

A b o u t C u l t u r e F e s t

About the festival...

CultureFest is a community festival that celebrates the ethnic and cultural diversity of Springfield and Clark County Ohio. The one day event brings 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 diverse cultural traditions can be enjoyed and celebrated.

History of the Festival...

The festival was 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 2010, CultureFest celebrated its fourteenth year with the biggest and best event yet.

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.

2009 CultureFest Demographics...

This is a well-established community festival, with growing attendance. In 2009, at the 13th Annual CultureFest, there was a continuous population of hundreds throughout the eight hours of the event. Estimates are that total attendance was 8,000-10,000. There were three main stages, with twelve acts on the main stage including bands and choirs and seven acts on the CultureDance Stage including dance and storytelling. In addition, there were seven strolling entertainment acts. Another feature was the Children's Activity Tent, with three different hands-on activities for children offered simultaneously in every two-hour period.

There were nineteen ethnic food vendors, and 28 other booth vendors, providing either ethnic merchandise for sale or free information. Springfield Kiwanis operated an Oktoberfest area with beer sales, a German stage and children's inflatable rides.

2010 Event Specifics...

CultureFest 2010 will be held on Saturday, September 25 from 11 am to 7 pm 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 entertainment and audience participation. In the Children's Tent, local volunteers will provide crafts and other activities for children to experience different cultures. Vendors at CultureFest will include ethnic food and merchandise, as well as various informational booths.