



NEWS from Lane Arts Council

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Latinx Arts and Culture Brings Communities Together

Fiesta Cultural kicks-off during the ArtWalk and features over forty events

Fiesta Cultural is Lane County's largest celebration of Latinx arts and culture, featuring over forty events happening throughout Lane County from September through December. An initiative led by Lane Arts Council, Fiesta Cultural engages the community in welcoming multicultural programs and events that highlight the rich diversity of Latinx arts, culture, and heritage in Lane County. Fiesta Cultural was created to integrate communities through the arts.

Fiesta Cultural Kick-off at the First Friday ArtWalk Friday, September 6th, 5:30-9:30pm

The fifth annual Fiesta Cultural will kick-off on September 6th with a vibrant family friendly celebration in downtown Eugene, taking over the intersection of Broadway and Willamette with music, dancing, and art! Presented by Lane Arts Council in partnership with City of Eugene Cultural Services. Highlights include:

- Art displays, artist marketplace, and bilingual guided art tour (5:30pm)
- Music from Organización Oaxaca (6pm), DJ Tex Caliente (7pm), Pura Vida Orquesta (7:30pm), and DJ Chronic Hydra (9:30pm).
- Dance, mariachi, and charrería performances
- Printmaking, piñatas and kids activities
- Food carts and beer garden

Dance to "Charanguense" with Eugene group Organización Oaxaca. Then enjoy music with Pura Vida Orquesta, an 8+ piece Latin band based out of Portland. Pura Vida Orquesta plays Salsa, Timba, Cumbia, Cha Cha Cha, Latin Jazz, Merengue, Bachata, and Latin Funk.

"Fiesta Cultural is a great way to celebrate the richness of Latinx culture and arts in their many forms," shared visual artist Analee Fuentes. "The art, music, food, and performances from different regions of Latin America makes it an inclusive experience where I see old friends and make new ones. It's the ultimate street party and an opportunity to come together and be enriched by our differences. We need this, particularly right now, and we need one another. ¡Ven a la fiesta!"

Antonio Huerta practices charrería (a Mexican skill and art form involving horsemanship and sophisticated roping) and has performed for several years at Fiesta Cultural.

Antonio shared, "Fiesta Cultural provides a wonderful opportunity for attendees to witness and experience the richness of Latino arts and cultures in an inclusive, and festive environment. Events like these are vital in bringing families of all backgrounds together and fostering a thriving community spirit."

“The arts are the most accessible way to bring communities together,” states Liora Sponko, Executive Director of Lane Arts Council. “Many Latinx families don’t typically participate in downtown events. They don’t feel safe or don’t feel like the events are for them. At Fiesta Cultural, people of all ethnicities, ages, and income levels are dancing together to live music or participating in art activities. People are seen and acknowledged for who they are and get to enjoy what our community has to offer. This is what we want downtown Eugene to be like all of the time. I am proud that Lane Arts Council facilitates this type of impactful work.”

Fiesta Cultural Events September through December

Throughout the fall, Fiesta Cultural will feature dozens of cultural events that highlight Latinx artists and celebrate the diversity of Latinx arts and culture. This includes art exhibitions, theatre, poetry readings, music and dance performances, classes and workshops, presentations, conversations, and cultural celebrations such as Día de los Muertos, and the Hispanic Heritage Celebration at Springfield City Hall. Many of the events are free and family friendly.

Fiesta Cultural is presented by Lane Arts Council with the partnership and support of numerous community businesses, organizations and artists. Special thanks to our Fiesta Cultural sponsors: City of Eugene Cultural Services and EUGfun!, Law Offices of Lourdes Sánchez, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Juntos (Program of Emergence), SELCO Community Credit Union, Monarcas de Eugene, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Tacovore, Centro Latino Americano, and Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace.

Thank you to our community partners: La Qué Buena, La E-Kiss, Huerto de la Familia, KLCC, Downtown Languages, Salseros Dance Company, and Eugene Arte Latino.

For more information and to view the full listing of Fiesta Cultural events, visit lanearts.org/fiesta-cultural

About Lane Arts Council

Lane Arts Council works to cultivate strong and creative arts communities in Lane County. They support local artists and arts organizations, provide arts education programs in schools, and coordinate the popular First Friday ArtWalk.

Enclosure: Fiesta Cultural poster, logo and feature images

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