



# NEWS

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **W.C. Clark Named Buda’s “Local Legend” as Part of City’s Birthday Celebration**

BUDA, TEXAS – The Buda City Council named W.C. Clark, guitarist and blues musician, as the City’s 2023 “Local Legend” for his exceptional career and outstanding contributions to Austin music. The award was recently presented to him during Buda’s Birthday Celebration at Buda Amphitheater and City Park.

The Local Legend Award is an honor the City of Buda bestows annually for Buda’s Birthday Celebration. This year, Buda Mayor Lee Urbanovsky presented the award to Clark.

W.C. Clark grew up in a musically inclined Austin family, hearing gospel from his mother and grandmother and listening to the blues that his stepfather would put on the radio. He bought his first guitar with money he earned working odd jobs in the neighborhood, which eventually led to paying gigs. Clark started a full-time music career in the 1960s, playing guitar and bass in a variety of blues bands and venues in the southern music circuit, learning from many of the greats, like Tyrone Davis and James Brown. After returning to Austin, Clark spent decades inspiring new blues fans and musicians, mentoring celebrity blues musicians, such as Stevie Ray Vaughan, and, with his band, the W.C. Clark Blues Revue, opened for internationally recognized performers, including B.B. King, Sam and Dave, and James Brown.

Clark has traveled the world, performing and sharing the magic of Austin music, earning himself the title of “The Godfather of Austin Blues.” He has also been awarded with multiple W.C. Handy Blues Awards for “Soul Blues Album of the Year,” “Artist Most Deserving of Wider Recognition,” “Male Soul/Blues Artist of the Year,” and “Soul/Blues Album of the Year.” Most recently, Clark was inducted into the Texas Heritage Songwriters Association Hall of Fame and recognized as Buda’s Local Legend.

“If the blues is played right, it makes your soul feel clean,” states Clark. After being presented with the Local Legend honor, W.C. Clark delighted the enthusiastic crowd with several of his songs before turning over the stage to the celebration’s performers.

In his speech designating Clark as the local legend, Mayor Urbanovsky said, ""W.C. is our local legend and his legacy cannot be overstated. He has inspired generations of blues musicians, who used his music as a blueprint for their own sound. His music is a legacy that has enriched the lives of music lovers around the world and his work will continue to inspire generations of musicians to come. "

The City of Buda is home to about 18,000 residents and has earned designations as a "Texas Main Street City," "Tree City USA," "Bee City Affiliate" and "Platinum Level Scenic City." Buda is situated along the Interstate 35 corridor, has 14 parks and a historic downtown district where residents and visitors alike can shop, dine, relax, and *breathe easy here*.

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