



# FusionFest Returns to Downtown Orlando

This year's festival celebrates Central Florida's diverse cultures in a safety-enhanced environment.

Downtown Orlando's annual celebration of Central Florida's diverse people and cultures returns for the in-person festival, with enhanced safety measures following CDC guidelines in place, on Nov. 28-29. People representing some 110 cultures from across the world gather at Seneff Arts Plaza in front of the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts and Orlando City Hall Commons Plaza for the free, two-day event to experience music, dance, food, visual arts, spoken word, games and interactive activities, and works and performances from more than 1,000 local artists.

The Opening Spectacle, International Food Court and Marketplace stages feature music, dance, spoken word and fashion. At the Film Pavilion, guests can view the screening of the MYgration Films in partnership with Global Peace Film Festival, the Global Street Dance Party, Diversitastic! Choir, interactive experiences, visual arts gallery and more.

"FusionFest began as a grassroots

movement," says FusionFest Chief Instigator Terry Olson. "We are proud to continually show the community and the world that people with different lifestyles and different ethnicities and heritages can live together in a non-divisive way."

A steering committee of more than 40 people representing many different cultures, ethnicities and communities come together each year to plan FusionFest, a festival honoring the diverse local community and highlighting Central Floridians' talents.

At this year's festival, in compliance with state and local laws, a wide variety of health and safety protocols are being implemented, including the following: social distancing for tables, chairs and patron lines; temperature checks at dedicated entrances for all working, performing and attending the event; masks for vendors, staff and volunteers, with facial coverings available for sale on site for attendees; increased handwashing and hand sani-

tizer stations located throughout the festival; and continuous spraying of CDC-approved disinfectant on all high-touch areas.

"With theme parks and schools open, we have examples to observe now," says Olson. "We also conducted additional research at recent outdoor festivals, and we attended the recent Florida Festivals and Events Conference to discover and formalize best practices for social distancing at outdoor events to ensure that this year's FusionFest is a safe, comfortable and secure environment."

FusionFest is free. VIP Passports are also available for purchase online or at the event for \$25. The passes include a neck wallet, four food tokens, a souvenir button, a Prize ticket and a Super Prize raffle ticket for a \$300 gift card.

Visit [fusionfest.org](http://fusionfest.org) or call 407.836.5540 for more information, including updates on the performance schedule, artist lineup and vendor stations, and to purchase VIP Passports.