

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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61st annual Festival in the Park is back Sept. 19 – 21!

Nearly 200 artists and their work will be showcased with live music and dance performances, food and activities for all visitors

CHARLOTTE (Sept. 4, 2025) -- **Festival in the Park** (www.FESTIVALinthePARK.org) returns for its 61st year in Freedom Park from **September 19-21** with a diverse assortment of live performances, food and drink — and a record number of artisans displaying their works. More than 125,000 visitors from across the state are expected to attend this year's Festival.

"We consistently attract outstanding talent from throughout our region to Freedom Park," said Tom Geisler, Festival board president. "The event features over 1,000 stage performers across three days and has expanded its space to welcome nearly 200 artists presenting a variety of visual artworks, including paintings, sculptures, and photography, and other fine works in the park."

"We are also thrilled to announce we are again an official Cultural Partner for this year's Charlotte International Arts Festival (CIAF)," Geisler added. Named one of the nation's top 200 festivals by Sunshine Artist Magazine in 2025, the Festival boasts an outdoor open-air amphitheater unrivaled in the area. The Festival has also been honored as Best Charlotte Festival by Charlotte Magazine.

Come meet the "Women of the World," created by local puppeteer Christine McLennan. Three larger-than-life "Women of the World" pageant puppets will roam Festival in the Park this year. You can catch artistic pioneers like Bessie Coleman, Cheng I Sao, and Ynés Mexía popping up throughout the Festival, giving animated "life" to the majestic puppets. Inspired by women who embody the spirit of adventure, the "Women of the World" will awe and inspire a sense of play when encountered at the park.

ENTERTAINMENT

The Festival program also include Saturday musical and dance performances at the Freedom Park band shell:

- ☐ Singer Nitara Reaves - Friday, Sept. 19
- ☐ Charlotte Pride Band, Charlotte Youth Ballet, singers Ellie Morgan (Tribute to Taylor Swift) and Crystal Aria, performing hits from the '70s with the Variety Band – Saturday, Sept. 20
- ☐ Charlotte Bluegrass AllStars, Youth Orchestra of Charlotte and Hope of Israel Dancers – Sunday, Sept. 21

As has been the tradition for more than 60 years, the Festival admission is free.

Additional weekend entertainment includes the return of the Charlotte Folk Society, We Rock Youth Stage and different genres of live music. Amusement rides and attractions for all ages will again return to the Festival's Family Fun Zone. More than two dozen food vendors will also add to the sensory experience at the park.

PARKING

Parking is available Friday after 5 p.m. and all-day Saturday and Sunday at:

- Atrium Health Myers Park (GPS location: East Blvd. Charlotte, NC @ South Kings Dr.). Cash only. Limited parking is available for \$15 on Friday and \$20 on Saturday and Sunday at Atrium Health Myers Park, located directly across from the Freedom Park entrance in the 1900 block of East Boulevard.
- Patrons are also encouraged to consider a ride share service, such as Uber or Lyft, with recommended drop off points at 2435 Cumberland Avenue or 1600 Princeton Avenue.
- Accessible parking for individuals with disabilities is available on a first-come, first-serve basis at the Freedom Park lot on East Blvd. Vehicles must display either a NC DMV issued disability placard or license plate to enter and park.

DONORS AND SPONSORS

Private donors, known as “Friends of the Festival,” help cover the Festival’s cost of renting Freedom Park from Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation and the hiring of off-duty Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police officers, Medics and firefighters to keep patrons safe.

Festival in the Park is hosted by Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation.

This project was made possible, in part, with funding from the Arts & Science Council; the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources; and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.

Piedmont Natural Gas is the 2025 Green Sponsor.

For more detailed information on Festival in the Park acts and activities, visit the website at www.FESTIVALinthePARK.org

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