

About CultureFest

About our festival...

CultureFest is a community festival that celebrates the ethnic and cultural diversity of Springfield and Clark County Ohio. The one-day event brings new life to the Springfield City Hall Plaza each year on a Saturday in September.

The goals of CultureFest are: **to bring people together** in a community festival to have a good time learning about each others' cultures; **to educate** through music, food, dance and storytelling to highlight our various cultures; and **to promote intercultural understanding** by providing an environment where our diversity can be explored, enjoyed and celebrated.

History of the Festival...

The festival is an outgrowth of the City's Study Circles, which brought people together to dialogue about race and ethnic issues. Initial planning in 1996 led to development of an annual event, beginning in September, 1997 and continuing through to the present. In 2015, CultureFest celebrated its nineteenth year with a wonderful event.

Festival Coordination...

The festival is coordinated by the City's Community Development Department with community input through a Steering Committee, and various planning committees that attend to the areas of public relations, volunteers, fundraising, entertainment, vendors, logistics and education.

2015 CultureFest Demographics...

This is a well-established community festival, with growing attendance. In 2015, at the 19th Annual CultureFest, there was a continuous population of hundreds throughout the eight hours of the event. Estimates are that total attendance was over 10,000. There were two main stages featuring ethnic dance, bands and choirs, with various acts on both the Main Stage and the CultureDance Stage. In addition, there were several strolling entertainment acts. Another feature was the Children's Activity Tent, with an assortment of different hands-on activities for children offered throughout the event.

Continued for the fifth year at CultureFest 2015 were the CultureJam Stage where musicians and dancers led participants in drumming, dancing and singing throughout the day, an expanded interactive activity area on the Grassy Knoll, including the Children's Tent, a kickoff with the Springfield High marching band, and an elementary choir of city school students. The Gammon (Underground Railroad) House conducted historical tours and Attorney Jim Lagos provided tours of the newly renovated, energy efficient Bushnell Building.

There were over 20 ethnic food vendors, and some 50 other booth vendors, providing either ethnic merchandise for sale or free information/handouts.

2016 Event Specifics...

CultureFest 2016 will be held on Saturday, September 24, from 11 a.m to 6 p.m. on the Springfield City Hall Plaza. A main stage will provide continuous entertainment including local choirs, bands and storytellers. The CultureDance stage will provide nonstop dance and entertainment. Plans are to continue our new and expanded Grassy Knoll activity area with nonstop hands-on crafts for children and lessons at the CultureJam Stage.

Over the year many community and personal relationships have developed through the planning and experience of CultureFest. CultureFest 2016 will build on these wonderful connections and traditions to deliver another day of celebration of culture for Springfield.