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## Vacant Lot Showcases Visual, Musical Artists

Story

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Posted: Friday, August 13, 2010 10:59 am

By Darcy Leigh Richardson  
Editor | 0 comments

It promises to be a showcase of some very unlikely combinations — chantilly lace and industrial steel, classical music and urban hip-hop — that hopefully will transform a two-day event into a lasting impression.

This Friday, Aug. 13, and Saturday, Aug. 14, the Summer And Music (S.A.M) free concert series is partnering with the Arts Council and the Long Beach Redevelopment Agency's (RDA) "ALOT Series" to bring an art installation and a young violin virtuoso, Paul Dateh, to a vacant lot at Ocean Boulevard and Lime Avenue.

The "ALOT Series," paid for with a \$75,000 two-year grant from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, launched in March with a performance of the Khmer Arts Academy and Los Angeles-based Collage Dance Theatre.

The second art installation in the series, which finds creative uses for the city's vacant lots, is dubbed "Urban Lab: Chantilly Clad." Greenmeme, an East Los Angeles public art and design firm, will erect a site-specific stage with a canopy at the corner of Ocean Boulevard and Lime Avenue.

At 5 p.m. tonight, the piece will be dedicated to kick off the weekend's events. Freya Bardell and Brian Howe, the founders and artists behind Greenmeme, were inspired by the juxtaposition of the industrial aspects of the Port of Long Beach and the city's nautical history.

Bardell said the stage is constructed of cargo pallets and the deck for spectators is made of reclaimed lumber. A hanging canopy of 30,000 linear feet of boat rope, woven and tied to look like lace, will hang from three steel cranes positioned at ends of the stage.

Another facet of the installation will include areas of excavated soil on the vacant lot and greenery that residents will be encouraged to plant.

"We're not gallery artists — we use the urban as a canvas," Bardell said. "We want the site to be usable by the public, beyond the art piece. We hope the stage is a tool to inspire the public to use the (vacant) space as a performance venue, or just to sit with friends and have a cup of coffee."

The stage will be the backdrop for the performance of the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music student Paul Dateh, who will play the violin in harmony with hip-hop beats spun by DJ Inka One. Justin Hectus, co-founder of the S.A.M. series, said he watched Dateh's YouTube video of his collaboration with DJ Inka One earlier this year and found the inspiration for a concert combining music styles typically thought of as inharmonious.

"When you're dealing with talent that has (Dateh's) kind of notoriety, usually it's difficult to get the person to come and play," Hectus said. "But I approached Paul and he was interested in the concept. He's going to bring two other violinists with him to play on Friday and Saturday ... the idea struck a chord with him."

Hectus said Dateh's style of weaving classical music with syncopated rhythms on the violin is in tune with the interwoven lace sculpture in the public art piece.

"The (S.A.M) series for us has been interesting and challenging, and we try to give each concert its own identity," Hectus said. "But this is the show that doesn't have a built-in audience like jazz or funk or blues. Anyone can come to this and enjoy what they will hear."

Dateh will play at 7 p.m. tonight and Saturday. At 5:30 p.m. Friday and at 6 p.m. Saturday, a panel comprised of Jay Lopez, executive director of the Downtown Los Angeles Art Walk, and Susan Obrow, co-manager of Cultural Affairs in Culver City, will participate in a symposium about public art, moderated by Bixby Knolls Business

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Improvement Association Executive Director Blair Cohn.

Those attending tonight also can learn how to make lace during an artist-led workshop at 6 p.m.

For more information about this weekend's events, visit [www.artslb.org](http://www.artslb.org).



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