Free Music and Arts Festival: Venice Beach Music Fest 9! Saturday, August 23, 2014

Full day of music, dance, and arts featuring Willie Chambers, Greg Douglass (with special guest Barry "The Fish" Melton), The King Brothers, The Untouchables, Jah Faith and The Hashishans, and more, all in the heart of Venice!

VENICE, CA – Back for its ninth year, Venice Beach Music Fest music and arts festival returns to rock the beach with a free, full day of entertainment on Saturday, August 23, 2014, from 11 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. at Windward Plaza (1 Windward Avenue, between the boardwalk and the bike trail). The festival features musical acts, belly dancers, artists, authors, and more. The festival is free and open to the public. An after-show immediately follows at Danny's Venice.

This year's festivities include a vast array of musical offerings. Samba Da Mudança dance and drum troupe kicks off the festivities at 11 a.m. with a samba parade down Ocean Front Walk, and a nonstop day of music follows on the Ocean Stage, featuring a range of local and international talent, including: Roots Collective (multi-genre world beat); The Greg Douglass Band (guitarist from Steve Miller Band, Van Morrison) with special guest Barry "The Fish" Melton, Jah Faith and The Hashishans (reggae), Zen Robbi (swing/funk fusion), The Untouchables (ska), and The King Brothers (blues). VBMF9 is proud to welcome back Willie Chambers of the legendary Chambers Brothers as this year's headliner! Musical sets will be interspersed with dance performances by Samba Da Mudança and Ya Harissa Bellydance Theater. Visit www.VeniceBeachMusicFest.com for more details on VBMF9 performers.

Visual artists include: art by sky, Audrey McNamara, RaRa SuperStar, Brian Mylius, and more TBA. Venice author Steve Bevilacqua will be signing copies of his book, Kafka at the Beach. Angel City Brewery will be set up with games, giveaways, and the ACB Canvas Project, a community art project. Eclectic Hoops will have hoops available for play and purchase. Mystic Rainbow will have their amazing tie-dye clothing featured at the merchandise booth. The festival also is proud to feature local nonprofit organizations such as the Venice Art Crawl and the Free Venice Beachhead.

An after party will be hosted by Danny's Venice (23 Windward Avenue) from 7 p.m. until 1 a.m. Musical acts performing at the after party include: Gumbo Brothers, Hi-Stereo, and Milo Gonzalez and Friends with special guest Chuck Dukowski (of Black Flag).

This free festival is made possible by support from local and national businesses that have proven their dedication to preserving the arts in our community. Thank you to: Venice Beach Suites & Hotel, Al & Ed's Autosound Marina Del Rey, The Sidewalk Cafe, Venice Boardwalk Association, Jody Maroni's Sausage Kingdom, Danny's Venice, Angel City Brewery, Volcano Tea House, Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps, Fresh Brothers, Galactic Drifter, Maui and Sons Venice Beach, Bartels' Harley-Davidson, Free Venice Beachhead, Whole Foods Venice, Venice Paparazzi, Zelda's Corner Deli, Animal House, Moses Jewelry, and Venice Breeze Suites.

Over the past nine years, Venice Beach Music Fest has grown along with its sister festival, Venice Spring Fling, to become a beloved annual community event featuring local and world-class musical and artistic talent. Previous festivals have included performances by Barry "The Fish" Melton (Country Joe and The Fish), Chuck Dukowski (Black Flag), Norwood Fisher (Fishbone), Michael Hinton (Merl Saunders and the Rainforest Band) and Tracii Guns (L.A. Guns). According to local arts advocate and producer Milton Rosenberg, "Both festivals are dedicated to preserving Abbot Kinney's vision of Venice as a place to enjoy world class arts and entertainment at the beach."

Visit www.VeniceBeachMusicFest.com for additional information. Connect with the community at www.facebook.com/VeniceBeachMusicFest. This event is endorsed by the Venice Chamber of Commerce.