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Rhythmix Cultural Works presents
Island City Waterways

Back for a second year, the popular, roving art event brings a new chapter of Alameda history to life through music, dance, theater, and storytelling

Saturday and Sunday, May 19 & 20, 2018
Four performances each day at 10am, 11:45am, 1:30pm, and 3:15pm
FREE FOR ALL AGES

(Alameda, CA)—Rhythmix Cultural Works (RCW) presents Island City Waterways, a site-specific public art event that animates Alameda’s past and present through music, dance, theater, storytelling, and more. Following up on its popular debut in 2016, this year’s production, presented in association with East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD), tells a fresh story in a stunning, new location as a cast of forty actors, dancers, and musicians leads audiences on an easy stroll around Crab Cove, Crown Memorial State Beach for a 75-minute performance that brings to vibrant life the Cove’s rich history and celebrates the sea.

Featuring actors Ed Holmes and Bob Ernst, the dancers of Kim Epifano’s Epiphany Productions, the percussionists and musicians of Maze Daiko, performers from Gamelan Sekar Jaya, the Prescott School Stilt Walkers, and guest artists Mark Izu and Brenda Wong Aoki, Island City Waterways is free for all ages and takes place Saturday and Sunday, May 19 & 20, 2018 with four performances each day at 10am, 11:45am, 1:30pm, and 3:15pm. Tours reserved exclusively for Alameda Unified students take place Friday, May 18.

“We had a such fantastic response to the first Island City Waterways, that I started scouting for our next location the following week,” says Janet Koike, founder of RCW. “It’s inspiring to create art for and about our community here in Alameda, and we love this opportunity to share its colorful past and inviting present with the entire Bay Area. Island City Waterways will bring together the energy of so many truly talented artists to help EBRPD share the remarkable history of Crab Cove.”

This year's production, created by Koike, directed by acclaimed clown, actor, and director Jeff Raz, written by SF Mime Troupe veteran Ed Holmes, and choreographed by award-winning dance maker Kim Epifano, tells the story of the land at Crab Cove and how it was shaped by the water around it. Carnies and bathing beauties start the show off with a walk down Memory Lane, back to the Roaring Twenties when the area was the home of Neptune Beach, an amusement park with extravagant public baths. Then, following a drum corps, audiences visit "Glory of the Seas," a WWII-era maritime officer training station, where they will join the trainees for drills. Ryujin the Dragon Queen spins a tale of ecological warning on the shores of the first estuary marine reserve in California, established in 1980. And finally, Japanese taiko drummers, Balinese gamelan performers, musicians, and contemporary dancers take to the beach for a dazzling 'Island to Island' finale that pays tribute to our shared waters and the global community's efforts to protect them.

Along the way, audience members will be invited to participate in a variety of art and environmental activities including a chance to share their thoughts about the water in a recording kiosk at the Crab Cove Visitor Center.

"East Bay Regional Park District is constantly looking for new opportunities to connect visitors to their parks, by providing innovative programs that reach the community in new, out-of-the-box ways," says Morgan Dill, Naturalist at Crab Cove. "The opportunity to work with Rhythmix Cultural Works is an exciting one that highlights the rich natural and cultural history of Crab Cove in ways only possible through collaboration. We look forward to Island City Waterways performances and the chance it gives audiences, young and old alike, to discover (or re-discover) this beloved park in their community."

The event is free, but online pre-registration is recommended as space per tour is limited. Audience members are advised to arrive at the Crab Cove Visitor Center at least 30 minutes in advance to check in at registration and enjoy pre-show activities including the opportunity to make a sun print with artist Ginny Parsons, check out EBRPD's museum of coastal cleanup oddities, learn about collecting "nurdles," and have a chance to join the fish friend club. Audience members should dress in layers and wear comfortable walking shoes.

For additional information about Island City Waterways, visit islandcitywaterways.org.

Island City Waterways is supported in part by generous grants from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Fleishhacker Foundation, and The MacPherson Fund.

ABOUT RHYTHMIX CULTURAL WORKS

Celebrating 10 years, Rhythmix Cultural Works, Alameda's destination for the arts, is a nonprofit community arts organization where diverse cultures come together to perform, inspire, teach, and interact. With a flexible 150-seat theater, gallery space, and classroom, Rhythmix supports local, regional, and international artists in the presentation of their work and encourages broad participation in the arts. The venue has presented performances by award-winning artists such as

Mads Tolling, John Santos, Caminos Flamencos, Will Durst, Brenda Wong Aoki, and Gamelan Sekar Jaya, among many others. Annually, the group produces and hosts dozens of live performances, art exhibitions, community events, classes, workshops, and seasonal camps for youth, families, and adults.

Rhythmix has received support from the James Irvine Foundation, the California Arts Council, the Zellerbach Family Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the San Francisco Foundation, and the East Bay Community Foundation, among others. To date, it is the only arts organization in Alameda to receive a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, which was awarded through the agency's Challenge America Fast-Track program.

For more information about Rhythmix, including a list of upcoming events, visit rhythmix.org.

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