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Waco Today



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Cultural Arts Festival

The Waco Cultural Arts Festival, now in its 12th year, keeps getting bigger and better with more music, dance, spoken word, film and of course, art. The free event, which actually is six festivals in one, will fill Indian Spring Park and parts of the Waco Convention Center Sept. 25-27.



Exposure to art is available to all ages during the annual Waco Cultural Arts Festival in downtown Waco Sept. 25-27. Photograph by Michael Bancale.

The festivals include: ArtsFest, MusicFest, (254)Dance-Fest, WordFest, ScienceFest and FilmFest – Celebration Africa. A kickoff party that benefits the Cultural Arts Festival will be held Sept. 24, at the Waco Convention Center.

A number of featured performers and activities will take place at all the mini-festivals. Poet Sarah Cortez will headline WordFest. A member of the Texas Institute of Letters, Sarah will lead workshops for children and adults, participate in the “Her Texas” reading, and hold an extended feature reading/performance followed by a Q&A.

Other WordFest activities include writer workshops, published authors’ panels, the anthology reading event and open mics. New this year will be the Ink Café, a place to mingle with writers and poets to do some free writing and polishing of works. All Word Fest events are in the Waco Convention Center. This is the third year for this festival.

The Indian Spring Amphitheater will serve as the main stage for MusicFest. The crowd-pleasing event opens on Friday night with a free Brews & Blues concert, featuring Venus Envy and Union Revival and headliner the Mojo Assassins. On Saturday, the main stage opens at 11 a.m. with performances by local orchestras, followed by area dance studio students. Music continues until 11 p.m. and features Terry Roller and Stars Over Texas, Joel Laviolette and Rattletree Marimba, the Khozein Ensemble with violinist Naseen Khozein, percussionist Neda Khozein, and flamenco guitarist Eric Harper. The headliner is the dynamic, electric viper violinist Haydn Vitera with Tequila Rock Revolution.

Performances start at noon on Sunday with local theater groups and Miriam’s Army Dancers. The Youth Chorus of Central Texas and the Central Texas Choral Society will lead the audience into “The Big Sing” with amazing voices from area churches, plus an audience

participation singalong of patriotic music. The festival closes with headliner Joel McCray Jazz Group.

Professional artists will sell their original paintings, drawings, fiber arts, jewelry, ceramics, stained glass, photography and more at the juried artists market during ArtsFest. Additionally, during Arts for All, adults and children can create art at a variety of tents set up with art supplies that include easel art, wood art, mask making and much more.

(254)DanceFest has been collaborating with Out on a Limb Contemporary Dance Company to have select professional contemporary dance companies to perform. Workshops and classes also will be offered by celebrated dance instructors, including Charles Anderson. All performances and classes are in the Brazos Room at the Waco Convention Center and are free starting at 2 p.m. Saturday.

ScienceFest will be inside the Waco Convention Center with “Art and Science Meet” installations by Steve Veracruz and Erica Wickett. FilmFest – Celebration Africa, now in its third year, will be inside the Waco Convention Center.

For a complete schedule of events or information about tickets for the kickoff party, visit www.wacoartsfest.org.

Julie Campbell-Carlson has written for Waco Today since 1997. She’s always looking for interesting tidbits for her column. She can be reached at Julie_Carlson@mygrande.net