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OMAHA
SUMMER
ARTS
FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY:  First National Bank

IT'S A BREATH OF FRESH ART AT 42ND ANNUAL OMAHA SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL PRESENTED BY FIRST NATIONAL BANK *JUNE 10-12, 2016*

(OMAHA, Neb.) May 18, 2016 – The city's largest free event with 135 professional, juried artists, a full lineup of free concerts and a kids-only shopping experience, Omaha Summer Arts Festival (OSAF) offers three days of arts immersion. With more than 3 million people from throughout the Midwest visiting the Festival since its inception in 1975, OSAF continues to be voted by Omahans as the city's top festival.

The 42nd annual OSAF, presented by First National Bank, returns to downtown Omaha June 10-12 on Farnam Street alongside the Gene Leahy Mall. Hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, June 10, and Saturday, June 11, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 12.

Discover Original Art For Every Budget At The CenturyLink Artists' Market

With the visual arts as its cornerstone, OSAF features 135 artists from across the country. The artists were selected from over 450 applicants by a jury of local and regional art enthusiasts and professionals. The CenturyLink Artists' Market offers an opportunity to purchase unique fine arts and crafts including painting, jewelry, clay, glass, sculpture and photography. Visitors can expect a variety of high-quality artwork in a price range to fit all budgets.



Free Concerts All Weekend Featuring Local and National Bands

The 2016 OSAF World Music Pavilion presents a full lineup of 12 free concerts during the three-day event. With the Omaha Musicians Association Jazz All-Stars kicking things off at noon, Friday features a strong blues program with Blue House and the Rent to Own Horns at 3:30 p.m., Hector Anchondo Band at 5 p.m. and The Bernard Allison Band at 7 p.m. Saturday offers a full day of music starting at 12:30 p.m. and closing out with a Cajun dance party with Rockin' Dopsie Jr. & The Zydeco Twisters at 7 p.m. We're out on the Prairie on Sunday with Prairie Gators starting things off at 11:30 a.m. and the reunion of Omaha swing band Prairie Cats at 3 p.m. In between, Festival mainstay and main stage namesake band Luigi Inc shares its smooth jazz sounds from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Follow Your Nose to A Variety of Food Trucks, Snacks and Desserts

In addition to a full weekend of entertainment, visitors can purchase beer, wine and other ice-cold beverages at the World Music Pavilion. TasteFest features a variety of local restaurants

and vendors offering menus from seafood, pizza, gyros and hot dogs to kettle corn, funnel cakes and German-roasted almonds. For the second year, OSAF also presents a Food Truck Court at 14th and Farnam Streets with local vendors including La Casa Pizzeria, Maria Bonita Mexican, SweetLime Thai and Hy-Vee Thai Food Express.

An Ocean of Fun at Nebraska Methodist College Children's Fair

On Saturday and Sunday, June 11 and 12, the Nebraska Methodist College Children's Fair takes place at 11th and Farnam Streets. Dozens of hands-on activities and art projects for children ages 3 to 10 are offered with the theme *O-Fish-ally Artists*. Area organizations including Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo, El Museo Latino, YMCA of Greater Omaha, Girls Inc. and many more offer a wide range of art-related crafts and games during the Festival.

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.

Recognizing Metro's Talented Youth At The Young Artist Exhibition

More than 30 metro schools are represented at the 21st annual Young Artist Exhibition. Artwork created by students in grades 6 through 12 is displayed in the Michael Phipps Gallery at the W. Dale Clark Main Library during the Festival. Scholarships, recognition awards, art supplies and special prizes are presented at a reception for students, teachers and parents on Saturday of the Festival.

A Shopping Experience For The Youngest Of Art Enthusiasts

Art Collectors in Training (ACT) offers children an opportunity to purchase original artwork donated by the professional artists participating in the Festival. After their purchases, young buyers and their families are encouraged to meet the artists who created their work by visiting them at their booths in the Artists' Market. Last year, more than 200 children participated in this thriving program, which encourages the appreciation of the arts at a young age.



OSAF partners with The 402 Arts Collective to coordinate and staff ACT. Volunteers from The 402 offer guidance and inspiration to the children as they select their artwork and then encourage them to visit with "their" professional artist. The 402 Arts Collective brings people together to create and cultivate a vibrant network of artists who are committed to impacting the culture and serving the Omaha community.

Deals and Prizes and Brulé!, Oh My!

On Friday, June 10, music fans are invited to a special TGIFF (Thank Goodness It's Festival Friday) celebration featuring a full lineup of blues music and a special promotion in the World Music Pavilion. From 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., the Festival offers three drink tokens for \$10 (a \$12 value) with the tokens good throughout the weekend.

A Festival Passport Program is offered on Saturday, June 11, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Festivalgoers 19 years and older can visit the OSAF Information Booth, located at 13th and Farnam Streets, to pick up a passport that provides clues to a series of locations throughout the Festival site. Completed cards can be returned to the Information Booth to be entered to win one of a variety of prizes including concert tickets, gift cards and more. The drawing is held at 6:30 p.m. on the Luigi Waites Main Stage. Entrants need not be present to win.

Always an OSAF favorite, Brulé performs on the Landmark Plaza throughout the weekend. The seven-time Native American Music Award-winning group thrills the audience with a merge of cultural rock and theatrical instrumentations.

Strolling performers Sam Malcolm and The Spoon Man also contribute to the Festival atmosphere. Malcolm's performance is a perfect combination of stand-up comedy, world-class juggling skills and a big smile, which makes his show entertaining and fun for everyone. Off-the-cuff comedy, audience participation and a jaw-dropping grand finale make for a show to remember. Malcolm performs throughout Festival weekend. Performing Saturday and Sunday, The Spoon Man offers a hilarious interactive comedy that's a spoonful of family fun. Performing for over 25 years, The Spoon Man's performance contains outrageous impressions, a sing-along competition and the opportunity for everyone to get "spooned."

Favorite Juried-Artist Selected As Featured Illustrator

The Festival has continued its longstanding tradition of featuring an original illustration created specifically for OSAF. Alison Fox from Naperville, Illinois, is this year's Featured Illustrator and has been a stained-glass artist for more than 35 years. Fox's work should be familiar to many festivalgoers, as she has been a mainstay in the OSAF Artists' Market for many years. "I am so honored to be the 2016 Featured Illustrator. OSAF has always been my most favorite art show and I look forward to doing it each year," Fox said. "This is just the icing on the cake!"

Discover Parking Solutions With Park Omaha App

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 two dollars off a parking session at all parking meters and Park 2 and Park 3 (through ParkOmaha only – use discount code 115115). For more details and how to apply the discount code, visit <http://www.summerarts.org/directions-parking>. Visit parkomaha.com for a list of all available public parking downtown.

About Omaha Summer Arts Festival

The 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, 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 the Nebraska Arts Council and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment. OSAF is also supported by Park Omaha.

Recently awarded the 2016 "Best Festival" by Omaha Magazine, 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.

The Omaha Summer Arts Festival is a magnet that draws people together to celebrate art in all of its forms and varied expressions. Its mission is to present culturally diverse, high-quality arts programs, performances and exhibits in downtown Omaha for the general public to enjoy and appreciate free of charge. Omaha Summer Arts Festival, Inc. is a non-profit arts organization led by a volunteer board of directors comprised of 15 area businesses, arts and community leaders. The Festival is professionally managed by Vic Gutman & Associates, the region's premier event management company.