

utah arts festival

The Utah Arts Festival announces BANDALOO and headlining performances for 2026 with genre-spanning icons, June 18-21, 2026, at Library Square

(EMBARGOED UNTIL MARCH 14, 2026)

March 14, 2026 – Salt Lake City, Utah: The Utah Arts Festival, coming up June 18-21, 2026, proudly announces BANDALOO and our musical headliners who will help us celebrate the Festival's 50th anniversary. Enjoy the annual community celebration of art: visual, music, dance, film, literary, and more.

Stay tuned for additional announcements to be made in the coming weeks with our complete schedule and interactive experiences awaiting Festival patrons this year!

BANDALOO: Having BANDALOO return for the 50th annual festival is appropriate to commemorate this milestone. "The Sky is Not the Limit" is more than BANDALOO's tagline—it's the visceral experience they deliver. For more than 34 years, the company has activated more than 300 locations worldwide, from skyscrapers in Shanghai to natural rock formations in national parks. Yet the Salt Lake City Main Library holds a special place in their performance history. In 2008, 2013, and 2018, the Library's modernist architecture has offered a unique stage to showcase the intersection of human movement and urban design. **BANDALOO will perform daily Thursday thru Saturday, June 18-20** (specific times TBA) at Library Square on the Salt Lake City Main Library's south-facing glass wall.

Headlining Musical Acts

A founding member of Wu-Tang Clan, **GZA/The Genius** is New York City native, Gary Eldridge Grice. His solo effort in 1995, "Liquid Swords," considered one of the best albums from the Wu-Tang group, established him as a revolutionary force in hip hop. A master lyricist with acclaim from *Billboard*, *The Guardian*, *Rolling Stone* and *Washington Post*, GZA's career spans beyond the confines of music. His interest in sciences and quantum physics lead his recent releases "Dark Matter" and space-inspired project, "Destination: Jupiter." GZA has given lectures and spoken with students at schools including Harvard University, New York University, MIT, and Columbia University, inspiring Black and Latino youth to pursue careers in science. GZA will **kick off the festival Thursday night, June 18.**

Utah Arts Festival

350 East 400 South

Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

uaf.org | 801-322-2428 | marketing@uaf.org

utah arts festival

Six-time GRAMMY-nominated artist, songwriter, and actor, **Yola** has achieved critical acclaim, breakout success, and has been proclaimed as one of the most exciting and innovative artists in music today. Following the success of her acclaimed 2021 album “Stand For Myself,” which landed two additional Grammy nominations, acclaim from *The New York Times*, *Rolling Stone*, *W Magazine*, *Variety*, *Entertainment Weekly*, and *NPR Music*, who proclaimed it “the best soul album of the last 20 years.” She recently returned with new music, “Future Enemies” and “My Way,” the lead single from her upcoming EP. Co-produced by Yola, Sean Douglas, and Zach Skelton, the new music blends progressive R&B with haunting electronica, receiving critical acclaim from *The New York Times* to *Variety* who said Yola is “one of the greatest and most magnetic singers working today.” Yola will be performing at the 50th anniversary of the Utah Arts Festival on **Friday, June 19**.

Austin-based musician Alejandro Rose-Garcia, aka **Shakey Graves**, shows his intentionality and knack for creating new musical experiences tailored to each fan—from Bandcamp-exclusive releases to hosting interactive scavenger hunts while he’s touring. “The fans and musicians that really resonate with me—and the inexplicable ways that I find things that I like—are usually entirely through randomness and chaos and accident,” Rose-Garcia says. “I’ve always been on this quest to make people feel like my own music is a choose your own adventure.” His live performances are energetic and engaging, unpredictable and intimate. Headlining on **Saturday, June 20**, Shakey Graves will, yet again, share an adventure through music with the music-lovers of Utah.

Fronted by three classically trained singers, **Say She She** serves up “discodelic soul” with dreamy harmonies and cause-driven anthems. After the release of “Cut & Rewind” following their 2023 tour, Say She She’s trajectory has skyrocketed with critical acclaim from *The Guardian*, *LA Times*, *MOJO*, and *NPR*. The threesome (Nya Gazelle Brown, Piya Malik, and Sabrina Mileo Cunningham) take their inspiration from the sounds of the '70s and '80s, citing Minnie Riperton, Rotary Connection, Liquid Liquid, and ESG as influences. And with modern influences like Lambrini Girls and Amyl and the Sniffers, their sound only intensifies with feelings of spirited self-love within every earwormy melody. Closing out the 2026 Utah Arts Festival on a high note, Say She She performs on **Sunday, June 21**, with eclectic tunes that will leave festival fans wanting more.

Utah Arts Festival

350 East 400 South

Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

uaf.org | 801-322-2428 | marketing@uaf.org

utah arts festival

“These headlining artists are just the beginning in terms of the talent that will be on display at the 2026 Utah Arts Festival. A lot of care went into the selection of our headliners, from BANDALOOOP to Say She She, and you’ll see the same across all the artistic programming. We hope to surprise and delight our audience while honoring the tradition that many others have laid the groundwork for – to arrive 50 years in and still present to our Utah community exciting artists and performers who connect us to what we all love about creativity and art.”

A limited number of VIP tickets that include the new VIP Patio adjacent to the Festival Stage where headliners are performing will offer the best viewing vantage points for fans of these artists.

Event Details:

- **Dates:** June 18-21, 2026
- **Hours:** June 18, 5 PM-11 PM; June 19-21, Noon to 11:00 PM daily
- **Location:** Library Square, Salt Lake City
- **Features:** Visual arts, live music, dance performances, film screenings, and interactive installations
- **Headliner Info & VIP Tickets:** uaf.org/headliners
- **General Admission Tickets:** uaf.org/tix

About The Utah Arts Festival

The Utah Arts Festival is the largest outdoor multi-disciplinary arts event in Utah attracting more than 42,000 attendees, 900 volunteers, 800 artists and bands who come to experience its unique blend of visual arts, live performances, film screenings, demonstrating arts, workshops, and culinary arts. One of Utah’s legacy events in its 50th year, the Festival will be held June 18-21, 2026 at Library Square and City & County Building, the unofficial kick-off to summer in Utah.

###

Festival Contacts:

General marketing inquiries: Jocelyn Kearnl, marketing@uaf.org

Press/media: Laney Hansen, pr@uaf.org

Utah Arts Festival

350 East 400 South

Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

uaf.org | 801-322-2428 | marketing@uaf.org