

Hello All,

West Oakland's first summer of Friday Night Live events has come to a close. Over the past six weeks, we have seen over 580 neighborhood residents flock to Brockhurst & Market to engage with dozens of different community leaders and organizations. Generous donations and public funding allowed us to feed all attendees, and give away prizes ranging from Raiders tickets and Oakland Zoo tickets to skateboards, fresh fruit, and barber passes. We had seven youth interns working on the program, who have said they are proud of the positive impact they had on their community, and feel that they gained valuable professional skills through working on the project. It was also the partnership between the City of Oakland and the M. Robinson Baker YMCA that helped make this event possible.

We are fortunate to have had so many passionate organizations and individuals come out to enrich the events. The past six weeks have seen performances by Nakia Dillard, Bay Peace, and Chaz Walker, sports with Lucas Fogarty of DASH Camps, art with John Brumfield of Safe Passages and Richard Felix of ArtisMobilUs, food and nutrition awareness with Larry Davis of People's Grocery, Dr. Gail Meyers of Farms to Grow, and Sandy Rosales of Food Science Buddies. Attendees also had the opportunity to engage with representatives from the City of Oakland, Alameda County, The YMCA, Councilmember Lynette McElhaney, Alternatives in Action, Attitudinal Healing Connection, Hoover Elementary School, Whole Foods, The Crucible, AIDS Project of the East Bay, The Family Resource Center, West Coast Chess Alliance, Chabot Space and Science Center, Drastic Changes Hair Salon, Junior Chef Society, Victory Outreach, Oaklandish Town Skate Park, and the West Oakland Mini-Grant Committee. It was powerful to see so many people willing to donate time and resources to their community.

The 2013 Friday Night Live program provided a safe, enriching space for youth and families to engage with on summer evenings. The events facilitated interaction between residents, and helped community leaders connect with their constituents and strengthen their efforts. Many organizations that participated in the program are already planning future collaborations with one-another. Thanks to all who supported West Oakland's Friday Night Live program, and here's to making next summer's events bigger and better!

Sincerely,

Friday Night Live Team