



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF ART, MUSIC AND FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

Festival in the Park's Annual Three-Day Event Returns to Freedom Park September 20-22

Charlotte, N.C.— Festival in the Park (FITP) celebrates a milestone year, touting six decades of good art, good music and good times. The community is invited to join in on the fun at this three-day annual jamboree Friday, September 20 through Sunday, September 22 as Freedom Park comes alive with more than 200 visual and performing artists, food, spirits and family entertainment.

NEW IN 2024! We are thrilled to announce FITP is an official Cultural Partner for this year's Charlotte International Arts Festival (CIAF).

"Festival in the Park has proudly served the Charlotte community since 1964," says Festival in the Park Board President, Mark Boone. "Every year, we get even bigger and better, and we plan to be around for another 60 years."

The annual celebration of community attracts nearly 200,000 visitors from the Charlotte area and beyond.

2024 FESTIVAL IN THE PARK HIGHLIGHTS:

- [Artist and Artisans](#) Discover hundreds of unique hand-crafted arts and crafts, including paintings, jewelry, woodwork, photography and more, up for sale.
- [LIVE Performances](#) We will have more than 60 hours of live entertainment. From ballet to bands and Birdmen, local acts from across the Queen City will be featured on three stages throughout the park. Saturday's headliner is the Elton John tribute band, Greggie and the Jets.
- **Grab N' Go Spirits** Sip on a brew, wine, wine slushies or alcoholic seltzers while you stroll and view art. An expanded beverage selection will be on hand for patrons 21 and over, including beer from NoDa Brewing, handpicked vino from the Delicato Family of Wines, and rosé and wine slushies.



- **Food Lovers Unite** Attendees can eat their way through the park with mouthwatering foods such as seafood, barbecue, turkey legs, deep fried candy bars and funnel cakes. Limited dairy free and gluten free options available.
- **Family Fun Zone** It's a vibrant oasis bursting with excitement for kids and their families. Little ones can enjoy hands-on activities and games. There will also be rides, a rock-climbing wall, Rapid Slide and Fun House.

Limited parking is available at Atrium Health Myers Park, located directly across from the Freedom Park entrance in the 1900 block of East Boulevard. Rates are \$15 per vehicle on Friday, \$20 on Saturday and Sunday. There are ride share locations for Uber or Lyft customers, with recommended drop off points at 2435 Cumberland Avenue or 1600 Princeton Avenue.

For the safety of Festival in the Park patrons, pets, skateboards and rollerblading **are not** allowed. Scooters and bikes **must be** walked during the event.

An outdoor art gallery, LIVE musical performances, the smell and taste of good food, an expanded spirits selection and more at Festival in the Park 2024. To view complete FITP details and the park layout, visit www.festivalinthepark.org. **Please Note:** *Guests must be 21 years of age or older to purchase or consume alcoholic beverages.*

FESTIVAL IN THE PARK FUN FACTS:

- The first-ever Festival in the Park was held on Tuesday, September 22, 1964. The inaugural festival was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, with a budget of only \$4,000, which bought the first tents.
- FITP started as a six-day event in 1964, running Tuesday through Sunday. Artists, at that time, were not allowed to sell any of their work, only have them on display.
- The local chapter of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) volunteered hundreds of hours of time to wire Freedom Park lake on behalf of the festival, allowing the event to continue into the night.
- The longest running group to participate with FITP since its inception is The Charlotte Folk Society.



- Artists from as far away as the West Coast have traveled to be a part of this annual event.
- Since 1964, FITP never missed one year before the pandemic. In 1992, when the Freedom Park lake was under renovation, the event was "Festival in the Parking Lot" as vendors moved to the asphalt and ball fields.

To download Festival in the Park assets, click here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18PuEuYjNAcSBNWRV7bF9nklgHUcQzIfw?usp=sharing> .

For more information and interview opportunities, please contact Laresa Thompson of Thompson & Boyd Communications at: 336-681-0116 or laresathompson@gmail.com.

About Festival in the Park

Festival in the Park is a non-profit organization designed to promote creative arts in the Charlotte community. We do so through our annual event, Festival in the Park, which has been a staple in the Queen City for 60 years. Paired with local food vendors and entertainers, the festival provides the opportunity for creatives to showcase and sell their work. The event is held at Freedom Park, the 98-acre park between Charlotte's Dilworth and Myers Park neighborhoods, and is one of the top rated, family-friendly events in the Carolinas. The Festival is hosted by Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation. Piedmont Natural Gas is the Festival's Green sponsor.

Read more: <https://festivalinthepark.org/about-us/>.