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‘Mega’ game of musical chairs to take over Faneuil Hall Marketplace

By Steve Annear GLOBE STAFF AUGUST 11, 2015

If you want to relive the glory days of beating your elementary school classmates at a dizzying game of musical chairs, make your way down to Faneuil Hall Marketplace Friday.

More than 100 people are expected to participate there in what organizers are calling a “mega” version of the childhood favorite.

“It’s intended to be something fun and participatory that people can come down and just jump into after work,” said Holly Masek, project analyst for Biederman Redevelopment Ventures, the company hired to bring new life to the tourist attraction through The Lounge at Faneuil Hall Marketplace initiative.

The Lounge recently introduced activities like chess, checkers, and billiards to the shopping mall, giving people something to do other than just stroll and spend money.

The musical chairs event will be capped at 120 total participants. It is free and open to those 18 and over (sorry, kids). Rules created by the World Musical Chairs Federation will be strictly enforced during game play.

Eight chair circles will be set up in the plaza between the Quincy Market building and historic Faneuil Hall, Masek said. There will be 14 chairs and 15 players at each of the circles to start. Participants will be eliminated in the typical fashion as the Cocek! Brass Band provides the background music for the competition. The band will start and stop playing music as they see fit, trying to throw players off as they scramble to secure a seat.

The winner of each elimination circle will receive a prize from a Faneuil Hall merchant, and the top three players from each circle will proceed to the final round.

In the last round of the competition, the remaining 24 finalists will vie for the championship. The winner will receive a grand prize, and become the center of a championship parade through Faneuil Hall, led by the Cocek! Brass Band.

“Stay on your toes, listen to the music, and be a good sport,” Masek advised prospective contestants.