

# Behind the Scenes:

## VOLUNTEERING FOR FESTIVAL FUN

Volunteering at one of Edmonton's many exciting summer festivals is a great chance to get a behind-the-scenes look at all of the action. The abundance of arts and culture-related festivals that take place in Edmonton provides members of the public with a chance to become involved by signing up as a volunteer.

Students out of school for the summer, families, busy parents, seniors and even tourists visiting from within Canada can take advantage of the many short-term volunteer opportunities offered by festivals. It's an ideal way to make a contribution to the community without having to make a long-term commitment.

What makes volunteering at festivals even better is the behind-the-scenes experience that only festival volunteers can receive. "You're part of something fun and exciting," says Noree Claerhout, resource development manager for the Fringe Festival. "And depending on the festival you might even be able to go to shows for free or meet the performers."

People who are interested in helping Edmonton keep its title of Festival City can attend the second annual Festival Volunteer Fair on May 13, at the TranAlta Arts Bams from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The event, hosted by Volunteer Edmonton with support from the Edmonton Arts Council, Fringe Theatre Adventures and the Edmonton REALTORS® Association, will showcase the multiple arts and culture-related festivals that exist in Edmonton and provide members of the public with a chance to become involved with these festivals by signing up as a volunteer.

Last year's event featured 20 festivals and over 250 visitors, but the hope is that this year's fair is bigger and better. "We want to provide people with an opportunity to become part of the city's vibrant festival scene and help support festival organizations who are struggling to fill empty volunteer roles," says Janice Bell, director of Volunteer Edmonton. "This is a great 'one-stop shopping' event for people who want to volunteer for an episodic event but don't know where to go or who to talk to. This way, they'll be in direct contact with the festivals and get the information they need on the spot."



The majority of festivals at the fair will be recruiting volunteers to help out for the duration of their event—security, food services, front desk, cleans-up crews, greeters and much more. "Given that we have so many different festivals, there will be all kinds of volunteer opportunities available for people with different interests and abilities," says Bell.

If festival volunteering piques your interest, start thinking about the kinds of volunteer opportunities you'd like to do first—determining what your interests are and how much time you have to commit will help make choosing a volunteer opportunity much easier when confronted with a variety of choices.

To learn more about the Festival Volunteer Fair and how you can become a volunteer, visit [www.volunteeredmonton.com](http://www.volunteeredmonton.com). To check out a list of festivals in Edmonton, visit [www.festivalcity.ca](http://www.festivalcity.ca).

For more information or suggestions for story ideas please contact Evelyn Pham, Communications Coordinator at [epham@volunteeredmonton.com](mailto:epham@volunteeredmonton.com), call (780) 732-6655 or check out our website at [www.volunteeredmonton.com](http://www.volunteeredmonton.com). Volunteer Edmonton is a program of The Support Network.

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~Anais Nin

Dr. Tamara Hanoski is a registered psychologist with over 12 years in the counselling field. She is currently offering counselling for individuals, couples, and families, as well as play therapy for children.

As a mother of two young children, she has a particular interest in post-partum adjustment and/or depression.

Other areas of treatment include anxiety, depression, grief, abuse issues, relationship issues, parenting, stress, anger management, sibling relationships, and self-esteem.

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