

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2025

MACLA and San Jose Jazz Present: ¡WEPA! FEST 2025

A Celebration of Puerto Rican Music and Culture

San José, CA – Get ready to feel the rhythm and sabor as **MACLA** and **San Jose Jazz** proudly present **¡WEPA! FEST 2025** a high-energy celebration of Puerto Rican and Caribbean music and culture. This free, family-friendly event takes place on **Friday, June 13, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM** at Parque de Los Pobladores (in front of MACLA) in downtown San José.

This is the second year of this vibrant celebration, following the success of the 2024 **Día de San Juan Salsa Fest**. In 2025, the event returns with a new name—**WEPA! Fest**—as part of a rebrand that continues to center Puerto Rican culture while expanding to celebrate the broader Caribbean musical and cultural experience.

Event Highlights Include:

Live Performances By:

- [Orquesta Taino](#) – A big band Salsa and Latin Jazz powerhouse led by percussionist/vocalist Aaron Routtenberg, honoring the legacy of icons like Tito Puente and Ray Barretto.
- [Edgardo Cambón & Candela](#) – master percussionist and lead vocalist, Edgardo has performed or recorded with icons including Carlos Santana, Chucho Valdés, and Eddie Palmieri. He leads *Candela*, a vibrant Salsa band known for original compositions, fiery percussion, and infectious stage energy.
- [Latin Rhythm Boys](#) – Brothers Earl and Henry Miranda Jr. lead this high-energy Puerto Rican ensemble blending Jíbaro roots with Salsa swing. Their electrifying sets often feature Grammy-winning collaborators like Willy Torres.
- [DJ Leydis](#) – Originally from Cuba, DJ Leydis infuses her sets with Latin, Caribbean, R&B, and hip-hop rhythms, creating a global dance experience that has earned her collaborations with stars like Erykah Badu and Questlove.

Fun Activities:

- **Interactive Dance Instruction** – Join us for guided Salsa lessons led by experienced instructors.
- **Hands-on Art Stations** – Family-friendly activities celebrating Afro-Caribbean culture.
- **Caribbean Cuisine** – [Luv's Brownies](#) – A beloved San José staple offering rich, decadent brownies with a twist of soul. [Mama Roc's](#) – Caribbean-inspired soul food known for bold flavors, comfort classics, and island
- **Vendor and Resource** area will feature the Bay Area Creative Showcase with local artists and makers, Caribbean-themed products including T-shirts, crafts, and

accessories, and community resource booths offering wellness services and cultural programming.

Event Details:

Name: ¡WEPA! FEST 2025

Date & Time: Friday, June 13, 2025 | 5:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Location: Parque de Los Pobladores (in front of MACLA), 510 South First Street, San José, CA 95113

Admission: FREE and open to the public with RSVP

RSVP via Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/wepa2025>

About ¡WEPA! FEST:

¡WEPA! FEST is an annual cultural event inspired by the joyful Puerto Rican expression “¡WEPA!” Bringing together some of the best Salsa bands in the Bay Area, Caribbean food, vendors, and interactive art-making experiences in one unforgettable night of community celebration.

About MACLA:

MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana is an inclusive contemporary arts space rooted in the Chicano/Latino experience. It supports emerging and established artists and fosters civic dialogue through visual, literary, and performance art.

Website: maclaarte.org | Instagram: [@macla_sanjose](https://www.instagram.com/macla_sanjose)

About San Jose Jazz:

San Jose Jazz is a nonprofit organization that champions jazz and related musical forms through live events, education, and community outreach. Its flagship event, San Jose Jazz Summer Fest, is one of the region’s premier music festivals.

Website: sanjosejazz.org | Instagram: [@sanjosejazz](https://www.instagram.com/sanjosejazz)

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Artist interviews and high-resolution images available upon request.