

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE March 1, 2013

TO Members of the Arts, Culture & Libraries Committee:
Ann Margolin (Chair), Delia Jasso (Vice Chair), Jerry Allen, Tennell Atkins, Vonciel Jones Hill

SUBJECT Dallas Jazz Appreciation Month

On Monday, March 4, 2013 the committee will be briefed on Dallas Jazz Appreciation Month by staff from the Sammons Center for the Arts. Briefing materials are attached for your review.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joey Zapata'.

Joey Zapata
Assistant City Manager

Attachment

cc: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager
Thomas P. Perkins, Jr., City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Daniel Solis, Administrative Judge

A.C. Gonzalez, First Assistant City Manager
Ryan S. Evans, Assistant City Manager
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Stephanie Cooper, Assistant to the City Manager



WHAT IS JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH?

Jazz Appreciation Month, set in April every year, is intended to draw public attention to the glories of jazz as both an historical and a living treasure. The idea is to encourage musicians, concert halls, schools, colleges, museums, libraries, jazz presenters and public broadcasters to offer special programs on jazz every April.

In August, 2003 at the behest of the Smithsonian the U.S. Congress passed legislation which was signed by the President: Public Law 108-72, declaring:

“(1) the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History should be commended for establishing a Jazz Appreciation Month; and

(2) musicians, schools, colleges, libraries, concert halls, museums, radio and television stations, and other organizations should develop programs to explore, perpetuate, and honor jazz as a national and world treasure.”

The purpose of Jazz Appreciation Month is to draw greater public attention to the extraordinary heritage and history of jazz and its importance as an American cultural heritage. In addition, JAM is intended to stimulate the current jazz scene and encourage people of all ages to participate in jazz—to study the music, attend concerts, listen to jazz on radio and recordings, read books about jazz, and support institutional jazz programs. Organizations and communities all over the country are encouraged to participate in their own way.

In honor of this important national initiative, a number of jazz presenters, jazz educators and jazz supporters in Dallas came together to create a collective initiative which is now called D’JAM or Dallas Jazz Appreciation Month, and are presenting a series of events in April of 2013 highlighting and showcasing jazz in the greater Dallas community. This volunteer collective includes nonprofit arts groups, universities, festivals, Arts Magnet high schools, cultural centers, jazz clubs and churches.

DALLAS PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Booker T. Washington High School for the Visual and Performing Arts – Jazz Studies Dept

CBS/Oasis

Dallas Jazz Piano Society

Dallas Museum of Art – Jazz in the Atrium

KERA - Art & Seek

Latino Cultural Center

Sammons Center for the Arts - Sammons Jazz

Sandaga Jazz

SMU - Meadows School for the Arts

South Dallas Cultural Center

Southside on Lamar Gallery

St. Paul United Methodist Church

TeCo Theatrical Productions – Bishop Arts Theater Center Jazz Series

University of North Texas - School of Music

University of Texas Dallas – School of Arts & Humanities

Uptown Jazz Dallas

APRIL EVENTS

D’JAM Link:

<http://www.my.calendars.net/djam/d27/04/2013?authenticate=GNHXDFWAOUBEQORRMLRHF&display=M&style=B>

GREAT DAY IN DALLAS POSTER

There are numerous events scheduled throughout the month of April in many venues in Dallas and beyond. A calendar of events is being developed and will be posted on KERA's ArtandSeek website. To kick off Dallas Jazz Appreciation Month last year, the collective organizers of D'JAM recreated the famous photograph shot by Art Kane in August of 1958 of 57 significant jazz musicians entitled "Great Day In Harlem". Well-known Dallas Photographer, Jesse Hornbuckle photographed 48 local jazz artists to create the "Great Day in Dallas" poster which is being sold to raise funds for D'JAM.

PURPOSE OF DALLAS JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH

There is a pervasive misconception that there is no jazz in Dallas. In fact there is a lot of great jazz music being produced in our community and Dallas Jazz Appreciation Month is designed to educate the public about where they can find this great music right here in our own community. It is our hope that we will be able to grow this initiative into an exciting month of jazz events each year that will showcase the talented jazz artists in our community, and attract visitors and tourists to enjoy jazz events in Dallas year-round.