
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 27, 2005
File No.: 8200-20
To: City Manager
From: Cultural Services Coordinator
Subject: City of Kelowna Life & Arts Festival

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receive the report for information concerning the City of Kelowna Life & Arts Festival

BACKGROUND:

In 2004, the City of Kelowna created an annual signature event to enhance development and awareness for the Cultural District and to promote the arts in our Community. Along with our founding sponsors, the City of Kelowna, Kelowna's Cultural District and Cultural Capital of Canada, the Life & Arts Festival was created to celebrate all that life and the arts have to offer. The inaugural Life & Arts Festival was held in May 2004 attracting over 10,000 visitors to the City's Cultural District. The Festival was deemed very successful, receiving positive response from the audience and participants. Over the past year an advisory committee was created to assist with long range planning of the festival. The mission of the Life & Arts Festival is *"To enrich local and global communities by fostering the development of and exposure to multi-discipline arts for all ages"*.

DISCUSSION:

The 2nd Annual Life & Arts Festival takes place May 6th – 8th in Kelowna's Cultural District. It is a multi-discipline arts festival that celebrates all that life and the arts have to offer. Offered annually on Mother's Day weekend, the festival features music, live theatre, street performances, visual arts of all dimensions will be included as well as the culinary arts and a focus on multiculturalism. It makes use of the majority of the facilities available in Kelowna's downtown Cultural District, giving a truly well-rounded flavor for the festival goers.

The concept of the Life & Arts Festival is simple: highlight and showcase the best Kelowna and the Okanagan have to offer while bringing more artists, opportunities and audiences (both local and visitors) into our Cultural District. Headliners, experiential performances and activities and a festive atmosphere will be a drawing card for the Festival, and will be made possible through partnerships with local artists and organizations.

The 2005 Life & Arts Festival is running in conjunction with the City of Kelowna's official Centennial Celebrations.

2005 FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

**See map for locations*

1. Festival Village

The Festival Village will be the heart of the Festival; a buzzing hub of activity where people can go to gather for Festival events, explore the arts and the Cultural District. The Festival Village will feature 3 stages: the Centennial Stage by the Kelowna Community Theatre, the City Stage across from the Library, and the Lake City Casinos Mainstage between the Rotary Centre for the Arts and the Kelowna Art Gallery.

The Festival Village will showcase the talents of street performers, music artists, theatre and dance performances as well as workshops, storytelling, literary readings and poetry readings. The Festival will feature performances from the Kelowna Community Theatre, the Kelowna Actors Studio, Theatre Kelowna, Kiwanis Music Festival winners, Kelowna Chamber Music, Sunshine Theatre, and exhibits from the Rotary Centre for the Arts, Kelowna Art Gallery, Turtle Island Gallery as well as others.

2. Artisan Marketplace & Crafters Walkway

The Artisan Marketplace is comprised of artists and crafters from throughout the Okanagan and BC. Visitors will see a crafters walkway with artists in attendance working on their art, and visitors can enjoy many hands-on opportunities to participate in a craft of their own.

3. illuminArts Lantern Celebration

Gather your family and join us as dusk arrives, for a magical evening where hundreds of lanterns are lit and explore the century old tradition of ceremonial displays of light. Create your own lantern installation at the Rotary Centre for the Arts Painting and Drawing Room Wednesday evenings from 630p to 9pm and display your lantern at the illuminArts Lantern Celebration. That evening you and your family will see a variety of lantern displays created by OUC students, school children, and Artists; some with a Centennial theme, some with the theme of their own vision. You will be inspired. Join us May 7 for the illuminArts Lantern Celebration followed by the Centennial fireworks.

4. Positively POSH

Positively POSH, proudly sponsored by Chris Sorensen of Investors Group, is the not-to-be-missed, glamorous opening night reception of the Life & Arts Festival. This by invitation ticketed event features beautiful food, drink, people and the arts. Strolling through select venues in the Cultural District, guests will experience the initial unveiling of the finest arts & culture to be



showcased at the festival. An elegant, upscale, fun-filled evening that affords guests a first hand opportunity to mix & mingle with invited artists who represent the cultural achievements of BC and Canada. Tickets available at Communitix 763-1849

5. Information Booth

Information booths are located in several locations including two in the Festival Village – by the Rotary Centre and at the end of the Crafters Walkway. Additional Info Booths will be at the entrances to Waterfront Park for the illuminArts Lantern Celebration.

6. Carmina Burana

Carmina Burana is based on Carl Orff's 1937 musical cantata. Carmina Burana is a lusty collection of irreverent medieval songs and poems. The Okanagan Festival Singers will perform this ticketed event at the Kelowna Community Theatre, Saturday May 7, 2005. Tickets available at Ticketmaster 860-1470.

7, 8, 9. Entertainment Stages

Several stages have been set up in the Cultural District for your entertainment throughout the weekend to feature a variety of musical and dramatic acts as well as literary and culinary demonstrations. The stages include the Lake City Casinos Mainstage (7), Centennial Stage (8) and Library Plaza Stage (9).

Forging Paradise: Kelowna's Official Centennial Play

Take a trip through Kelowna's Cultural District and through time and discover pioneers who escaped the Old World for the New. Meet our city visionaries and be introduced to Kelowna's very own Apple Queen of the British Empire. Take a ride aboard the S.S. Okanagan (also known as a double-decker bus) and witness a robbery, gunfight and murder. A walk through Waterfront Park will recall the days of the Depression and the First World War. Observe the antics of city eccentrics who walk on stilts, ride boats, and sing as they build a bridge. Forging Paradise: Kelowna's Official Centennial Play is a kaleidoscopic journey through the city's past where you will discover the events and people that made Kelowna the great city it is today. Written by Canadian Playwright Janet Hinton, Directed by Neal Facey. May 6, 8, 13, 14, 15. Tickets available at [Ticketmaster](#) 860-1470.

There are also a number of workshops, demonstrations and 'art'ivities taking place throughout the weekend.

Sheila Olcen
Cultural Services Coordinator

cc: Director of Parks and Leisure Services

/Attachment