



**Living Jazz Honors Sabrina Thomas of Building Futures
with Oakland Citizen Humanitarian Award**

Award Presented at 20th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration
Featuring the Music of Stevie Wonder
Saturday, January 13, 2024, 6:00pm
Paramount Theatre, Oakland

Living Jazz is honoring Sabrina Thomas at the organization's 20th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, featuring the music of Stevie Wonder, on Saturday, January 13, 2024 at the Paramount Theatre in Oakland, CA. This special celebration will feature an exclusive artist lineup of Bay Area musical luminaries performing the music of Stevie Wonder.

Since 1984, Living Jazz has transformed lives through the music, spirit, and culture of jazz in the Bay Area community, by educating students and artists of all ages and abilities. The Oakland Citizen Humanitarian Award highlights the work of an outstanding Oakland resident working tirelessly to make a difference. Recipients are nominated by the City of Oakland Human Services Department and Living Jazz. Previous recipients include Ms. Clarissa Douthard, Executive Director of Parent Voices Oakland; Wendy Jackson, Executive Director of the East Oakland Community Project; and most recently Dr. Noha Aboelata, the founder and CEO of Roots Clinic.

Sabrina Thomas, Emergency Services Program Director at Building Futures, is being honored for her long career building communities for underserved individuals and families, where they are safely and supportively housed, free from homelessness and domestic violence.

"We are so excited to present Sabrina Thomas with our Oakland Citizen Humanitarian Award," says Living Jazz Executive Director Lyz Luke. "Sabrina has been tireless in her effort to ensure shelter and housing in Oakland and throughout Alameda County. She's worked hard to ensure that a new life is possible for those who have been unsheltered, often with children and sometimes in streets, parks, and encampments. We honor her for her commitment and for providing inspiration to so many."

"To me, this award is all about hope and love," says Sabrina Thomas. "Over my long career at Building Futures, I have held positions at every level. But in my heart, I will always be a front-line worker, where the people are. Where we are able to really help and provide solutions to life's many challenges. Thank you, Living Jazz, for this award." Building Futures is a 35-year-old agency providing an array of services for unsheltered people, those at risk of homelessness, and survivors of family violence. Their newest service site is Family Resource Center, a Oakland-based hub for Building Futures'

housing programs providing Alameda County and Oakland-families with case management, mental health and job assistance, housing, household items, food, and clothing. Last year, the agency sheltered 265 children and adults, and helped 506 households with support services and rent assistance. Building Futures is proud to partner closely with the City of Oakland. Learn more at www.bfwc.org.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. musical celebration at the Paramount Theatre in Oakland will be led by Music Director Kev Choice and hosted by Ryan Nicole. The program will present Stevie Wonder's songs reimagined and reinterpreted through exclusive musical collaborations between Aneesa Strings, Awesöme Orchestra Collective, Rhonda Benin, Nona Brown, La Doña, the Living Jazz Children's Project Choir, Oaktown Jazz Workshops, PHER, SFJAZZ High School All-Stars, Babatunji, the Howard Wiley Band, and more.

The MLK Musical Celebration has been made possible through the support of the Oakland City Council and the City of Oakland Cultural Funding Program, California Arts Council, National Endowment for the Arts, Alameda County Arts Commission, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Oakland Central, Visit Oakland, and Community Bank of the Bay.

Living Jazz & SFJAZZ Present

20th Annual Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Featuring the Music of Stevie Wonder

Saturday, January 13, 2024, Doors 6:00pm, Show 7:00pm

Paramount Theatre, Oakland, CA

\$13.50-\$103.50

LivingJazz.org



Congresswoman Barbara Lee, San Leandro Mayor Pauline Cutter, and staff members from Kaiser Permanente at San Leandro Shelter for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service.