

# City of Dallas News Release

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City of Dallas

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## City of Dallas Celebrates “Jazz Appreciation Month” April 1-30, 2008

The City of Dallas joins the Smithsonian Institution's celebration of “Jazz Appreciation Month” with the proclamation of April 2008 as “Jazz Appreciation Month in Dallas” by the Dallas City Council. Mayor Tom Leppert and City Council will be joined by representatives from the cultural community at the April 2, 2008 City Council meeting to celebrate the richness of the jazz community in the Dallas area.

Jazz Appreciation Month was established by the Smithsonian Institution and the Museum of American History in 2001 to highlight the vitality of jazz, widely recognized as an original American art form. April 2008 marks the first time Dallas celebrates the month through a partnership of the Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs and the Black Academy of Arts & Letters.

To commemorate the proclamation of April 2008 as “Jazz Appreciation Month in Dallas,” the Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs and TBAAL have published a brochure that highlights a variety of jazz events and performances that are scheduled throughout the month of April in the Dallas area. The Dallas JAM brochure lists 15 jazz events scheduled for April 2008 such as:

- An evening with Bobby Sanabria and the Dallas Latin Jazz Band at the Latino Cultural Center (April 11)
- The popular “Poets N’ Jazz # 3” at the Black Academy of Arts & Letters (April 11-12)
- A jazz showcase at Richland College (April 15)
- A midnight jam at the South Dallas Cultural Center (April 18)
- A jazz improv session with Jampact at the Bath House Cultural Center (April 19)

The brochure is available at the City of Dallas cultural centers and can also be downloaded at [www.dallasculture.org](http://www.dallasculture.org).

### **About Jazz Appreciation Month**

The Smithsonian Institution and its Museum of American History first announced the celebration of Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM) in 2001. Branford Marsalis helped kick off the first JAM in April 2002. The Smithsonian Institution has one of the most comprehensive collections of jazz in the world – including jazz artifacts, documents, recordings and oral histories. Its jazz programs include exhibitions, publications and recordings, concerts, educational workshops, master classes, lectures, and its own big band, the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra.

In August 2003, the U.S. Congress passed legislation which was signed by President George W. Bush, Public Law 108-72, declaring “(1) the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History should be commended for establishing a Jazz Appreciation Month; and (2) musicians, schools, colleges, libraries, concert halls, museums, radio and television stations, and other organizations should develop programs to explore, perpetuate, and honor jazz as a national and world treasure.”

The City of Dallas joins in the celebration of Jazz Appreciation Month by hosting jazz programs at several of its cultural facilities and publishing a brochure that highlights a selection of the variety of events that are being held throughout our community this month. These events are planned independently by the artists and organizations that are presenting them. Many of the groups listed in this brochure offer jazz events on a regular basis thru the year, not just in April. **Celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month in April... and enjoy jazz in Dallas throughout the year!**