



EPACENTER LAUNCHES FAMILY-FRIENDLY CONCERT SERIES

EAST PALO ALTO, CA (5 September 2023) – EPACENTER, the East Palo Alto creative youth development center, announces a new series of community concerts, kicking off with its inaugural event on Saturday, September 9. The concert, held in EPACENTER’s outdoor amphitheater, will open with Chicken Bass & Waffles featuring EPACENTER instructor and master percussionist James Henry. Then, headliner We R 1 Band takes the stage. Offering up a panoply of hits that range from R&B and soul to funk, this Frankie Beverly & Maze tribute group should have audiences swinging, swaying, and leaping to their feet. “We can’t wait to welcome the community for an afternoon of great music and dancing at our first concert in this series,” said EPACENTER Executive Director Nadine Rambeau. “With events like this we hope to continue bringing East Palo Alto together, with fun activities and programs that enrich our wonderful community.” Guests are invited to bring blankets to spread on the grass, or lawn chairs for seating, and picnics and snacks (no alcohol allowed) for late afternoon fun in the sun. The first concert will take place Saturday, September 9, from 3:30pm-7:00pm at EPACENTER, 1950 Bay Rd, East Palo Alto. Tickets (\$10 plus fees) are available at bit.ly/EPACENTERConcertSept9. EPACENTER’s community concert series will continue through March 2024 with 11 events featuring everything from gospel choirs, to live drumming performances, jazz, contemporary classical music, and more. For additional information, the public may visit epacenter.org.

Organized by James Henry, the inaugural concert features **We R 1 Band**, a lively group that pays tribute to American soul group Frankie Beverly & Maze. Founded in Philadelphia in 1970 before relocating to San Francisco, Frankie Beverly & Maze took the R&B charts by storm and toured the country as an opening act for R&B icon Marvin Gaye. The We R 1 Band features Conrad Gillenwater (guitar), Connell Page (bass), Al Conde (keyboards), Amy Levine (keyboards), Joey Truso (drums), and Lionel Joseph Burns Sr. (vocals).

EPACENTER's community concert series is made possible by funding from the San Mateo County Office of Arts and Culture, with sponsorship by Stanford Live, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, the House of Samba Kids (HoSK), and the Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund. Details on future events will be announced.

EPACENTER is a creative youth development center created to harness the power of art, design, technology, and culture to accelerate positive outcomes for vulnerable youth in East Palo Alto. Its state-of-the-art facility was driven by a community-based outreach effort, filling a much-needed gap in East Palo Alto to give local youth access to free quality arts instruction, job training, and workforce development programs. Funded by the John & Marcia Goldman Foundation, the 25,000 square foot facility provides local youth with a space they asked for specifically: a safe learning environment where they can access a multitude of exciting opportunities to develop their creativity and learn job skills. For more information, visit epacenter.org.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

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COST: Tickets (\$10 plus fees) are available at bit.ly/EPACENTERConcertSept9.

WHEN: 3:30pm-7:00pm, Saturday, September 9

WHERE: EPACENTER, 1950 Bay Rd, East Palo Alto

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PRESS: Contact Steph Keay, Carla Befera & Co., steph@cb-pr.com

PHOTOS: Media may download video and high-res photos at: cbpr.co/press/epacenter