



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STREET SYMPHONY BLOCK PARTY AT THE MIDNIGHT MISSION

The Midnight Mission is thrilled to host Street Symphony's first Block Party celebrating the resilience and creativity of the Skid Row Community on Friday, July 12, 2019 from 3:00 PM - 5:30 PM. The Block Party will include live musical performances by **Mission to Midnight**, a home-grown Midnight Mission band; **Las Colibri**, Street Symphony's beloved all female Mariachi ensemble; **DJ Sir Oliver** with a string ensemble; **Urban Voices Project** community choir; **Street Symphony's Jazz Ensemble**; and the **Ashe Drummers from the Heart** specializing in West African percussion.

More than 100 volunteers will be on hand to assist Midnight Mission and Street Symphony staff as they serve 2,000 meals during the performance. Since 2011, the distinguished musicians of Street Symphony have presented over 600 free, live musical engagements at Skid Row Service Providers, LA County Jails, and California State Prisons. But this is the first time Street Symphony has ever performed in the Street!

This event is designed for our homeless and near-homeless community and is open to the general public. The VIPs for this event will be members of the Skid Row community, including clients and residents from our community partner organizations.

Street Symphony places the power of musical engagement at the heart of critical social issues affecting Southern California and beyond. By creating opportunities for performance and dialogue between world-class professional musicians and communities disenfranchised by homelessness, incarceration and poverty, Street Symphony provides pathways for marginalized communities to find their expressive and creative voices with the vision to create a more just and equitable society.

Skid Row continues to be the epicenter of the homeless capital of the United States. More than 7,000 – 10,000 people may sleep on the streets of downtown Los Angeles on any given night, while almost 58,000 remain homeless in Los Angeles County.

About Street Symphony: Street Symphony, directed by Vijay Gupta, brings live musical outreach and educational workshops to audiences without access to the arts, throughout Southern California. Street Symphony ensembles perform at LA County Jails and homeless shelters in downtown Los Angeles, as well as public events for the community-at-large, aimed to raise awareness for issues of mental health, incarceration, and homelessness. Their mission at large is to bring music to the most underserved communities throughout L.A. For more information about Street Symphony; please visit <http://streetsymphony.org/>.

About The Midnight Mission: Founded in 1914, The Midnight Mission offers paths to self-sufficiency to men, women and children who have lost direction. Our emergency services and 12-step recovery, family living, job training, education and workforce development programs offer a compassionate bridge to achieve and maintain healthy, productive lives. We remove obstacles and provide the accountability and structure that people who are experiencing homelessness need to be productive in their communities. Our conviction and commitment to their success define us. For additional information, please visit www.midnightmission.org.