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**BOTH PALO ALTOS TO CELEBRATE CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

The Bayshore Freeway and San Francisquito Creek are not the only barriers between Palo Alto and East Palo Alto. For years, economic inequality, racial stereotyping and political bickering have kept the two communities apart.

Dance, music and art may bring them together.

On stage, a showcase of local performers from both cities will celebrate the area's diversity in "Cultural Kaleidoscope," set for Friday, June 14 at the Palo Alto Cultural Center.

But what went on behind the scenes might be even more important. Since last year, community leaders have been meeting to develop ways for the two cities to work together.

"We thought, 'What better way to do it than in arts and culture,'" said Myrtle Walker, president of the Ravenswood City Elementary School District. "It's certainly non-threatening and non-political."

The performance will feature rap music by Telefinken, jazz by Potential, Mexican dance by Raices de Mexico, Okinawan dancers from the Jinpu Kai-Kin Academy, gospel by the St. John Baptist Church Choir and five other groups that are billed as "local, but seasoned."

Desserts from many cultures will be served and artwork from schoolchildren in both cities will decorate the walls.

Cultural Kaleidoscope is also the kickoff of East Palo Alto's annual Juneteenth celebration, an African-American holiday that occurs June 19 -- the date that word of the emancipation of the slaves finally reached Texas. The city plans other festivities June 22-23.

The funds raised by the event are earmarked for the painting, cleaning and re-wiring of the auditorium at the old Ravenswood Elementary School, which many community members hope to use as an East Palo Alto cultural center until a permanent center can be built.

Leon Kaplan, Palo Alto's director of arts and culture, said Cultural Kaleidoscope "will go a long way toward building a positive bridge between Palo Alto and East Palo Alto."

Besides the Cultural Center Guild, the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the Community Foundation of Santa Clara County and the Peninsula Community Foundation provided funding for the production.

"Let's make it happen and see what happens," Walker said. "We don't know what really is going to come out of it, but everybody's excited."

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED Cultural Kaleidoscope will be from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. June 14 at the Palo Alto Cultural Center, 1313 Newell Road. Tickets, at \$20 each, are available at the Cultural Center or at the Lucie Stern Center, 1305 Middlefield Road.

CAPTION: -- Myrtle Walker, president, Ravenswood City Elementary School District

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