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*Media passes, photographs, videos, interviews and additional materials available upon request.

Free Outdoor Summer Concert Series, *Groovin' at GovState*, at Governors State University Launches June 26, 2025

(University Park, IL, May 15, 2025) - The Center for Performing Arts (The Center) at Governors State University (GovState) is proud to announce its free, inaugural summer series, *Groovin' at GovState*, June 26 - August 14, at Governors State University, Outdoor Performance Area (behind the Center for Performing Arts, 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL). Music lovers are invited to bring a lawn chair, grab a blanket and groove with their friends and family at *Groovin' at GovState*. The inaugural summer concert series features an exciting lineup of acclaimed local musicians Thursday at 6 p.m. More information is available at Centertickets.net or by calling the box office at 708.235.2222.

"Groovin' at GovState is more than a concert series—it's a celebration of community, culture and connection. We invite our neighbors across the Chicago Southland to join us for unforgettable summer evenings filled with music, joy and togetherness right here on our beautiful campus," said **Dr. Corey S. Bradford, Interim President, Governors State University**.

Set against the scenic backdrop of GovState's prairie landscape and the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park (theNate), each concert is a celebration of rhythm, community and summertime fun. Admission is **free** and **no reservations are required**. A limited number of **VIP Picnic Tables with Umbrellas** are available with a \$100 donation.

2025 *Groovin' at GovState* Lineup:

- **Thursday, June 26 at 6 p.m. – Denise Thimes (*Jazz & Blues*)**

Internationally acclaimed jazz vocalist Denise Thimes' voice has been described as a perfect mix of Nancy, Sassy and Lady Day. Whether headlining at Dizzy's Coca Cola Room in New York, or conquering the national jazz festival scene, Denise Thimes has an unmistakable tendency to steal the show and astonish crowds of every size.

- **Thursday, July 10 at 6 p.m. – Rosie & The Rivets (*Rock & Roll*)**

Back by popular demand! This high-octane retro band performs popular songs from the mid-

1950s to the 2000s. From Aretha Franklin to Amy Winehouse, there is something for everyone, and concerts often turn into dance parties!

- **Thursday, July 24 at 6 p.m. – Projecto 7 (*Salsa, Latin & More*)**

Known as one of Chicago's hottest salsa bands, Projecto 7 fuses Salsa Dura, Salsa Romantica, Merengue, Bachata and Cumbia into one electrifying night of danceable energy.

- **Thursday, August 14 at 6 p.m. – The Javon Watson Experience (*R&B*)**

Chicago's own Javon Watson blends smooth vocals and a dynamic stage presence for an unforgettable R&B journey. With over 100 shows annually and collaborations with Chaka Khan and Jonathan Butler, The Javon Watson Experience is a must-see.

Event Details:

- **When:** Thursdays at 6 p.m.: June 26, July 10, July 24, and August 14
- **Where:** Governors State University, Outdoor Performance Area (Behind the Center for Performing Arts, 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL)
- **Parking:** Free parking in West Lot 1 and East Lot 1
- **Amenities:**
 - Food trucks including Taqueria Jose Carnitas and drinks for purchase.
 - Indoor restrooms available in the Center for Performing Arts lobby.

On Campus Directions: Enter through GovState's main entrance, walk through the Hall of Governors, exit through the patio doors, and find your perfect spot on the lawn overlooking the lake and stage.

Groovin' at GovState is Proudly Sponsored by [Uncle Nearest Premium Whiskey](#)

ABOUT THE CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

The Center for Performing Arts was founded in 1995, culminating in a 10-year quest to bring a world-class performing arts facility to the Chicago Southland. Since its inception, The Center has served more than 1.5 million individuals, introduced over 300,000 schoolchildren to arts-in-education experiences, and welcomed 8,000+ artists and touring companies, presenting dozens of local, national and world premieres. The Center annually serves over 50,000 residents from Cook, Will and Kankakee counties in Northeast Illinois and Lake County in Northwest Indiana. The state-of-the art facility seats 1,165 patrons and is located at a vibrant and dynamic university setting that also houses an on-site [Visual Arts Gallery](#) and [The Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park](#) (theNate) offering unique opportunities for pre-and post-show activities and gatherings.

Connect With The Center

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