

What's Happening at the Historic Recreation Park Bandshell?



*The historic 1929 bandshell façade and seating
(photo courtesy Maureen Neeley 2016)*

By Steve Pruitt, Amy Witten, and Maureen Neeley

Built in 1929, the Recreation Park Bandshell at 7th Street and Park Avenue is 95 years old this year! The Bandshell is the only public building in Long Beach constructed in the Spanish Baroque Revival style. The clay roofed stucco building features beautiful columns with Malibu style tile and detailed art stone molding above the large stage. It's a great public space featuring bench seating for over 600 people and generous surrounding park space for picnicking while watching performances. This City of Long Beach Historic Landmark once hosted many State Picnics, local and municipal band concerts, theater performances, Long Beach Junior College graduations, and even President Richard Nixon.

ReActivation and Restoration Plans

A group of volunteers, the **Friends of Recreation Park Bandshell** ("FORPBS"), is working to bring back a sense of community ownership to this often-forgotten gem. In reviving the Bandshell to its former glory, FORPBS is fiscally sponsored by the nonprofit Partners of Parks and is using two methods to achieve this goal: **ReActivation and Restoration** of the Bandshell. The 2024 Calendar is filled with FREE Activities and Events! In addition, the Restoration goal was jumpstarted with a \$50,000 grant from the Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association for a late-2024 restoration of the stage. FORPBS appreciates the support of Kristina Duggan's 3rd Council office, Supervisor Janice Hahn, the Port of Long Beach, the Arts Council, the Long Beach Community Foundation, and the Zaferia Business Association.

How can you support the Recreation Park Bandshell?

One - Come to the events! **Two** - Become a Friend of Friends of Recreation Park Bandshell by donating what you can. FORPBS plans, produces, manages, and fundraises for every show. Expenses include city fees, some promotional expenses, and the very important expense of paying local musicians and actors for their performances! Please support live music and theater in Long Beach! Visit FORPBS.ORG for complete details, sign up for the mailing list, donate, and come enjoy the FREE public events at **The Shell at Rec Park** this summer! 🎵

Live at The Shell*

Jun 2, 4 - 7 pm	High School Battle of the Bands Contest
Jun 20,21,22, 8-10 pm	Shakespeare by the Sea - Cardenio
Jun 23, 6-7:30 pm	LB Camerata Singers: A Sondheim Tribute Review
Jun 28, 29, 8-10 pm	Shakespeare by the Sea - Henry IV
Jun 30, 12-8 pm	KJAZZ Bubba Jackson Memorial Concert

7 Saturdays of Summer

July 13, 4-7 pm	Bands TBD
July 20, 4-7 pm	Manuel the Band
July 27, 4-7 pm	Bands TBD
Aug 3, 6-7:30 pm	LB Camerata Singers The Music of Laurel Canyon Concert
Aug 10, 4-7 pm	King Salmon
Aug 17, 4-7 pm	Bands TBD
Aug 24, 4-7 pm	Knyght Ryder
Sept 7, 4-7 pm	Tribute Band Festival
Sept 15, 10 am-4 pm	Long Beach Gives Concert and Fair

**Confirm details by visiting forpbs.org/cal*

