



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[PHOTOS HERE](#)

USROWING MASTERS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS TO BE HELD ON LAKE MERRITT THIS WEEK

Rowing competitions and events to be held at Lake Merritt

(Oakland, CA) — [Visit Oakland](#), the city's destination marketing organization, Oakland Parks and Recreation, the City of Oakland and [USRowing](#) are excited to host the **2018 USRowing Masters National Championships at Lake Merritt** this week, from **August 16-19, 2018** (Thursday to Sunday, racing each day from 8am to 6pm). USRowing has announced that this event has the most registrants than any other event hosted before, with over 1,300 rowers competing.

"We are proud to bring this prestigious event back to the west coast," says **AJ Dominique, USRowing Senior Events Manager**. "Lake Merritt offers easy accessibility, beautiful park grounds and an urban setting that will make for a truly unique regatta."

The event is free for spectators to attend and offers local food trucks daily from 11am to 7pm, a beer garden featuring local breweries daily from 12pm to 8pm and races on the lake all day from 8am to 6pm.

"We are excited to host the 2018 USRowing Masters National Championships and to have the opportunity to showcase our beautiful city and Lake Merritt to over 1,300 rowers from across the U.S.," says **Mark Everton, CEO of Visit Oakland**. "We encourage Bay Area residents to attend the event and enjoy local food trucks and beer from the beer garden, while watching rowers compete on the lake."

Known as the "Crown Jewel" of Oakland, Lake Merritt is an urban lake in the middle of downtown. With a 3.2 mile circumference, the naturally developed, humanly maintained lake is a mix of fresh and salt water connected to the Oakland Estuary leading out to the San Francisco Bay. The competition-quality waters of Lake Merritt have hosted other water sports and events in the past with USRowing now being the largest competition at the venue to date.

On August 16 there will be an opening reception event from 6pm-9pm held at Lake Chalet's docks on Lake Merritt – adjacent to the starting line. A full bar with one complimentary drink, a lavish taco bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. The USRowing Men's National Team Coach, Mike Teti, regarded as the most successful men's coach in US history, will be speaking at the event from 7-8pm along with some of the current USRowing team members. More information, and tickets can be found [here](#).

Parking is available at the Kaiser Center Garage on Friday at the garage's normal rates. Saturday and Sunday parking at the Kaiser Center Garage is \$5 for all-day special event parking. Shuttle buses will be operating between the Kaiser Center Garage and the Boat House at the lake on 5-7 minute intervals from 7am to 7pm Saturday and Sunday. The shuttle buses will depart from the Kaiser Center Garage from the 21st Street (near Harrison Street) side of the garage.

The Oakland Convention Center Garage (Clay Street and 11th Street) will have parking available each day. Shuttle buses will be operating Thursday - Sunday from 7am to 7pm each day from the Convention Center and the Oakland Marriott City Center. The shuttle stop will be on 10th street near Broadway.



Public transportation is recommended for each day of the event. BART stations are available at 12th Street (adjacent to the Marriott and the shuttle bus on 10th street), and Lake Merritt BART station with a shuttle bus operating Thursday – Sunday picking up on Oak Street at 8th. Other transportation options include Ford GoBikes, UBER/Lyft, Lime Scooters and Bird Scooters.

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ABOUT USROWING

USRowing is a nonprofit organization recognized by the United States Olympic Committee as the governing body for the sport of rowing in the United States. USRowing has 83,000 individual members and 1,350 member organizations, offering rowing programs for all. USRowing receives generous support from the National Rowing Foundation and its corporate sponsors and partners. For more information, see our website at www.usrowing.org and follow us on social media using @usrowing.

ABOUT VISIT OAKLAND

Visit Oakland is a non-profit organization marketing Oakland, California as a travel destination. Visit Oakland offers a wide variety of complimentary services and materials for travelers interested in visiting Oakland. For more information, visit our website at www.visitoakland.com and follow us on social media using @visitoakland and #oaklandloveit.

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