



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Tara Dorabji, Communications Director  
[tdorabji@youthspeaks.org](mailto:tdorabji@youthspeaks.org)

**OCTOBER 8, THE COUP TO HEADLINE THE LIFE IS LIVING FESTIVAL  
HONORING THE LEGACY OF THE BLACK PANTHERS ON THEIR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
IN WEST OAKLAND'S LITTLE BOBBY HUTTON PARK**

On Saturday, October 8, 2016 – Youth Speaks, the country's leading spoken word and literary arts organization, will power the free **Life is Living Festival**, at the historic deFremery Park (Little Bobby Hutton) at 1651 Adeline St in West Oakland, celebrating the legacy of the Black Panthers on their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

In the tradition of the Black Panthers, the 9th annual Life is Living Festival kicks off with a free vegan breakfast, connecting food justice with the rising epidemic of Type 2 diabetes and other health and environmental justice issues. The Life is Living Festival is an intergenerational Festival celebrating urban life, spoken word, health and hip hop. The Festival marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Black Panthers and honors the legacy of the Black Panther Party for inspiring the use of culture as a vehicle for social change.

With thousands of intergenerational participants, 50+ local artists and 50+ community organizations, this community-based arts festival celebrates the vibrant cultural history of Oakland. The festival features multiple stages, including a kid's zone, skate park, dance stage, theater by Cal Shakes, new work by Campo Santos, a healing zone, beauty zone, and Oakland's own the Coup is headlining the Festival.

Life is Living places poor communities and communities of color at the center of community development and celebration, and brings high quality multicultural, artistic expression to places not traditionally included in the arts ecosystem. For the past nine years, Youth Speaks has convened partner organizations to host the Life is Living Festival in West Oakland, bringing vibrant communities together and transforming public space. Founded in 1996, Youth Speaks is the leading nonprofit presenter of spoken word performance, education, and youth development programs in the country.

## **ATTENTION CALENDAR EDITORS**

### **WHO:**

Youth Speaks, 50+ Community Organizations and 50+ Artists, including the Coup

### **WHAT:**

The [Life is Living](#) Festival, powered by Youth Speaks, is an intergenerational Festival celebrating urban life, spoken word, health and hip hop. Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Black Panthers, we are honoring the legacy of the Black Panther Party for inspiring the use of culture as a vehicle for social change. Life is Living kicks off with a free vegan breakfast in the tradition of the Panthers. The festival features multiple stages, including a kid's zone, skate park, dance stage, theater by Cal Shakes, new work by Campo Santos, a healing zone, beauty zone, and the Coup is headlining.

### **WHERE:**

deFremery Park (Little Bobby Hutton Park)  
1651 Adeline St. West Oakland

### **WHEN:**

Saturday, October 8 from 10 AM-7 PM

### **FREE**

Check out the [Life is Living video](#)

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