

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Elizabeth Balazs
(402) 345-5401 ext. 102
ebalazs@vgagroup.com



OMAHA
SUMMER
ARTS
FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY:  First National Bank

OMAHA SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY NEW LOCATION

Site Moves North to Mike Fahey Street for Next Three Summers During Gene Leahy Mall Renovation

(OMAHA, Neb.) Dec. 4, 2018 – As a major renovation ensues at the Gene Leahy Mall next year, the 45th annual Omaha Summer Arts Festival (OSAF) will take place in downtown Omaha June 7-9, 2019, at a new location on Mike Fahey Street between 10th and 14th Streets. The temporary site is located alongside the downtown ballpark, about a half-mile directly north of the Festival’s usual setting on Farnam Street adjacent to the Gene Leahy Mall. The move is expected for the 2019, 2020 and 2021 festivals with a return to Farnam Street in 2022.

“We are excited about the move. A different location brings new energy and opportunities for the Festival,” said Liz Kerrigan, leadership strategist with the Greater Omaha Chamber and president of the OSAF Board of Directors.

Visitors of all ages can expect the same features that have made OSAF a favorite summer event, including the Artists Market showcasing the work of 135 juried visual artists, a full lineup of entertainment at the World Music Pavilion, a Children’s Fair and Family Entertainment Stage, and a variety of food and drink at Tastefest. The Young Artist Exhibition will continue to be hosted by the W. Dale Clark Library.

Parking information will be made available on the OSAF website as the event draws near, much like any other year.

The Festival itself predates the Gene Leahy Mall, which was dedicated in 1977 as the Central Park Mall. Vic Gutman, whose company still manages the event today, launched the first Omaha Summer Arts Festival in 1975 in the historic Old Market.

“In the Summer Arts Festival’s fourth year, we moved a few blocks west of the Old Market to the area around the City-County Building and Douglas County Courthouse, and stayed there 28 years. In 2002, we moved to Farnam Street alongside the Gene Leahy Mall,” Gutman said. “In its temporary location for the next three years, the Festival will continue to be Omaha’s premier celebration of arts and entertainment. And festivalgoers can also look forward to getting to know some new neighbors and developing areas like The Builder’s District and New North Makerhood.”

About the Omaha Summer Arts Festival

OSAF is consistently recognized as one of Omaha’s best annual events with a variety of local honors and awards including being named a 2018 “Best Festival” in Omaha Magazine’s Best of Omaha awards and 2017 winner of the festival category for Omaha’s Choice. For more information on the Omaha Summer Arts Festival, visit www.summerarts.org.