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## **Dance Brigade's Dance Mission Theater presents The Mission Youth Arts Festival at Potrero del Sol Park**

**A free festival for all ages  
celebrating the Mission District's diverse and talented youth performers**

**Saturday, March 10, 2018  
1-4pm**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA**—On Saturday, March 10, 2018, the Mission District's Potrero del Sol Park becomes a high energy stage for some of the neighborhood's finest youth performing groups, and young and old alike are invited to this free, outdoor festival that celebrates the voices and talents of young artists.

Presented by Dance Brigade's Dance Mission Theater, the event, the only one of its kind in the Mission District, features performances by the dancers and taiko players of GRRRL Brigade, the sizzling samba drummers of Loco Bloco, the folkloric dancers of Cuicacalli, the bouyant musicians of Mariachi Juvenil La Misión, the martial artists of Abada Capoeira SF, the hip hop dancers of ODC Youth Program, the spoken word poets of Youth Speaks, Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts World Music and Dance, and more. Audience members will have a chance to try a few moves during a mini dance class during the intermission, and local youth groups will be on hand to provide information about their programs and youth services.

The event stakes a claim for arts organizations and young people still based in the Mission despite growing gentrification and change.

“We wanted to counter the invisibility of the artists, families, and young people of the neighborhood and provide a platform for their voices and experiences,” says Krissy Keefer, founder and director of Dance Brigade and Dance Mission Theater. “This is still a place where art and culture thrive and families live. Being poor, brown, young, a girl is no reason to be overlooked. It felt important to empower youth to act on behalf of their hood and to create a way for these young people to network and share learning.”

To that end, Dance Mission is facilitating a series of workshops in February for participating youth performers in the lead up to the event. During these, the young people are sharing art forms and

exchanging ideas about themes for pieces from evictions to deportations, gang violence to excessive police force. They are also gathering for work-in-progress showings.

“Having the Youth Art Festival in the Mission is important because art is the perfect form for inclusivity and unity,” says 19-year-old Daniela García of Loco Bloco. “In art, there is no right or wrong answer. The problem with society and youth today is that we are always told we are wrong and don’t have a voice. This is why art is so important. Art can save many of our lives and is a universal language.”

**The Mission Youth Arts Festival takes place Saturday, March 10, 2018 from 1-4pm (performances begin at 2pm) at Potrero del Sol Park (formerly La Raza Park) at Potrero and Cesar Chavez Streets in San Francisco (entrance at 25<sup>th</sup> and San Bruno). The event is free for all ages, and picnics are encouraged. For more information, the public should visit [dancemission.com](http://dancemission.com) or call 415-826-4441.**

The public is also invited to participate in free, 30-minute mini classes on the art forms presented at the Festival from taiko to samba on Sunday, May 11, 2018 from 11am-2pm. All levels and ages welcome. More information at [dancemission.com](http://dancemission.com).

This project is made possible with the support of the San Francisco Arts Commission, Grants for the Arts’ Neighborhood Arts Collaborative, Voluntary Arts Contribution Fund, Calle 24, and SF Rec and Park.

## **ABOUT DANCE MISSION THEATER**

Dance Mission Theater is an artist driven space dedicated to inclusiveness, fairness, and justice. We create, produce, present, and teach feminist and multicultural dance/theater, engaging a diverse group of Bay Area artists, audiences, and students. Many female, queer, racially mixed, and culturally specific ensembles consider Dance Mission Theater their artistic home, creating a thriving inter-generational community. Dance Mission Theater is also the home to Krissy Keefer’s Dance Brigade, San Francisco’s groundbreaking, social-change dance company, and Grrrl Brigade, Dance Brigade’s youth leadership dance company.

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