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**Wells Fargo Center for the Arts
Set to Re-Open After \$2.8 Million Theater Renovation;
August 16 – 25 Opening Week Culminates
with Free Concert for the Community**

**August 16 Opening Day features
Patti LaBelle in her only Northern California appearance**

**Re-opening week concludes August 25 with FREE community concert
by US Air Force Band of the Golden West**

SANTA ROSA, CA (July 18, 2013) – After a three-month long, \$2.8 million renovation of the Ruth Finley Person Theater, **Wells Fargo Center for the Arts** will throw open the doors on their new facility on August 16 for the previously announced opening day concert by Grammy Hall of Fame vocalist Patti LaBelle, in her only Northern California appearance. Today, the Center made public their plans for the conclusion of the Opening Week festivities—a FREE concert Sunday, August 25 by the US Air Force Band of the Golden West. The Center will be busy and active during the opening week as their 2013-14 season gets underway. Following Patti LaBelle, opening week continues with folk-rock singer-songwriter **Brandi Carlile** (Sunday, August 18), and the cigar-smoking, scotch-drinking comedian **Ron White: A Little Unprofessional** (Saturday, August 24).

For the August 25 FREE concert at Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, doors open at 1:45p.m. prior to a pre-show discussion with members of the Band at 2pm, and the concert at 3pm. Tickets are free, but reservations are required. An order form can be obtained at wellsfargocenterarts.org, or by visiting the ticket office at 50 Mark West Springs Road in Santa Rosa.

Rick Nowlin, Executive Director, says, “This renovation has been a long time in the making, and we are excited to share the results with the community. From improved sightlines to better accessibility to a raised stage to new seats, audience members will notice a significantly improved experience, and this free concert is our way of saying ‘welcome’ to our friends and neighbors.”

From Travis Air Force Base CA, the United States Air Force Band of the Golden West is a select group of professional Airmen-musicians who support the global Air Force mission by providing outstanding musical

products and services for official military, recruiting, and community relations events, and by fostering America's rich national heritage. The Band of the Golden West Concert Band, the largest ensemble within the organization, represents the professionalism and excellence found every day throughout the Air Force. Touring the western states of California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Nevada, the Concert Band performs a wide variety of music from standard concert band literature and military marches to jazz and pop arrangements, Broadway standards, and of course, patriotic music complete with instrumental soloists and featured vocalists.

Tickets

Tickets for Patti LaBelle, Brandi Carlile, Ron White, and the entire 2013-14 season are available by calling 707.546.3600, online at wellsfargocenterarts.org, or in person at 50 Mark West Springs Road in Santa Rosa.

*Please note that the Randy Travis concert scheduled for Wednesday, August 21 has been canceled.

Tickets for the August 25 concert with the US Air Force Band of the Golden West are free, but reservations are required. An order form can be obtained at wellsfargocenterarts.org, or by visiting the ticket office at 50 Mark West Springs Road in Santa Rosa.

The ticket office is open daily from noon – 6pm.

About Wells Fargo Center for the Arts

A 501(c)(3) non-profit arts and events center, Wells Fargo Center for the Arts is home to world-class performances, nationally recognized education programs, contemporary visual art, and many popular civic events. The Arts Center is located in the heart of the Sonoma wine country and ranked among California's top performing arts presenters. Together with its resident companies, the Center presents more than 100 performances in music, dance, theater, renowned speakers, and comedy; provides education programs serving 30,000 children and adults; and hosts more than 1,000 community events a year. Owned and operated by the Luther Burbank Memorial Foundation, the Center relies on charitable community donations to achieve its mission – to enrich, educate, and entertain. www.wellsfargocenterarts.org

Phase 1 of the "Bridge to the Future" renovation was made possible by generous donations from the Ernest L. and Ruth W. Finley Foundation, Lytton Rancheria – Lytton Band of Pomo Indians, Alan and Susan Seidenfeld, an anonymous donor, and the Board of Directors of the Luther Burbank Memorial Foundation with an in-kind donation from Cokas-Diko Home & Garden.

Wells Fargo Center for the Arts "Bridge to the Future" Renovation Facts



- **Four phase Renovation project to total \$10 million.**
- **Phase One Ruth Finley Person Theater and Backstage Upgrade costing \$2.8 million May – August 2013.**
- **125 workers involved in the renovation representing 8 trade unions and 26 sub contractors.**
- **Usable audience seating will increase by approximately 100 seats by removing barriers and improving sightlines. Total seated capacity will be 1615.**
- **Theatre seats will now be removable—more versatility accommodating approximately 1973 people for shows with an open floor (general admission) and reserved balcony seating.**
- **Gaining 300 square feet onstage and 700 square feet backstage.**
- **Stage ceiling raised by 10 feet to better accommodate large shows and complex technical elements.**
- **Stage raised to improve sightlines.**
- **Reshaping the overhang from balcony sloped for enhanced sight lines.**
- **Loading Doors installed backstage means shows no longer will load in through the lobby and down the theatre aisles of the auditorium. This “shortens the path” for load-ins by ¼ mile!**

Phase two calls for the installation of a lobby elevator and renovation of the second level balcony and restrooms, providing improved balcony access and services to those with mobility impairments for the first time in the Center’s history, as well as creating opportunities for a second level lobby with concession offerings. Phase three focuses on enlivening and expanding the Center’s outdoor spaces, creation of a sculpture walk, and improving landscaping, access, and flow. The fourth and final phase of the project focuses on deferred maintenance to the nearly 40 year-old facility. This phase will include a new HVAC system and roof for the building, replacing lobby windows and doors, washing and painting the building, and repaving the parking lot.

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