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COLUMBIA FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS PRESENTS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF LONG REACH VILLAGE

Two-Day Festival Includes a Variety of Art, Music, Food, and Special Performances

Columbia, MD (September 13, 2021) - Columbia Festival of the Arts (Columbia, MD) announced today that it will host an outdoor festival to commemorate the **50th Anniversary of the Long Reach Village** on Friday, October 15 from 5 pm to 9 pm and Saturday, October 16 from 11 am to 9 pm in the Long Reach Village Center in Columbia, Maryland. This not-to-be-missed weekend celebration will bring together acclaimed music and performing arts entertainment, an arts and crafts show and sale, food trucks, family friendly programming, and more. The Long Reach 50th Anniversary Celebration is presented in partnership with Howard County Government with additional support from the Columbia Association. This event will follow all federal, state, and county guidelines for COVID safety and social distancing.

“What better way to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Long Reach Village than to bring our community together to enjoy great music and art, taste great food by local vendors, plus activities for the entire family,” says Robert Neal Marshall, Executive Director, Columbia Festival of the Arts. “Doodle Hatch is so unique – unleashed imagination, and Squonk Opera is a huge spectacle act not to be missed. On the Long Reach stage, we have a fantastic line up of international and local music performances. You can literally take a walk through history, enjoy hands-on activities in the family area, and much more. Folks are looking for ways to come together after so many months, and we are excited to collaborate with the Howard County Executive, Dr. Calvin Ball, to do so in a safe and careful way, celebrating the culture, diversity and beauty of Long Reach Village.”

Howard County Executive Calvin Ball added: "As one of Columbia's oldest and largest Village Centers, we're thrilled to help Long Reach celebrate their 50th year. While the Village Center has changed over the past five decades, it's an exciting central hub for art, education, entrepreneurs and economic empowerment. Here's to another amazing 50 years of Long Reach rising and thriving."

Highlights from the upcoming Long Reach 50th Anniversary Celebration include:

- Squonk Opera's new project, *Hand to Hand*, featuring a whimsical, imaginative production that incorporates two hands as large as houses with original music, design, and staging. The New York Times has called Squonk Opera "a multimedia troupe of infinite jest with an imagination to match." The Long Reach 50th Celebration will be the last stop on Squonk's fall tour that includes stops at Purdue University and Lincoln Center in New York. Squonk will give multiple performances of *Hand to Hand* as well as post-show backstage tours and workshops.

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- The Long Reach Stage, featuring musical acts including Vanessa Collier, an internationally acclaimed multi-instrumentalist who weaves funk, soul, rock, and blues, and grew up right here in Columbia; LADAMA, a Latin alternative band that blends multiple genres, sings in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, and has been featured at Lincoln Center and on the NPR Music Tiny Desk Concert series; Damon Foreman, a beloved Howard County musician and educator who has performed with artists such as Gladys Night and Parliament Funkadelic; DOGO, whose music features the Bobobo, Kamou, and Simpa rhythms of Togo; indie pop singer-songwriter Marielle Kraft; and more.
- Fine Arts & Crafts Show and sale featuring over 20 artists that represent a variety of mediums as well as functional and wearable art.
- Family-friendly craft projects from Doodle Hatch including creating upcycled dangles for “The Magic Wishing Tree” art installation, which will remain in the Village Center until Spring 2022, mural painting for the “Above the Sea” permanent public art installation sponsored by the United Way of Maryland, and oversized games to play.
- Participation from merchants and arts organizations inside the Village Center including the African Art Museum, Roll Up and Dye, Columbia Arts Center’s outdoor ceramic arts sale featuring hand-crafted functional pottery, Vegan Soul Bakery, Every Kid Can Cook, Power 52, Community Action Council of Howard County and more.
- Local food trucks rotating throughout the two days offering a variety of food choices.
- The Columbia Archives will present a walk-along exhibit to celebrate the 50th Birthday of the Village of Long Reach. Through items found in the Columbia Archives’ collections, visitors can explore how the village has changed and grown over time, and how the community has come together and flourished.
- Kids Comedy and Magic Show featuring Elizabeth Normand and Magician Charlie Ross.

The Long Reach 50th Anniversary Celebration in Columbia, Maryland will take place at Long Reach Village Center located at 8775 Cloudleap Court, Columbia, MD 21045. For more details on the activities that will be part of the two-day festival, please visit <https://longreach50.com>.

Long Reach Village

Developed in the 70’s, Long Reach Village Center (LRVC) is the largest and one of the oldest villages that make up Columbia, Maryland. The Village includes four neighborhoods: Jeffers Hill, Kendall Ridge, Locust Park and Phelps Luck. The Village has evolved over the last fifty years but remains home to more than 15 thousand residents in Howard County. The Village is home to a mix of community and arts organizations, merchants, and open space for community recreation, neighborhood gathering spaces, senior resources and more. The Howard County Government recently committed to the future of Long Reach with a sizeable redevelopment plan to ensure the longevity of the Village continues <https://longreach.org>

About Columbia Festival of the Arts Columbia Festival of the Arts has been bringing engaging, world class arts and entertainment to the community for the past 34 years while promoting diversity, equality, and compassion. Over the past year, Columbia Festival of the Arts unveiled the Columbia Arts Channel and debuted new Film Festival programming. It expects LakeFest to be back with in-person programming in June, 2022. Columbia Festival of the Arts believes that together we all play a role in helping to bring about positive changes through the Arts <https://columbiafestival.org>.

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