation: \$10 at the door.)
- **Sunday, October 30, 3:00 – 5:00pm – Youth Symphony Concert:** As a closing event for East Bay Center’s grand re-opening month, the 100-member Young People’s Symphony Orchestra of Berkeley, under the direction of Maestro David Ramadanoff, will present an afternoon concert of classical master works along with East Bay Center young artists from the Richmond Chamber Ensemble. (Suggested donation: \$10 at the door.)

**NOTE:** This is the current line-up as of September 12, 2011. Please check [EastBayCenter.org](http://EastBayCenter.org) frequently for the most updated schedule and more information.

**TICKETS:** Premiere Gala and Community Launch Party tickets, as well as Konyifafa and Jazz Heritage Concert are available by calling (510) 221-6353 or go to [www.eastbaycenter.org](http://www.eastbaycenter.org)  
All other event tickets are available at the door.

## **BACKGROUND**

East Bay Center for Performing Arts in Richmond has completed an extensive \$16 million renovation of its historic facility in Richmond’s “Iron Triangle.” Transformed from an aging and ailing building back to its original glory, the vibrant community arts center that works with thousands of children and young adults each year is poised to be the fulcrum for a neighborhood renaissance. A public-private partnership that included the City of Richmond, the Richmond

Community Redevelopment Agency, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the San Francisco Foundation and the California Cultural and Historical Endowment embarked on a campaign to reinvigorate the neighborhood starting with the renovation of the Winters Building into a vital community center. The two-year, \$16 million renovation has added an additional 7,500 square feet of public spaces, dramatically transforming the building into a more open and welcoming facility ready to accommodate students and visitors of all ages and physical abilities.

### **About East Bay Center for Performing Arts**

Founded in 1968, East Bay Center for Performing Arts engages youth and young adults in imagining and creating new worlds for themselves and new visions for their communities through the inspiration and discipline of rigorous training in world performance traditions.

We at East Bay Center for Performing Arts passionately believe in the power of art to create beauty and new ways of seeing the world. We believe in the ability of the performing arts to give voice to the silent, to unite peoples of diverse backgrounds, and to help realize the fullest potential of communities and the individuals who live in them. We affirm the importance of connecting the creative and uplifting powers of the arts with children and youth who in their daily lives must contend with systemic poverty, violence, and other barriers to peace, justice, and prosperity. We welcome all who find resonance with and are committed to these beliefs.

Our programs serve more than 2000 teens and young adults each year. We offer diverse youth and young adults opportunities to grow and excel as learners, creators of art, and contributors to their communities. We provide broad and strategic community-based and public school performing arts access programs; rigorous individual and ensemble training; an intensive four-year, interdisciplinary diploma program; advanced internships; and commissions for new works of art. Our students, partners, and audiences deepen their experience and engagement with the life-affirming and community-building impact of music, theater, dance, and media-making from a critical selection of the world's great cultures.

The focus of instruction and performance ranges from blues to jazz, classical European chamber music to ballet, West African music and dance to traditional Mexican music and dance. In addition, theater and film/media production opportunities help young artists – and renowned master artists – build works about issues ranging from environmental pollution to urban violence and HIV/AIDS. For its work, the Center has received recognition and funding from local, state, and national sources, including the California Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information or to make a gift to the Center, please visit [EastBayCenter.org](http://EastBayCenter.org)

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