

SFJAZZ

PRESS RELEASE

SFJAZZ ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH PROMINENT SAN FRANCISCO CHEF FOR NEW SFJAZZ CENTER



Chef Charles Phan at SFJAZZ Spring 2012 Gala with SFJAZZ Founder and Executive Artistic Director Randall Kline (left) and Executive Operating Director Felice Swapp

San Francisco - October 19, 2012: [SFJAZZ](#), the leading non-profit jazz organization on the West Coast, has announced its partnership with San Francisco's renowned chef, [Charles Phan](#), who will be in charge of the food and beverage program at the new SFJAZZ Center, which is set to open on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 21, 2013.

The SFJAZZ Center, designed by award-winning architect [Mark Cavagnero](#), will be located at Franklin and Fell Streets, the intersection of San Francisco's Civic Center Performing Arts District and vibrant Hayes Valley. The center will be a hub of art, music, culture and community, and will include Chef Phan's all-day café/restaurant. The menu and design are still under wraps, but promise to be as innovative and creative as Phan's other restaurants.

"I can think of no other chef/restaurateur who is a better match than Charles for the SFJAZZ Center," said SFJAZZ Founder and Executive Artistic Director Randall Kline. "Charles is a culinary genius whose creative spirit compliments the art that we will be presenting in our new home. Our aim is to be an artistic, educational, and community center. The café in the Center will be open for breakfast and lunch, as well as evenings. Exceptional food and drink -- what Charles is famous for -- will play an integral role in welcoming people to the Center, even when there are not concerts taking place. We are delighted to have him be a part of the Center."



Rendering of the SFJAZZ Center, which will open to the public on January 21, 2013

Charles Phan is the award-winning Executive Chef and Owner of San Francisco's The Slanted Door and five other restaurants. He is considered to be the inventor of modern Vietnamese cuisine in the United States.

Born in Da Lat, Vietnam in 1962, Charles and his family - parents and five siblings - relocated to Guam just before the fall of Saigon, and two years later, in 1977, moved to San Francisco where they settled.

Charles opened his first restaurant, The Slanted Door, on Valencia Street in San Francisco's Mission District in 1995. It was an immediate popular and critical success and the restaurant played a significant role in the revitalization of this vibrant area.

In 2004, the nationally acclaimed, The Slanted Door, became one of the principal tenants of San Francisco's historic Ferry Building and was instrumental in developing this landmark into one of the country's premier food destinations.

That year, Phan also won the James Beard Foundation award for Best Chef of California and in 2011 was inducted into the foundation's Who's Who of Food & Beverage in America.

Phan now has six successful restaurants in the San Francisco area. His vision has always been to showcase farm-fresh, locally sourced ingredients and prepare everything from scratch which has kept The Slanted Door Group of restaurants on the forefront of San Francisco's dining scene.

ABOUT SFJAZZ

SFJAZZ, founded in 1983, is the largest nonprofit presenter of jazz and world music in America. In the fall of 1983, SFJAZZ, then known as Jazz In The City, presented two concerts at the Herbst Theatre with a simple philosophy: offer the best of jazz music in an environment that showcases the full spectrum and artistry of the art form. Thirty years later, the SFJAZZ Center will open just two blocks from the site of the first concerts. The Center can now efficiently integrate the organization under one roof to present world-class artists in concert throughout the year, nurture young musicians' development and promote music education. It will also be a hub of art, music, culture, and community and will take its place alongside major arts institutions such as the San Francisco Symphony, San Francisco Opera, and San Francisco Ballet in the Civic Center performing arts district and will truly be a home for jazz and a welcoming environment in which to hear, learn, and be inspired.

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