

THE FREIGHT

LIVE MUSIC. GLOBAL ROOTS.

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Gracie Malley | Communications Manager | gracie.malley@thefreight.org

How Music Tells California's Story: The Freight Showcases Award-Winning Educational Programs at Free Community Festival

BERKELEY, CA (June 11, 2026) — Berkeley arts institution, The Freight (formerly Freight & Salvage) announces the first ever **Education Community Festival on Saturday, July 11th from 12-4:30pm**. This free event welcomes families, teachers, students, music lovers, and members of the community to The Freight for a rare opportunity to experience the educational work that reaches thousands of students and community members throughout the year. Festival attendees can expect a diverse array of programs with multiple workshops, a jam, presentations of The Freight's flagship Golden State of Song WWII Japanese Incarceration and Sonic Tapestry: Indian Music in California modules, and a Freight Singers mini concert.

"This Community Education Festival is a great opportunity for folks of all ages to experience the 'other side' of The Freight's programming," said PC Muñoz, The Freight's Director of Programming. "We not only present 200+ concerts a year — we host hundreds of classes, workshops, and in-school programs annually. On Saturday July 11th everyone has a chance to participate, for free. We're grateful to the City of Berkeley's Civic Arts Program for their generous support of this project!"

Guests can book their FREE tickets for The Freight's **Community Education Festival** at: thefreight.org/edu-fest

Schedule of Events Includes:

12:00 – 1:00 PM, Lobby: Golden State of Song Sonic Tapestry: Indian Music in California presentation

12:00 – 1:00 PM, Room 208: Singing for Fun! with Zoe Ellis

12:00 – 1:30 PM, Room 210: Country/Bluegrass Jam with Richard Brandenburg

1:30 – 2:30 PM, Showroom: Golden State of Song WWII Japanese Incarceration presentation

2:45 – 3:45 PM, Lobby: Roots Zydeco Family Friendly Workshop with Dave Eagle and Craig Berletti

2:45 – 3:45 PM, Room 210: Hip-Hop is Folk Music with Najee Amaranth and Amani Jade
4:00 – 4:30 PM, Showroom: Freight Singers Mini-Concert

At the heart of the Education Festival is Golden State of Song, The Freight's flagship arts integration initiative that brings California history to life through music. The program brings to life Indigenous, immigrant, and migrant communities's music and stories to help students connect with the people and culture that has shaped California. Golden State of Song is currently serving students throughout the Berkeley Unified School District, Vallejo City Unified School District, Mill Valley Elementary School District, Albany Unified School district, and is actively looking to expand to additional schools.

“Golden State of Song is the crown jewel of The Freight's educational and community engagement program, bringing our mission of celebrating culture, connecting communities, and inspiring creativity to elementary school students across the Bay Area,” said Jen Moser, The Freight's Program Manager. “The music presented during Golden State of Song assemblies connects students to their history lessons by tying their embodied reactions to the sounds and stories of people in front of them to what were previously just facts in a textbook. History is alive and singing in front of them, with Golden State of Song artists who are intimately connected to their curriculum.”

Since its launch, Golden State of Song has become a hallmark of The Freight's education programming, helping students explore subjects ranging from Indigenous California music traditions to the experiences of immigrant and migrant communities through live music, storytelling, and culturally grounded instruction. Through these modules, The Freight continues its mission of using music to connect and strengthen communities while preserving cultural music traditions for future generations.

###

About The Freight

The Freight has been a beloved Berkeley institution since 1968, when it opened its doors as an 87-seat coffee house on San Pablo Avenue. Now based in the heart of Downtown Berkeley, we welcome audiences and artists from around the world to a venue renowned for its world-class sound, intimate atmosphere, and rich musical legacy. The Freight is a vital home for music with deep roots from around the world that celebrates cultures, connects communities, and inspires creativity.

<https://thefreight.org/>

About Golden State of Song

Golden State of Song enriches and enlivens social studies curriculum by bringing the sounds and stories of California history to classrooms and auditoriums across the state. Through dynamic presentations consisting of musical repertoire and historical information, The Freight's

teaching artists help students viscerally connect with their Social Studies lessons in a new and multidimensional way.

<https://www.goldenstateofsong.com/>

##

The Freight's FREE Education Festival FACT SHEET

WHAT: The Freight's FREE Education Festival

WHERE: The Freight, 2020 Addison Street, Berkeley, CA

WHEN: Saturday, July 11, 12-4:30PM (doors open at 11AM)

COST: FREE

LEARN MORE: thefreight.org/edu-fest

Media Contact:

Gracie Malley

Communications Manager

gracie.malley@thefreight.org