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OMAHA
SUMMER
ARTS
FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY: First National Bank

43rd ANNUAL OMAHA SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL PRESENTED BY FIRST NATIONAL BANK *JUNE 9-11, 2017*

(OMAHA, Neb.) May 17, 2017 – The 43rd annual Omaha Summer Arts Festival (OSAF), presented by First National Bank, returns to downtown Omaha June 9-11 on Farnam Street alongside the Gene Leahy Mall. Hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, June 9, and Saturday, June 10; and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 11.

OSAF offers three days of arts immersion featuring 135 professional, juried artist booths; free concerts and entertainment; and a variety of creative activities for all ages. Since the first OSAF in 1975, more than 3 million people from throughout the region have attended the event, which regularly captures local and national “best of” recognition from leading industry and tourism publications.

“The Omaha Summer Arts Festival remains one of the region’s finest events, celebrating artistic expression in numerous forms while reflecting our community’s creativity and vitality,” said Katrina Wells, senior vice president, Corporate Marketing, at First National Bank. “First National Bank is proud to continue to serve as the presenting sponsor of this outstanding event.”

CenturyLink Artists’ Market Features 135 Booths to Shop

OSAF features 135 visual artists from across the country selected from more than 400 applicants by a jury of local and regional art enthusiasts and professionals. The CenturyLink Artists’ Market offers unique fine arts and fine crafts including painting, jewelry, ceramics, glass, sculpture and photography. Visitors will discover a variety of high-quality artwork in a price range that fits all budgets.

Free Live Music All Weekend!

The World Music Pavilion presents a nonstop lineup of 13 free concerts during the three-day event. With returning favorite Omaha Musicians Association Jazz All-Stars kicking things off at noon, Friday’s Blues Ed showcase with Far and Wide Blues at 3:30 p.m., Cajun Zydeco artist Amanda Shaw at 5 p.m. and ultimate session band New Orleans Suspects at 7 p.m.

Saturday’s lineup opens with the local favorite Dominique Morgan at 12:30 p.m. and closes with a set by Louisiana Bluesman Gregg Wright, who takes the stage at 7 p.m.

Sunday performances include Heartland Marimba Collective at 11:30 a.m., followed by Festival mainstay and main stage namesake band Luigi Inc at 1:30 p.m., and Josh Hoyer and Soul Colossal at 3 p.m. Lincoln native Hoyer received national recognition for a strong performance this spring as a contestant on NBC’s “The Voice.”

Hungry? Thirsty? The Festival’s TasteFest has you covered.

In addition to a full weekend of entertainment, visitors can purchase beer, wine and an expanded selection of ice-cold beverages at the World Music Pavilion. TasteFest features a variety of local restaurants and vendors offering menus from seafood, gyros and barbecue to kettle corn, funnel cakes and German-roasted almonds.

Nebraska Methodist College Children's Fair Offers Hands-On Art Activities for Kids

Under the umbrella theme of *150 Years of Kids in the H-ART-Land*, the Nebraska Methodist College Children's Fair will help commemorate the State of Nebraska's sesquicentennial celebration. Taking place at 11th and Farnam Streets on Saturday and Sunday, the Fair will offer hands-on activities and art projects for children ages 3 to 10 provided by area organizations including Girls Inc., El Museo Latino, Omaha Community Playhouse, City Sprouts, Omaha Symphony, Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo, HETRA and more. Admission and designated activities are free. Tickets for additional hands-on crafts and other activities can be purchased for 50 cents each, with most requiring one to four tickets.

Family Entertainment Stage Offers Music, Dance and More

Just steps away from the Nebraska Methodist College Children's Fair, the Family Entertainment Stage extends the celebration of Nebraska 150 with a multicultural roster of performing artists from 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. on Sunday. The diverse acts include BluesEd-Blue Sunday, Arts in Motion, Pear Tree Performing Arts, Mexican Dance Academy, Umonhon Nation (Omaha Nation) Public School Dancers, Omaha Jitterbugs and Dowds Irish Dance Academy.

Young Artists Exhibition Celebrates Talent of Metro-Area Youth

Schools from around the Metro will be represented at the 22nd annual Young Artist Exhibition. More than 300 pieces created by students in grades 6 through 12 will be displayed in the Michael Phipps Gallery at the W. Dale Clark Main Library during the Festival. Scholarships, recognition awards, art supplies and special prizes will be presented at a reception for students, teachers and parents on Saturday, June 10.

Art Collectors in Training Cultivates Children's Appreciation for the Arts

Art Collectors in Training (ACT) offers children an opportunity to purchase original artwork donated by professional artists participating in the Festival. After their purchases, young buyers and their families are encouraged to visit the artist who created their piece. This program, now entering its fourth year, encourages the appreciation of the arts from a young age.

ArtSeen Offers Local Art Experiences

Festival visitors will have the opportunity to watch live artist demonstrations and even contribute to various projects like pottery glazing, candle-making, giant pegboard art, and a magnetic "meadow" with ArtSeen activities by Passageway Gallery, Old Market Artists Co-op, Blacksmith Shop Omaha and Blue Pomegranate.

Brulé Returns to the Landmark Plaza Stage

Always an OSAF favorite, Brulé performs on the Landmark Plaza stage throughout the weekend. The award-winning group is one of the top-selling Native American recording artists, performing a unique blend of contemporary Native American sounds and rhythms with an inspiring message of peace, hope and reconciliation between cultures.

Three New Programs Introduced This Year

Gallery One, presented by First National Bank, is a new program to support new and budding artists who have had limited or no experience exhibiting and selling their artwork at art fairs and festivals. In addition to a waived application fee and free exhibit space, Gallery One artists will also receive assistance from a professional artist regarding how best to exhibit and sell their work to the public.

On Thursday, June 8 and Friday, June 9, OSAF is partnering with Omaha Street Percussion for two days of musical workshops with participants from Girls Inc. of Omaha, Completely KIDS, Compassion in Action and Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands. The instruction culminates in a group performance on the Luigi Waites Main Stage Saturday, June 10, at 2 p.m. Youth will learn various musical techniques with a focus on percussion along with cooperation and teamwork.

Festival attendees of all ages can explore their own artistic abilities by choosing from a selection of DIY projects offered through The Makery. Participants will pay a materials fee of \$15 to \$25 to create a "fail-proof" project that can be completed in less than 30 minutes. Crafts include necklace stamping, terrarium building, wine glass painting and more.

Festival Merchandise Features Limited Edition Illustration

Desarae Lee from Salt Lake City is this year's Featured Illustrator who created an original work for the official Festival poster and other event marketing materials. The sketch and watercolor artist participated as a juried artist in the most recent two Festivals and her unique technique utilizes pen and ink in a detailed cross-hatching style with some watercolor washes. Festival attendees may purchase a t-shirt or official poster featuring the illustration at the Info Booth during the event.

Park Omaha Offering Discount for Festival-goers

OSAF is proud to partner with Park Omaha to offer information and discounts on parking in the Downtown area. To make parking easier, visitors can download the free Park Omaha app. With the app, users can pay for parking without leaving their vehicles and receive text messages and in-app reminders before meters expire. Exclusive for OSAF attendees, receive \$5 off rates at select ParkOmaha parking locations. For more details and the discount code, visit <http://www.summerarts.org/directions-parking>. Visit parkomaha.com for a complete list of available public parking downtown.

2017 Sponsors

The 2017 Omaha Summer Arts Festival is presented by First National Bank and sponsored by the Douglas County Visitor Improvement Fund, Presenting Media Sponsor WOWT NBC Omaha, Radio Partner NRG Media, Artists' Market Sponsor and Official Technology Provider CenturyLink, Children's Fair Sponsor Nebraska Methodist College, Youth Arts Presenter The Sherwood Foundation, and World Music Pavilion underwriters Heartland Chevy Dealers, the Nebraska Arts Council and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment. OSAF is also supported by Park Omaha.

About The Omaha Summer Arts Festival

Named the 2016 "Best Festival" in Omaha Magazine's Best of Omaha awards, OSAF is consistently recognized as one of Omaha's best annual events. OSAF also receives consistent honors in the art fair industry including being selected as one of 2015's Top 100 Fine Arts Festivals in the country by ArtFair SourceBook. National honors include being tagged as one of the "Top 20 Can't-Miss Summer Festivals" by Smithsonian.com in 2014, and as one of the Top 100 Events in North America by the American Bus Association in 2011.