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For Immediate Release

Levitt Pavilion Los Angeles Announces 2017 Artist Lineup
Kinky, Tank and the Bangas, The Suffers among artists to perform
50 FREE Concerts June 17 – Sept. 10

LOS ANGELES—It's almost summertime and that means the countdown to **50 free concerts at Levitt Pavilion Los Angeles** is underway! Located just west of downtown in MacArthur Park, Levitt LA celebrates its 11th year with an exciting and eclectic lineup of rising stars and award-winning talent featuring a wide range of music genres, **produced in partnership with L.A.-based promoter Spaceland Presents**. Levitt LA's welcoming vibe and open lawn attracts Angelenos of all ages and backgrounds, celebrating the diversity of our city and beyond. All shows are family-friendly, so bring your picnic blankets and lawn chairs to enjoy the best in free entertainment under the stars.

Since 2007, over 500,000 families, friends and neighbors have gathered in MacArthur Park to enjoy the free concerts, cultural celebrations and family-friendly atmosphere offered at the Levitt Pavilion. As part of the national network of outdoor Levitt music venues, Levitt Pavilion Los Angeles exemplifies the power of arts programming to transform challenged public spaces into vibrant destinations and spur additional investment. The success of the free concert series has brought momentum to park improvements over the past decade, including new soccer fields, playgrounds, lighted walkways and other park amenities.

"As the Levitt network expands across the country, Levitt Pavilion Los Angeles is an inspiration for communities seeking to put the arts at the center of revitalization efforts," says Sharon Yazowski, executive director of the national Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation. "This once chain-linked, graffiti-covered band shell is where Angelenos now come together to celebrate community and enjoy amazing live music."

Opening weekend kicks off on **Saturday, June 17** with a "[Ladies of Latin Music](#)" evening featuring the rhythmic fusions of Fernanda Ulibarri & The Mexican Standoff, award-winning jazz vocalist Nancy Sanchez, and rising indie pop darlings Sin Color. **Sunday, June 18** will launch cumbia into a new musical orbit with [Cumbia Cosmica](#), a sonic journey across Latin American grooves and cultures featuring an all-star group of musicians blending diverse styles like salsa, Latin jazz, blues and soul.

See the full summer series lineup and concert times at <http://concerts.levittlosangeles.org/>.

Throughout the summer, a broad range of music genres will be featured on the Levitt LA stage, from Latin rock, country, soul, blues, electronic and funk to cumbia, ska, folk, reggae, jazz and New Orleans brass. **Series highlights include:**

June 23: [Tank and the Bangas \(Funk/Soul\)](#) – Winners of the 2017 NPR Tiny Desk Contest, Tank and the Bangas showcase a highly interactive and dynamic chemistry in playing groovy, jazz-inflected soul

June 24: [Kinky \(Electronic/Latin\)](#) – From Monterrey Mexico, one of the most significant bands in the rock-electronica scene the past decade, performing their textures of rock, Latin, and techno at major festivals throughout the world

June 30: [Vieux Farka Touré \(Malian Folk/Blues/Soul\)](#) – Son of legendary Malian guitarist Ali Farka Touré, Vieux has carved his own virtuosic identity at the intersection of West African desert folk, American blues and contemporary jazz

July 8: [The Suffers \(Gulf Coast Soul\)](#) – Levitt National Tour presents this 8-piece powerhouse of 'Gulf Coast Soul,' melding classic American soul with genres as wide-ranging as rock, Latin ska, Cajun, hip-hop, country and R&B

July 15: [David Hidalgo & Cesar Rosas \(Blues/Roots/Latin\)](#) – Legendary Los Lobos band members unite as Dos Lobos for an evening of Latin, blues and roots music

July 27: [Thee Commons \(Cumbia/Garage\)](#) – From house shows in East LA to taking the stage at Coachella in 2017, experience their action-packed cumbia with a psychedelic rock/punk aesthetic

July 28: [JC Brooks & the Uptown Sound \(Soul/Funk\)](#) – This Chicago-based band makes soul-infused, genre-bending music that is energetic and kinetically charged

August 3: [Leslie Stevens and the Badgers / Moonville Collective \(Country/Americana\)](#) – A double header of acclaimed Americana artists celebrating the traditions of folk, country and R&B

August 5: [New Breed Brass Band \(Funk/Rock/Jazz\)](#) – Praised by Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews as "the future of the New Orleans brass band tradition" mixing contemporary R&B, funk and jazz

August 10: [Buyepongo \(Latin Tropical/Funk\)](#) – Vibrant polyrhythmic sound that seamlessly fuses cumbia, merengue, punta, jazz and funk into irresistible Afro-Latin tropical jams, drawing from the band's collective Central and South American roots

August 11: [Vaud & the Villains \(New Orleans Cabaret\)](#) – Raucous and exuberant 1930s-era New Orleans-themed orchestra and cabaret show fusing jazz, R&B and gospel

August 12: [La Misa Negra \(Afro-Colombian/Cumbia\)](#) – Infectious dance grooves and punk rock energy infuse this 8-piece band's blend of 1950's and 60's style cumbia and high-energy, Afro-Colombian beats

August 26: [Quitapenas \(Tropical/Afro-Latin\)](#) – This collective of musicologists, DJ's and musicians plays a polyrhythmic, sun-kissed style of Afro-Latin music that, as their name implies, quells worries and simply makes you dance

Sept. 1 & 2: [Peanut Butter Wolf \(History of Hip-Hop\)](#) – Founder of the iconic West Coast hip-hop and psych-rock experimental label Stones Throw Records, Peanut Butter Wolf will transport audiences through the history of hip-hop during this two-night engagement (1979-88; 1989-99)

Free concerts run Thursday – Sunday evenings, with Levitt LA's popular Children's Series running 10 Sundays June 25–August 27, featuring returning favorites like the zany monsters of [Kiddle Karoo \(June 25\)](#); LA's most beloved puppet show [Bob Baker Marionettes \(July 9\)](#); bilingual kids pop group [Twinkle Time \(July 30\)](#); and GRAMMY-winning indie-rock act [Lucky Diaz & the Family Jam Band \(August 6\)](#).

As Levitt LA launches its second decade of presenting free concerts in MacArthur Park, a new brand identity has been created in partnership with Spaceland Presents, including a new logo, website (levittlosangeles.org, with concert calendar powered by DoLA), and social handles:

Facebook: LevittPavilionLosAngeles

Twitter: @Levitt_LA

Instagram: @levittlosangeles

See the full 2017 series lineup and concert times at <http://concerts.levittlosangeles.org/>.

About Levitt Pavilion Los Angeles

The mission of [Levitt Pavilion Los Angeles](http://levittlosangeles.org) is to make live music accessible to all, creating stronger and more connected communities while celebrating the diversity of our city and beyond. Every summer, 50 FREE concerts are presented at the Levitt Pavilion, featuring acclaimed, emerging talent to seasoned, award-winning performers in a broad range of music genres.

Throughout each summer series, tens of thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds gather on the lawn in historic MacArthur Park to enjoy free live music under the stars. Programming is designed to appeal to all tastes, attracting people from all walks of life to come together for a shared evening of great music. As music fills the park, so do families, friends, and Angelenos from throughout the city. Since 2007, over 500,000 people have gathered in MacArthur Park to enjoy the free concerts, cultural celebrations and family-friendly atmosphere offered at the Levitt Pavilion.

About the Levitt Network

The Levitt Pavilion here in Los Angeles is part of a growing family of [Levitt venues and concert sites](http://www.levitt.org) across America presenting free outdoor concerts. This year, through both **permanent Levitt venues** and the **Levitt AMP program**, free Levitt concerts will be presented in 22 towns and cities. Each celebrates its own community and presents high caliber entertainment featuring a rich array of music genres. Attracting families, friends and neighbors of all ages and backgrounds, Levitt concerts are coveted anchors of community life. Leading the program's nationwide growth is the **Mortimer & Mimi Levitt Foundation**, a pioneer in the creative placemaking movement. The Levitt Foundation exists to strengthen the social fabric of America and empowers communities to transform neglected outdoor spaces into welcoming destinations where the power of free, live music brings people together and invigorates community life. To learn more, visit www.levitt.org

About Spaceland Presents

[Spaceland Presents](http://www.spacelandpresents.com) is one of the premier independent club promotion and event companies whose resume includes early shows by the White Stripes and Arctic Monkeys. Spaceland Presents has long been known as an innovative concert promoter blending unique cultural institutions with live musical performances for audiences to enjoy. Spaceland produces Desert Daze music festival, Twilight Concert Series at the Santa Monica Pier and Levitt Pavilion Los Angeles' Summer Concert Series in MacArthur Park, in addition to booking the musical talent for "First Fridays" at The Natural History Museum. Spaceland Presents is the sister company to Los Angeles music venues The Echo and Echoplex, The Regent Theater in downtown Los Angeles, and media company / event producer, DoLA.