



News Release

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Plans Underway for 2019 International Festival

The City of Holland's International Relations Commission (IRC) will host its first International Festival on August 17, 2019. The festival will be held in conjunction with the rededication of the Queretaro Fountain donated by our sister city, Santiago de Queretaro, Mexico. This one-day event will feature dancers, musicians, storytellers, and visual artists representing the peoples and cultures of Africa, Asia, Europe, and Australia as well as Central, South, and North America. Artists interested in performing may apply online at www.cityofholland.com/irc; deadline for applications is June 29, 2018. Festival events will be held in Kollen Park and at various downtown locations.

The International Festival is the most recent IRC program designed to enrich Holland area residents' connection to our fellow global citizens. Established in 1993, the International Relations Commission has sought to build and maintain meaningful relationships between the people of Holland and the wider world through cultural, educational, and professional contact. IRC programs and events include Sister-City relationships with Santiago de Queretaro, Mexico and Nagahama, Japan, the annual film series "This New American Life" and various community programs.

"Previous IRC multicultural festivals have attracted more than 800 people, and we expect the International Festival to draw an even larger crowd from all along the lakeshore," said Esther Fifelski, IRC manager. "This will be a great opportunity for local businesses to show their support of community programs that connect Holland residents with cultures from across the globe." Sponsorship opportunities will be announced later this fall.

If you or your organization is interested in being represented on the planning team for the International Festival, please contact irc@cityofholland.com.

About the City of Holland:

The City of Holland, Michigan is a vibrant community in a beautiful lakefront setting. It is a world-class city with a small-town feel, making it one of the best places to live, work and vacation. Holland has been recognized by Forbes Magazine and Money Magazine as one of the safest and most beautiful places in the U.S. and was voted as the "Second Happiest and Healthiest Places to Live in America" by Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index. In 2015, Holland landed the number three spot on the Livability.com list as one of the "10 Best Cities for Families."

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