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OMAHA
SUMMER
ARTS
FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY: First National Bank

ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES HIGHLIGHT OMAHA SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL

(OMAHA, Neb.) May 31, 2017 – Families with children of all ages are welcome at the 43rd annual Omaha Summer Arts Festival (OSAF), which offers special activities just for youth.

OSAF is presented by First National Bank and takes place in 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.

Nebraska Methodist College Children's Fair

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 150th sesquicentennial celebration. The Fair takes place at 11th and Farnam Streets on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hands-on activities and art projects, specially selected for children ages 3 to 10, will be provided by area organizations including Girls Inc., El Museo Latino, Omaha Community Playhouse, City Sprouts, Omaha Symphony, Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo, HETRA (Heartland Equine Therapeutic Riding Academy) and more. Admission and designated activities are free. Crafts and activities may require tickets (typically one to four) that can be purchased at the Children's Fair Info Booth for 50 cents each.

Family Entertainment Stage

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 performing Saturday include BluesEd-Blue Sunday, Arts in Motion, Pear Tree Performing Arts, Mexican Dance Academy, and Omaha Street Percussion. Taking the stage Sunday are Umonhon Nation (Omaha Nation) Public School Dancers, Omaha Jitterbugs, Dowds Irish Dance Academy and Mexican Dance Academy. Admission is free for all ages.

Young Artist Exhibition

Schools from around the Metro are 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 are presented at a reception for students, teachers and parents on Saturday, June 10. The Young Artist Exhibition is sponsored by The Sherwood Foundation, Mammel Family Foundation and Holland Foundation. Framing sponsors include Mangelsen's and Ginger's Hang Up.

Art Collectors in Training

Art Collectors in Training (ACT) offers children an opportunity to purchase original artwork donated by the professional artists participating in the Festival. The art will be sold in a "kids-only" shopping zone for six to 10 tickets (\$3 - \$5) per piece. After making their purchases, young buyers and their families are encouraged to visit the artists who created their artwork. This program, now entering its fourth year, encourages the appreciation of the arts at a young age.

Outreach Program with Omaha Street Percussion

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 at the Festival on Saturday at 2 p.m. Youth will learn various musical techniques with a focus on percussion along with cooperation and teamwork.

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.