

# Togetherhness rules



## ➤ Festivals in need of a helping hand

Edmonton's festivals need volunteers.

That's why Volunteer Edmonton is inviting everyone to come to the Festival Volunteer Fair on May 12 at city hall.

The event, now in its third year, brings a variety of arts and culture-related festivals together to promote their various

## Volunteer Edmonton

opportunities.

"This event helps make volunteering easy," says Nana Thaver, co-ordinator for Volunteer Edmonton.

"People can come down between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., talk to festival representatives and sign up on the spot for a volunteer opportunity that may interest them."

This event has more than 25 festivals celebrating visual arts, dance, music, culture, film, theatre and literature signed up.

"We have a great mix," says Thaver. "There are the big-name festivals that most people are aware of and then we have the smaller festivals or those that are just establishing themselves."

### EASE AND CONVENIENCE

She notes that the ease and convenience of having a variety of festivals under one roof has been a key factor in its success.

"We know one of the major challenges is that people don't where to go or where to start looking for a volunteer opportunity," she explains. "We've made things simple by putting together several festivals under one roof. All you need to do is come to the event."

Brett Bailey, who attended last year, says the Festival Volunteer Fair is a great way to get introduced to volunteering.

"Festivals are a great place to start if you've never volunteered before," she says. "I really enjoyed the collaborative atmosphere. Everyone was very welcoming and friendly. You feel like part of the volunteer community even as you walk in the door."

Another bonus for individuals is that most festivals operate for a short period of time, which means volunteering for a festival might only require a few weeks or a few days.

"If you only have a short amount of time available, volunteering at a festival might be the perfect fit for you," Thaver says.

### A VARIETY OF AREAS

Festivals are looking for volunteers to help in a variety of areas, including food services, cashiers, greeting and ushering, security, clean-up crews, projectionists, set up and take down, answering phones, bartending and much more.

"Festival volunteers get to be part of the action and excitement," Thaver emphasizes. "It's a great way to have fun while showing your support for our city's amazing festivals."

For more information about the Festival Volunteer Fair on May 12 or to view a complete list of the festivals that will be participating this year, visit [www.volunteeredmonton.com](http://www.volunteeredmonton.com).

Look to this space to see the work that the city's volunteers and non-profit organizations are carrying out and what it is that Volunteer Edmonton is involved in.

For more information or suggestions for story ideas, please contact Evelyn Pham, communications co-ordinator, at [epham@volunteeredmonton.com](mailto:epham@volunteeredmonton.com), call 780-732-6655 or check out their website at [volunteeredmonton.com](http://volunteeredmonton.com).

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