



NEWS RELEASE

River Festival 2021 Highlights Announced

(Salina, KS 07-21) Salina Arts & Humanities unveiled this week highlights for the **45th-anniversary Smoky Hill River Festival**, scheduled for Sept 2-5 in Oakdale Park. Focal to the Festival's 2021 offerings is its new website at riverfestival.com, on which many exciting entertainment, arts, kids, Food Row, and admission details can be found.

Among 45th-anniversary River Festival highlights are:

***Afternoon and evening stage-act headliners Cowboy Mouth** (Friday), **Phantom Blues Band** (Saturday) and **Sunset Sinners** (Sunday). Other top acts include SunDub from NYC, That 1 Guy, returning from Las Vegas, and Jarabe Mexicano from San Diego. Roving and Arty's Stage acts include Up, Up & Away balloon artists from Kansas City and Magic Bubbles from San Francisco.

***More than 130 visual artists from 19 states** will exhibit and sell their work at the Festival's **Fine Art & Craft Show**. On-site Demonstration Artists include artisans from Iowa, Minnesota, Lawrence and Salina, including mixed-media artist Julie Cates, also designer of the 2021 Festival T-shirt. More than 20 site-specific, outdoor Art Installations will delight and surprise Festival-goers across Oakdale Park.

***The River Festival's Art Patron Program** offers art lovers and collectors a change to sign up for special perks including admission to the Thursday-night PREMIERE cocktail party, a Friday-morning preview hour of art-show shopping and more. Sign up by calling 785-309-5770.

***Brand-new for Festival 2021 is the Riverside area**, formerly the Bravo stage and area, featuring talks with Festival artists, musicians, writers and other creatives. The Game Show Party, hula lessons with Martika Daniels and hands-on art making are other Riverside activities on tap.

***Artyopolis kids** fun for 2021 includes Creation Crossing make-and-take crafts, Button Boulevard, Game Street, Lego Lane, Mistical Oasis, Paintchoo Plaza, and Arty' Stage acts. Artyopolis hours are Friday -Saturday 10a to 6p and Sunday 12n to 4p. General Festival hours are Thursday, Sept 2 from 4p to 10p, Friday and Saturday 10a to 10p, and Sunday, Sept 5 from 10a to 5p.

RELEASE DATE:
Immediate

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July 15, 2021

*The River Festival's **Food Row** is a 'must stop' for many each year. New foods for 2021 include frog legs, meatball sliders, coconut shrimp, bacon-wrapped sausage on-a-stick and soft pretzels. Food vendors are open all 3.5 days of the Festival. Menus available at riverfestival.com

*For the first time, **admission** to the 45th-anniversary River Festival is by **weekend Wristband** (\$15 in adv, \$20 at the gate) available in 21 cities **starting Monday, July 26**, or by daily Wristband (\$10, sold only at the gate). Children 11 and under get in free. See a list of all local or regional Wristband Retailers at: <https://www.riverfestival.com/participating-retailers/>.

Celebrate and experience the arts River-Festival style, Thursday to Sunday, Sept 2-5 in Salina, KS. For details, visit riverfestival.com or call 785-309-5770.

For needed accommodations, please call Amanda Morris at Salina Arts & Humanities at 785-309-5770 between 8:00 a.m. - Noon and 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Every effort will be made to accommodate known disabilities. For material or speech access, please call at least five working days prior to the event.

Salina Arts & Humanities, a department of the City of Salina, has served a unique role as an arts advocate and resource partner since 1966. The Smoky Hill River Festival, Horizons Grants Program, Smoky Hill Museum, Arts Infusion Program in schools, Community Art & Design, and Creative Connections are among the programs of Salina Arts & Humanities, located at 211 W. Iron Avenue in Salina.

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