



# Free Summer Concerts Draw Families to MacArthur Park

Levitt L.A. and CD1 stage 50 shows ranging from salsa and gospel to ska and K-Pop.

**W**estlake is alive with the sound of music, and it's coming from a futuristic band shell in MacArthur Park.

In June, Levitt Pavilion L.A. began its 12th season of 50 free concerts, and the performances continue every Thursday through Sunday until Sept. 2.

"Every year we have 50 opportunities to bring people to their feet," said Oliver DelGado, Levitt L.A.'s director of marketing and communications. "Rising stars and acclaimed talent from a range of high-energy music genres keep Angelenos dancing under the stars."

Since opening in 2007, more than 500,000 people have enjoyed Levitt Pavilion concerts in an open-lawn setting and family-friendly atmosphere.

"We put inclusion at the forefront of everything we do," DelGado said. "The free concerts have

helped transform MacArthur Park into a safe and welcoming destination."

The Levitt Foundation supports the only national network of nonprofit outdoor venues presenting free concert series. This year Levitt will stage nearly 500 free concerts in 26 towns and cities.

Programming is planned with input from local advisory committees. The L.A. line-up, for example, features World Music, while Memphis has more

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## 'Coco' Spreads Life, Love, Legacy in CD1

**F**amilies from Westlake (above) and Pico Union to Sycamore Grove (at top) have laughed and cried – then laughed some more – at showings of the Oscar-winning, animated film "Coco" sponsored by Team Cedillo and local councils.

"The audience's reactions during the film are amazing," said Adrienne Nicole Edwards of the Westlake South Neighborhood Council. "I've seen people smile throughout the movie."



*La Sonora Dinamita with Vilma Diaz dazzles at Levitt L.A.'s Independence Day Celebration presented by Team Cedillo.*

## ARTS & CULTURE 5

## Turning Bus Shelters Into Art Showcases

**V**ictor Reyes works as a prep chef at a local middle school Monday through Friday, but answers to a higher calling. "Art motivates me to get up every day."

Reyes was the first to step up when Metro, the countywide mass transit agency, and JC Decaux Co., the world's largest producer of bus shelters, approached Art Division in Westlake about decorating some stops along 6th Street.

Reyes used hummingbirds, the sun and the moon to illustrate an ancient Guatemalan love story, and Nick Arciero, Alex OtisWoods and Luis

Mateo helped him complete the project at Alvarado.

Other faculty and students from Art Division, a training program for young artists alongside MacArthur Park, also transformed stops at Grandview, Virgil and Westmoreland streets.

Decaux provided and maintains more than 2,000 bus shelters across L.A. through a public-



*Victor Reyes, left, and other Art Division faculty and students have given new life to bus stops at 6th Street and Alvarado.*



private partnership managed by Street Services.

For more <https://www.facebook.com/artdivision.org/>

# 10,000 'Friends' Scrub L.A. River

Thousands of volunteers scrambled up and down the cement embankments of the Los Angeles River over three weekends in April for the 29th annual cleanup organized by the Friends of the L.A. River (FOLAR). April 21 was CD1 day, and crews focused on the Bowtie parcel in Glassell Park.

FOLAR estimates that about 10,000 volunteers removed more than 100 tons of trash during April, making it the largest urban river cleanup in America, and that 1,222 volunteers visited the Bowtie parcel, making it the largest site.

The parcel abuts the L.A. River Recreation Zone, which is managed by the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority. The MRCA offers kayaking and fishing from Memorial Day to Labor Day. For more, visit [lariverrecreation.org](http://lariverrecreation.org)

Last summer, *E. coli* bacteria levels spiked to 100 times higher than federal standards, but the protocol for closing the river to recreational use was unclear. This season the City Bureau of Sanitation was ready with a webpage – [lacitysan.org/lariver-quality](http://lacitysan.org/lariver-quality) – that enthusiasts can check for water quality.

Sanitation personnel test water



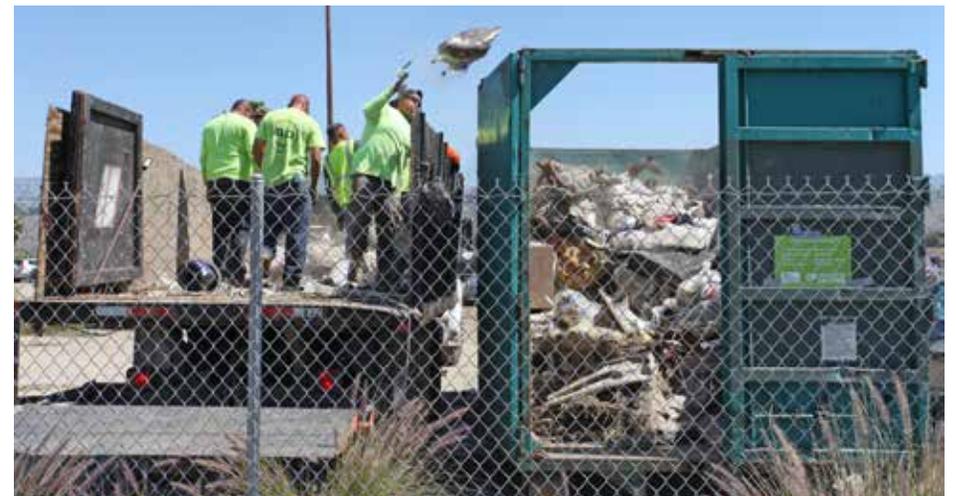
Photos by Lisa Weingarten

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twice a week at three locations in each zone, compare results to state water standards, and determine if the quality is suitable for recreation. Results are color-coded: green for open, yellow for caution and red for closed.



## CLEAN COMMUNITIES 7

### Fire Academy...

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development materials. Oviedo teaches writing, an important skill for firefighters. "Their reports often wind up in court, so it's important that they be clear and accurate."

West Adams must also raise funds. The LAFD will donate some old equipment, but the school must build an obstacle course, expand the weight training room, and create other infrastructure. "It all adds up and pretty soon \$300,000 doesn't seem overly ambitious," said magnet

committee member Kevin Chow.

After graduation, step one is usually certification as an Emergency Medical Technician. EMT applicants must be 18 years old, hold a high school diploma, finish a hospital internship for basic first aid skills, and pass a state exam. They can go on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Fire Science at a Cal State University.

For more about the academy, including enrolment and donations, contact Oviedo at [moviedo@lausd.net](mailto:moviedo@lausd.net)

### Levitt...

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Country, Soul and Americana acts.

"Every community should be able to enjoy outdoor culture," Del-Gado said.

MacArthur Park was founded in 1880s as Westlake Park, and wealthy residents came to enjoy the glistening lake and musical performances. By the 1980s, it had become one of the most densely populated neighborhoods in the country and the park was notorious for criminal activity. The once-vibrant band shell

stood covered in graffiti and surrounded by a chain-link fence.

A rebound began in the early 2000s with a grassroots effort to revitalize the park. Residents worked with the LAPD to improve safety and Levitt partnered with the City of L.A. and community stakeholders to renovate the historic band shell.

After Levitt L.A. launched its concerts, the City followed with more significant investments, including soccer fields, a playground, public restrooms, lighted walkways and additional security.

For a full concert schedule and more, visit [levittlosangeles.org](http://levittlosangeles.org)