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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 11, 2019

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Oakland Art Month is Back This May 2019 Features Packed Calendar of Arts Events and Performances**

(Oakland, CA) – [Visit Oakland](#), the city’s official destination marketing organization, celebrates Oakland’s arts community with the second annual [Oakland Art Month](#) in May 2019. The entire month of May is dedicated to promoting artists and events that highlight the diversity of Oakland’s creative community.

Oakland has long been home to innovators, creatives and artists that collectively form the soul of Oakland. As a happening arts and music hub for Northern California, year-round entertainment can be found throughout the city. Visit Oakland hopes to introduce visitors and locals alike to new art forms and also encourage them to revisit old favorites, through promoting art events in May and establishing Oakland as a top-of-mind arts destination in California and the country.

Our vibrant city reflects the mosaic of cultures and people who live and work here, which contributes to an abundance of art forms and experiences here in Oakland,” says **Mark Everton, CEO of Visit Oakland**. “We’re excited to highlight Oakland’s diverse art scene and the city’s creative community to visitors and locals alike.”

Oakland Art Month celebrates the creation of the City of Oakland’s Cultural Development Plan, with the idea of **BELONGING** for May 2019. This is the city’s first Cultural Development Plan in 30 years. As it was written in the plan, “People’s sense of belonging is tied to their ability to lead meaningful lives, to be connected to the place they live in and the people they live among, and to feel a part of something larger than themselves.”

“Belonging invokes a sense of home,” says **Marc Bamuthi Joseph, Oakland-based Spoken Word Artist**. “I’m not originally from this city but I have found myself here because Oakland welcomes outcasts, transplants, forward thinking, the little off, the little weird and also the middle of the road. It’s a place that invites us all to come together in pursuit of something greater. Art belongs in Oakland because people have made it so.” For more artist’s perspectives on Belonging, view our video here <https://bit.ly/2UNR4SR>.

This year’s Art Month calendar will bring cultural arts events including Cinco de Mayo celebrations, the Armenian Food Festival, the Oakland Greek Festival and the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) Film Festival. Visitors can experience these events and see why **National Geographic Traveler** named **Oakland a 2019 Best Trip** for the city’s unique culture.

Running through the end of May, The-Beat-Generation-Exhibition features the Oakland artist, Arthur Monroe’s portfolio for Smithsonian Archives of American Art. The works in The-Beat-Generation-Exhibition depict the life journey of Arthur Monroe as a lifetime achievement celebration in preparation for his induction to the Smithsonian Archives of American Art, through sculptures, photography, drawings and paintings.

During the first two weekends of Art Month, Oakland Art Murmur is offering an “Art Route” map and contest. This gives visitors and locals the chance to explore art venues throughout Oakland and for the people who visit the most galleries on the route, they will be entered to win a shopping spree towards Oakland artwork, a hotel stay, fine dining and more.

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See featured events happening during Oakland Art Month below. For the full calendar of events and more information about Oakland artists and art forms, visit [oaklandartmonth.com](http://oaklandartmonth.com). Follow @visitoakland and #oaklandartmonth on social media for the latest updates.

## Oakland Art Month Featured Events

Date(s)	Day(s)	Event
Through May 31	–	<b>The-Beat-Generation-Exhibition</b> <i>Jack London Square, Wed. - Sun. 11AM-6PM</i> Features Arthur Monroe's portfolio for Smithsonian Archives of American Art through sculptures, photography, drawings and paintings.
April 26- May 5	–	<b>Bay Area Dance Week</b> A week of FREE dance classes and performances across the Bay Area, visit <a href="http://bayareadance.org">bayareadance.org</a> for a list events and look for special classes at Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts.
May 3-4 & May 10-11	Friday & Saturday	<b>Art Route Oakland by Art Murmur</b> Oakland Art Murmur is offering an "Art Route" passport style contest. To view the art gallery passport, visit <a href="http://arouteoakland.com">arouteoakland.com</a> .
May 3	Friday	<b>Oakland First Fridays</b> <i>Kono District, 5PM-9PM</i> Family-friendly event that celebrates all the things that make Oakland special. Experience art, be inspired, eat great food, enjoy live music.
May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Friday	<b>Queer California Film Series</b> <i>Oakland Museum of California, 5PM</i> Offering late-night screenings of rare films exploring untold stories of California's LGBTQ+ communities, in conjunction with the <i>Queer California: Untold Stories</i> exhibition.
May 4	Saturday	<b>Cinco De Mayo</b> <i>Jack London Square, 12PM-7PM</i> Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with a festival in Jack London square. Including over 40 vendors, live music and entertainment and a low rider car show.
May 5	Sunday	<b>Indigenous Red Market</b> <i>Oakland Native American Health Center, 11AM-3PM</i> Celebrating Native American culture and traditions with the market and a large-scale mural unveiling at the CEDAR Center Building.
May 10	Friday	<b>Oakland Symphony's "West Side Story"</b> <i>Paramount Theatre, 8PM</i> Enjoy a show featuring Leonard Bernstein's beloved revision of the Romeo and Juliet story.
May 11	Saturday	<b>Art &amp; Wine Festival</b> <i>Jack London Square, 12PM-5PM</i> Featuring over 40 Northern California wineries, craft beer, cider, live music, eclectic vendors and more.
May 11	Saturday	<b>Future Culture Summit</b> <i>Oakland Asian Cultural Center, 12:30PM-4:30PM</i> Using the frame of Method Sampling, this event will identify and present people who are leaders in their fields.

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May 16	Thursday	<p><b>Third Thursdays</b>  <i>Latham Square, 5PM-8PM</i>            Offering a free, family-friendly event with live entertainment, food, drinks and shopping in Downtown Oakland.</p>
May 15-18	Wednesday - Saturday	<p><b>CAAMFest</b>  <i>Piedmont Theatre, May 15-16</i>  <i>7<sup>th</sup> West, May 16</i>  <i>Oakland Museum of California, May 17</i>  <i>Oakland Asian Cultural Center, May 18</i>            Visit <a href="https://caamedia.org">https://caamedia.org</a> for more information.</p>
May 17-18	Friday & Saturday	<p><b>Armenian Food Festival</b>  <i>St. Vartan, Fri. at 5:30PM &amp; Sat. at 12PM</i>            Enjoy Armenian food and desserts, love music and dancing.</p>
May 17-19	Friday, Saturday & Sunday	<p><b>Oakland Greek Festival</b>  <i>Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Fri. 10AM-11PM, Sat. 11AM-11PM &amp; Sun. 11AM-9PM</i>            Enjoy best of Greek culture with food, drinks, music, dance and more.</p>
May 18	Saturday	<p><b>Temescal Neighborhood Art Walk</b>  <i>38<sup>th</sup> and Telegraph to 66<sup>th</sup> and Telegraph, 11AM-1PM</i>            Join the Temescal Telegraph Business Improvement District on a guided tour of Temescal's public art led by local artists.</p>
May 30 – June 1	Thursday, Friday & Saturday	<p><b>Oakland Ballet Company presents Jangala</b>  <i>Odell Johnson Performing Arts Center Theater</i>  <i>Thurs. 7:30PM, Fri. 7:30PM, Sat. 3:00PM, Sat. 7:30PM</i>            A fun, fast-paced, and family-friendly performance that brings tales from Kipling's "The Jungle Book" to life.</p>
June 1	Saturday	<p><b>East Bay Open Studios</b>  <i>Oakland Scottish Rite Center, 6PM-9PM</i>            Opening celebration and preview exhibition where you can meet with over 100 participating artists and their work</p>
June 1	Saturday	<p><b>Beats &amp; Minds Hip-Hop Conference</b>  <i>Impact Hub Oakland, 10AM-5PM</i>            A conference focusing on Hip-Hop through the theme of "Locally Rooted, Globally Connected."</p>

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### 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, see our website at [www.visitoakland.com](http://www.visitoakland.com).

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