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Oakland

## Party In Uptown To Celebrate Progress

Blanca Torres  
Reporter

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Tom Ehrlich

John Santos, a headliner for Uptown Unveiled.

Tonight's Uptown Unveiled aims to serve as coming out party for a neighborhood that has blossomed from urban blight to hip, trendy and liveable.

Oakland's Uptown, the area just north of downtown, has been infused with more than \$620 million in public and private investment in new housing, restaurants, commercial spaces and rehabilitation of historic buildings such as the Fox Theater.

The event, scheduled from 5 to 10 p.m., will feature live music on four stages, exhibits by local artists and food from neighborhood eateries. Headliners include Latin Jazz artist John Santos and others, Damon & the Heathens and The Kev Choice Ensemble. For a full line-up, [click here](#).

People are encouraged to walk around and visit the various new restaurants, bars, galleries and residential buildings that have come online in recent years. That includes projects like Forest City's Uptown apartments, Signature Properties' Broadway Grand and Resources for Community Development's Fox Courts.

The neighborhood has also incubated its own culinary hub that includes Flora, Ozumo, Pican, Vu's and Luka's Taproom.

Uptown's transformation is a textbook example of what urbanists and green living proponents would call "smart growth." City officials and developers came together to revamp existing structures and create new construction in empty or underutilized lots. The result has been hundreds of new residents moving into an existing neighborhood and supporting dozens of businesses that have opened shop.

Tonight's event was put together by the City of Oakland's Cultural Arts & Marketing Division, Oakland's Community & Economic Development Agency and the Lake Merritt/Uptown Association and the Downtown Oakland Association.

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