Public Picnic Combines Norman Arts, Entertainment

NORMAN, OKLA. – Three of Norman’s powerhouse arts organizations are joining forces for a fun afternoon in the park. The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, Firehouse Art Center and Jacobson House are teaming up to present Luncheon on the Grass, a free picnic scheduled from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, June 6, at Lions Park.

Visitors are encouraged to bring picnic blankets, lunch and drinks. The collaborating organizations will provide hands-on art activities, live entertainment and desserts.

“Norman is home to many great arts institutions,” said Ghislain d’Humières, director of the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. “Though each has its own unique mission, our collective purpose is to engage the Norman community and its visitors with art and culture. It is a great opportunity to represent this collective vision with this inaugural collaborative picnic.”

In addition to art activities for all ages, live music will hit the stage throughout the event. A steel drum combo from the University of Oklahoma Percussion Studio kicks off the event at noon. The Jacobson House provides cultural music
from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. with traditional Chickasaw songs and storytelling by the Shackleford Family, powwow singers and the Flute Circle.

Local singer/songwriter and SongWriter Association of Norman member Gregg Standridge and friends will perform original Americana folk songs at 1:30. Norman-based country folk rock band Post Arcadia will close the event with music from 2:15 to 3 p.m.

Additional Native storytellers will be speaking near a tepee erected by the Jacobson House, and visitors can play a traditional Kiowa game called the gaming wheel.

“This collaboration with the Firehouse Art Center and the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is exactly what we at the Jacobson House have been working toward,” said Kricket Rhoads-Connywerdy, director of the Jacobson House. “Something community-oriented like this coincides perfectly with what we do at the Jacobson House every week – drums, flutes, art created by Oklahoma artists – and the variety of activities offered by each organization.”

The Firehouse Art Center will offer artwork for children on the outdoor Children’s Art Wall with special guest artist D.G. Smalling, a Choctaw artist from Oklahoma who specializes in drawings consisting of one continuous line.

Carla Chew, operations coordinator for the Firehouse Art Center, said the free desserts for the afternoon include an assortment of cookies and much more.

“We will have everything from cakes to brownies under the tent for all to see and taste,” she said.

Lions Park is located at 400 S. Flood Ave., next to Firehouse Art Center.

The Firehouse’s website is www.normanfirehouse.moonfruit.com; the Jacobson House’s website is www.jacobsonhouse.com; and the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art’s website is www.ou.edu/fjjma. Information and accommodations on the basis of disability are available by calling (405) 325-4938.

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