

Blues artist and UCSD Regents' Lecturer Willie King to perform in free public concert

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Well-known blues artist and music roots project director Willie King will give a free public concert April 12 at 6 p.m. on an outdoor stage adjacent to Peterson Hall at the University of California, San Diego.

King's performance will be the kick-off event for Thurgood Marshall College's 1996 Cultural Celebration. His public concert is part of a week-long visit to UCSD as a Regents' Lecturer in the Communication Department, where he is participating in various department colloquia and other discussions and meetings with faculty and students.

King, who has worked as a musician, community organizer, civil rights activist, and youth counselor, as well as a small farmer and sharecropper, is the president and founder of Rural Members Association (RMA), a grass-roots organization incorporated in 1981 in Pickens County, Alabama. Accomplished blues musicians, gospel singers, and artisans, RMA members are committed to their rural communities and to practicing indigenous African-American art forms. RMA awarded a grant this year from the Alabama State Arts Council to initiate a music roots project in Old Memphis, Alabama.

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