



VISIT OAKLAND FEATURES WEST OAKLAND NEIGHBORHOOD FOR JULY OAKLAND SPOTLIGHT PROGRAM

Arts & Culture, Restaurants and Musical History Welcomes Visitors

Oakland, CA (July 6, 2017) — [Visit Oakland](#), the city’s official destination marketing organization, encourages visitors to explore the neighborhood of West Oakland during the month of July. With easy accessibility from BART and freeways, West Oakland is a great neighborhood to explore, offering art & cultural attractions, unique dining options, and blues & jazz history.

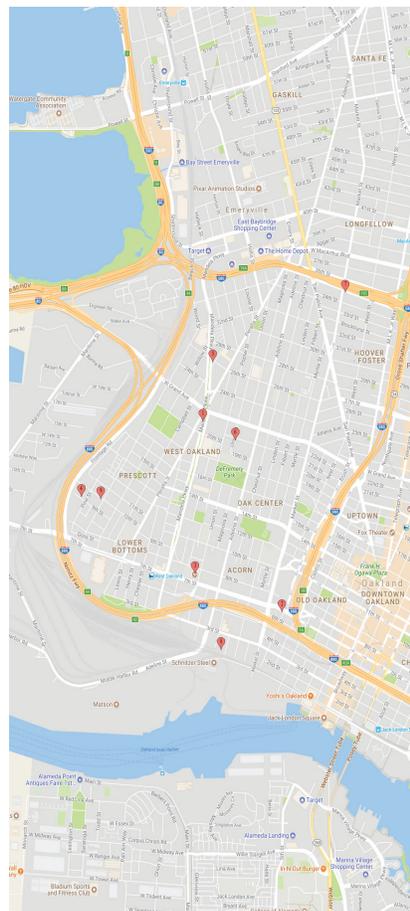
“West Oakland embodies the history of African Americans in the American West within its streets, storefronts and public spaces. From the blues and jazz clubs that once lined 7th Street, to the grove at DeFremery Park honoring the Black Panthers and the new Black Arts and Business District on 14th Street, all of West Oakland carries the stories and traditions of a rich and enduring culture,” said **Councilmember Lynette Gibson McElhaney**, who represents West Oakland on the Oakland City Council.

“I decided to open my business in West Oakland almost 10 years ago because of its rich history as a vibrant neighborhood,” says **Tanya Holland, Owner of Brown Sugar Kitchen**. “It went through some tough times, but I've seen nothing but improvements since I've been here. It's a true live/work community with many of the business owners, such as myself, living in the neighborhood. Whether I'm popping into Mandela Foods for local and sustainable groceries or grabbing a bite at Drip Line, I'm reminded that I have a diverse group of neighbors who are invested in where they live and work.”

WEST OAKLAND

West Oakland, located west of Downtown Oakland and the closest Oakland neighborhood to San Francisco, is a residential and industrial community along the waterfront at the Port of Oakland.

Easy access via AC Transit and the West Oakland BART station makes the neighborhood an ideal location for commuters and visitors coming from across the Bay.



1. Happy Hound Play & Daycare
2. Kinetic Arts Center
3. The Crucible
4. Trapeze Arts
5. Brown Sugar Kitchen
6. Drip Line
7. Local
8. Old Kan Beer & Co
9. 10th and Wood



The area along 7th street in West Oakland was an incubator of Western blues and jazz music. Known as the “Harlem of the West,” Oakland’s Esther’s Orbit Room and Slim Jenkin’s Café were two popular jazz clubs in the mid-20th century that hosted performances by Nat King Cole, BB King, Ike and Tina Turner to name a few.

With many arts & cultural attractions, a rich blues & jazz history and unique dining options, West Oakland is an exciting neighborhood and a wonderful destination for visitors to explore.

EVENTS AND ATTRACTIONS

- [Bicycle and Pedestrian Path](#) (Bay Bridge) - Stretching 2.2 miles along the new eastern span of the Bay Bridge, the path takes visitors past the span's 525-foot signature tower to Yerba Buena Island. Named after the late East Bay Bicycle Coalition founder and Bay Bridge Trail advocate Alex Zuckermann, the path allows unique perspectives of Oakland’s skyline and the entire Bay Area.
- [Blues Walk of Fame](#) - (7th Street near the West Oakland BART station) – Bronze plaques embedded in the sidewalk on the west side of 7th Street commemorate the history of the vibrant history of music in West Oakland.
- [Clawson Neighborhood Walking Tour](#) (City Slicker West Oakland Farm) – On July 30, enjoy an Oakland Heritage Alliance walking tour that explores West Oakland’s history.
- [Free Harbor Tours](#) (540 Water Street) – From May through October 2017, free, 90-minute boat tours are held twice monthly. Visitors learn about the Port, its operations and economic impact on the region while enjoying a unique perspective of the marine terminals.
- [Happy Hound Play & Daycare](#) (2101 Mandela Pkwy) – Offering doggy training, daycare, boarding, and spa services available for dog owners.
- [Kinetic Arts Center](#) (785 7th Street) – Experience trapeze arts, circus arts, gymnastics, juggling and more fun.
- [Middle Harbor Shoreline Park](#) (2777 Middle Harbor Road) – This 38-acre park built and operated by the Port of Oakland for the community has more than two miles of pathways and unprecedented views of the bay, natural habitats and maritime activity.
- [The Crucible](#) (1260 7th Street) – An industrial arts school, offering classes in blacksmithing, welding, woodworking, glass blowing, ceramics and more.
- [Trapeze Arts](#) (1822 9th Street) – Offers flying trapeze and circus arts classes to adults & children.

DINING

- [Brown Sugar Kitchen](#) (2534 Mandela Pkwy) – Updated renditions of soul food classics, such as fried chicken and waffles, served until 3pm daily.
- [Drip Line](#) (1940 Union Street #21) - Serving coffee, baked goods & Cal-Asian eats with a sustainable focus.
- [Local](#) (3446 Market Street) – Low-key socially conscious café, serving baked goods & American basics.
- [Old Kan Beer & Co](#) (95 Linden Street) – Industrial brewery and beer garden serving American pub fare and house-made beer.
- [10th and Wood](#) (945 Wood Street) – Sandwich shop serving globally influenced sandwiches, salads and breakfast.



Follow Oakland Spotlight on social media using **#oaklandspotlight** and **#oaklandloveit**.

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The **Oakland Spotlight** program is Oakland’s first-ever neighborhood promotion initiative designed to support local businesses, spread economic benefits, and expand tourism impact to areas outside of traditional visitor locations. Featured information will include information on where to dine and shop in the neighborhood, as well as information on events and cultural activities happening that month. Venues and attractions will be selected with input from community leaders and groups from each neighborhood.

The program embraces the diversity and richness of Oakland by focusing on a new neighborhood each month, encouraging residents and visitors alike to get out and explore different parts of the city. Visit www.oaklandspotlight.com to learn more about the initiative and featured neighborhoods.

ABOUT VISIT OAKLAND

Visit Oakland is a private, not-for-profit, 501(c)(6) organization, with a 21-member board of directors and full time staff whose goal is to increase tourism’s economic impact to Oakland through destination development and brand management. For more information, visit www.visitoakland.com.

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