



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
**San Diego Public Library**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Tuesday April 23, 2013

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Valencia Park/  
Malcolm X Branch Library  
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***“Unsung and Off the Chain” Fundraiser in Celebration of Black Music Month***

**SAN DIEGO** – On Saturday, June 8, 2013, the Valencia Park/Malcolm X Branch Library & Performing Arts Center will host **“Unsung and Off the Chain,”** a musical tribute honoring African American performers during Black Music Month. The musical event and theatrical production will start at 7:00 p.m. and is a fundraiser to benefit the San Diego Public Library. All monies raised will be donated to Park/Malcolm X Branch Library for the purchase of children and teen books and to the City Heights/Weingart Branch Library & Performance Annex for future programming. The suggested donation is a sliding scale of \$5.00 to \$25.00, which is tax deductible.

Prior to the evening show at 7:00 p.m., there will be pre-show activities occurring outside on library grounds from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Included are an International food and vendor fair with live music provided by The Matthews Company, a free fashion show by Ethnicity’s Unique Boutique, free face painting, free health screenings, free HIV testing, a silent auction and Funk for Fitness (dance-a-thon guaranteed to make you sweaty and healthy).

Unsung and Off the Chain is appropriate for teens and adults and stars The PGK Dance Project, Natasha Ridley, Norman Braxton, Chris Grinston, Bobby Hearn, Jimmy Lovett, Jr, Pete Miesner, Maria Reid, Carlos Silva and Linny Thomas.

June is Black Music Month. Black Music Month was created in the mid 70’s by legendary radio pioneer Jack “The Rapper” Gibson, Kenny Gamble, Ed White and other members of the Black Music Association to highlight the contributions of black musicians, as well as the importance of black radio. In 1979, President Jimmy Carter signed a bill declaring June Black Music Month, to acknowledge Black Americans’ contribution to America’s musical culture. Enslaved Africans blended their traditional musical styles with the influences and realities of their new equipment to create even more innovative sounds. Recognized and cherished the world over, African American musical genres include blues, jazz, gospel, rhythm and blues, and hip-hop, as well as their many variations.

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Please call (619) 527-3405 for more information. The Valencia Park/Malcolm X Branch Library is located at 5148 Market St. San Diego, CA 92114. The Library's hours of operation are Monday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday 12:30 to 8:00 p.m., Thursday and Friday 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at [www.sandiegolibrary.org](http://www.sandiegolibrary.org)

*Inspiring lifelong learning through connections to knowledge and each other.*

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