



# **Festál 2005**

## **20 Free Cultural Events At Seattle Center**

Arts and cultural events are held the world over, but only Seattle Center presents 20 free, family-friendly cultural celebrations that honor the richness and diversity of our region in one location throughout the year.

Music, an important part of every culture, has the power to speak to all of us, and musical performances can be heard at every Festál event. You can also enjoy and experience other activities such as dance, children's games and crafts, informative seminars, hands-on workshops, entertaining demonstrations, art and photo exhibits and film screenings. Many cultural events also feature food merchants, cooking demonstrations and craft and import markets.

The individuals who work hard all year to present these cultural events are your neighbors, your colleagues, your shopkeepers or your child's teacher. They're professionals, amateurs and experts – and almost all of them volunteer their time. Together, they – and all of us – make up a diverse cultural tapestry. Come enjoy, explore and experience world cultures and the vitality they bring to our community at Seattle Center's Festál.



### **Têt Festival** **February 5 - 6**

Têt welcomes the Vietnamese Lunar New Year and the Year of the Rooster with a roaring lion dance, drumming and booming firecrackers.

The 9th annual Têt Festival presents a vivid history, and both ancient and contemporary customs. Produced by Têt in Seattle.  
[www.tetinseattle.org](http://www.tetinseattle.org)



### **Irish Week Festival** **March 12 - 13**

Sing along to Irish tunes, try stepdancing, enter children's contests, learn about Gaelic games, Irish history or genealogy, or take Irish language lessons. Meet Irish

celebrities, view Irish movies, cultural exhibits and demonstrations. Produced by The Irish Heritage Club.  
[www.irishclub.org](http://www.irishclub.org)



### **Festival Sundiata** **February 19 - 20**

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, this festival is named for King Sundiata, West Africa's 13th century ruler. Gospel, jazz, hip hop and spoken word, drumming, dance, storytelling, a market-

place and more highlight the journey of people of African descent. Produced by the Sundiata African-American Cultural Association. [www.festivalsundiata.org](http://www.festivalsundiata.org)



### **Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival** **April 22 - 24**

From booming taiko drums to the silence of ikebana flowers, from the many flavors of sushi and green tea to the scent of sumi ink, this 30th annual event offers total immersion into Japanese culture. Produced by the Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival Committee.



### **Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration May 1**

This half-day program is one of the newest Festival events. Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month originated in 1977 and celebrates Asians and Pacific Island groups in the U.S., including Indian, Samoan, Laotian and Vietnamese. Produced by the Asian Pacific Directors Coalition.



### **Northwest Folklife Festival May 27 - 30**

Every Memorial Day weekend for 34 years, the region's most comprehensive and diverse cultural event takes over Seattle Center. Featuring 19 stages and roughly 1,000 performances, the four-day festival includes music, dance, crafts, food, visual displays, demonstrations and workshops, along with an array of participatory events. Produced by Northwest Folklife. [www.nwfolklife.org](http://www.nwfolklife.org)



### **Pagdiriwang Philippine Festival June 11 - 12**

Celebration and hospitality are vital to the Filipino way of life and the dynamic heritage of the more than 7,000 Asian- and Western-influenced Pacific Islands. Performance and exhibits are intertwined with pageantry, ritual, and theatre. Produced by the Filipino Cultural Heritage Society. [www.seattlepagdiriwang.com](http://www.seattlepagdiriwang.com)



### **4th of July Naturalization Ceremony**

More than 500 individuals from over 70 countries take the oath of citizenship. Elected officials, dignitaries, relatives and friends honor these new U.S. citizens in a public program featuring the Navy Band Northwest, a Native American storyteller, and children of the world. Produced by the Ethnic Heritage Council. [www.ethnicheritagecouncil.org](http://www.ethnicheritagecouncil.org)



### **Bastille Day July 10**

The best of all things French: sip, eat, and shop while commemorating the 1789 French Revolution, the beginning of democracy in France. Produced by the Consular Agency of France and the France-Washington Committee.



### **Arab Festival August 6 - 7**

Enjoy a bustling souk (bazaar), ancient and modern music, authentic foods and delicious coffee in an authentic Arab coffee house. Lectures and workshops tell more about one of the world's oldest cultures at this bi-annual event. Produced by the Arab Center of Washington. [www.arabcenter.net](http://www.arabcenter.net)



### **Celebrate Cambodia! August 13**

Clothing made of handmade silk, sophisticated dances accompanied by gongs and bamboo instruments, and fine crafts made of wood, stone and silver are part of this half-day event. Produced by the Khmer Community of Seattle/King County and the Cambodian Women's Association.



### **BrasilFest August 21**

Brazil's celebrated martial art and dance style, capoeira, is physically challenging and fascinating to watch. Spectacular costumes, folk and pop music, samba and danceable drum beats keep things hot and happening, rain or shine. Produced by ShowBrazil. [www.brasilfest.com](http://www.brasilfest.com)



### **Tibet Fest** **August 27 - 28**

Rituals, modern and ancient, preserve Tibet's identity. Stories and legends are told through melodies and movements, symbolic masks and costumes. A bazaar features handmade items, prayer flags and more. The 10th Annual Tibet Fest is produced by The Tibetan Association of Washington. [www.washingtontibet.org](http://www.washingtontibet.org)



### **Korean Cultural Celebration** **September 10**

Ch'usok, or Harvest Festival Day, gives thanks for a good harvest. Folk songs, dance, Tae Kwon Do demonstrations, film screenings and exhibits depict a cultural evolution over thousands of years. Produced by the Korean-American Art & Cultural Association. [www.koamartists.org](http://www.koamartists.org)



### **Seattle Fiestas Patrias** **September 17 - 18**

Celebrate Mexican and Latin American independence with festive mariachi music, salsa and folk dances, authentic food, informative displays and interactive activities. Discover the broad diversity found within Latin American culture. Produced by Seattle Fiestas Patrias. [www.seattlefiestaspatrias.org](http://www.seattlefiestaspatrias.org)



### **The Italian Festival** **September 24 - 25**

It's all about food, family and fun! Mouth-watering aromas, demonstrations by celebrity chefs, a bevy of Italian food merchants; tenors, sopranos and pop singers; Italian cars; puppet theatre; a Grape Stomp and bocce – entertainment for all ages! Produced by Festa Italiana for the 18th year. [www.festaseattle.com](http://www.festaseattle.com)



### **CroatiaFest** **October 2**

Performances by internationally acclaimed dance ensembles, musicians, singers and visiting artists, along with art, photo and artifact exhibits, offer an inspiring look at Croatian culture and folkways. Produced by Croatian community leaders and the Honorary Consul of Croatia. [www.croatiafest.org](http://www.croatiafest.org)



### **TurkFest** **October 22 - 23**

Turkey has long been the link between East and West, from Hittites and Assyrians, to Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine. TurkFest brings together many cultures that make up this unique mosaic. Produced by the Turkish American Cultural Association of Washington. [www.turkfest.org](http://www.turkfest.org)



### **Día de Muertos** **October 29**

Life and the lives of those departed are celebrated in this important Mexican tradition, now in its third year at Seattle Center. Community altars, sugar skulls, special foods, candles, music, dance and art are both honoring and life-affirming. Produced by La Casa de Artes. [www.lacasadeartes.org](http://www.lacasadeartes.org)



### **Hmong New Year** **November 5**

From the mountains of Laos and Thailand, Hmong people preserved their stories and language through intricate embroidery, music and unusual communication techniques. Demonstrations, exhibits and performances highlight this highland culture. Produced by the Hmong Association of Washington.