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## GRandJazzFest announces 2015 dates for fourth annual festival

*DTE Energy Foundation returns as presenting sponsor for West Michigan's only free, weekend-long jazz festival*

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. – JAN. 21, 2015 – **GRandJazzFest** presented by DTE Energy Foundation returns to Rosa Parks Circle in downtown Grand Rapids, Mich., **Aug. 15 and 16**, the fourth consecutive year for West Michigan's only free, weekend-long jazz festival.

**The two-day festival will again be free** thanks to presenting sponsor DTE Energy Foundation, the City of Grand Rapids and other sponsoring organizations and individuals.

"GRandJazzFest is one of the most diverse and well-attended events in West Michigan. As a major event, it has established its own name on the jazz scene in Michigan and the Midwest," DTE Energy Regional Manager Roger Royer said.

More than 10,000 people attended the 2014 festival.

"Grand Rapids loves its jazz," GRandJazzFest Founder Audrey Sundstrom said. "People came from as nearby as local neighborhoods and as far away as other states and Canada. With the great turnout and positive feedback, we're excited to be producing a fourth annual festival."

**Festival planning for 2015 is underway, with artist selections to be announced in the spring.** Like last year, 10 diverse jazz artists and bands will perform,

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including a major headline act.

Sundstrom said diversity of the lineup is key: “Jazz has so many sub-genres – Latin, straight-up, contemporary, soul and big band, to name a few. If diversity has a sound, it’s the sound of jazz.”

“DTE Energy Foundation is proud to support the diversity and vibrancy that GRandJazzFest brings to downtown. We’ve been so pleased with the past three GRandJazzFests and look forward to the fourth annual event!” Royer said.

Grand Rapids city commissioners approved GRandJazzFest as one of 24 events that it will co-sponsor in 2015, a distinction only given to events that have proven to be successful and enrich the community.

In addition to DTE Energy Foundation and the City of Grand Rapids, sponsors for the 2015 event to date include Experience Grand Rapids, Amway Hotel Corporation, Ellis Parking, Swift Printing, Gilmore Collection, Moxie Men Incorporated and Intent Public Relations.

Sponsorship opportunities are available here: <http://grandjazzfest.org/sponsors/>

“We are so grateful to all of our sponsors for their support,” Sundstrom said. “We’re seeking additional sponsors to join our sponsors from last year in bringing a full weekend of free jazz performances to West Michigan!”

People can get a taste of what past GRandJazzFests were like by viewing the “recap” videos here: <http://grandjazzfest.org/newsroom/video/>

More information on GRandJazzFest can be found at [www.grandjazzfest.org](http://www.grandjazzfest.org), and at the festival’s Facebook and Twitter sites – [www.facebook.com/grandjazzfest](http://www.facebook.com/grandjazzfest) and [www.twitter.com/grandjazzfest](http://www.twitter.com/grandjazzfest).

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#### **About GRandJazzFest**

GRandJazzFest presented by DTE Energy Foundation is a community event of the nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization “GR and Jazz” founded in 2012, with the purpose of promoting and bringing awareness of jazz and related arts to new and diverse audiences through educational programs and community events. GRandJazzFest 2014 is a FREE weekend-long event that runs Saturday, Aug. 15, from noon until 10 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 16, from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., featuring jazz artists who are primarily Michigan-based. GRandJazzFest brings together notable jazz performers as well as highlights up-and-coming artists for diverse audiences. GRandJazzFest is being held at Rosa Parks Circle, a central location in the heart of downtown Grand Rapids, where attendees can enjoy music, support local businesses and visit other Grand Rapids attractions. The festival is FREE. More information at [www.grandjazzfest.org](http://www.grandjazzfest.org).