

## Multnomah Days street fair to include parade, vendors, music, art sale

By KC Cowan  
The Southwest Portland Post

You might not have to worry about it being too crowded to see this year's Multnomah Day's Parade. Organizers say they think the total solar eclipse in Oregon may draw people away.

"We might have a little bit less participants and viewers on the whole day," said Tye Steinbach of Thinker Toys, who is helping coordinate this year's festival.

Organizers were trying to figure out why there seemed to be less

enthusiasm for signing up this year, when they realized the solar eclipse will take place on Aug. 21, the Monday following the parade and street fair on Saturday, Aug. 19.

"We think a lot of people may be going out of town for the whole weekend," said Steinbach.

He still anticipates between 70 and 80 participants in this year's parade, but it's hard to know for certain, because no one is required to sign up in advance. They just show up and get in line.

The parade, which starts at 10 a.m., winds through the village, with participants waving and

tossing candy to the crowds of locals. Afterwards, there are vendors who sell food and craft items, or offer community services. Reservations for vendor booths are down a bit, too.

"Probably 85 to 90 percent of the spaces will be taken, but we could use more artist vendors. And could use more food vendors," said Steinbach, who added he is confident Multnomah Days will still be fun.

"We've still got the

Kids Zone and Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast (8-11 a.m. at Key Bank). And Portland Opera will perform its free "Opera a la Carte" program from noon to 4 p.m. on a stage at Southwest 36th and Capitol Highway."

The Multnomah Arts Center holds its annual art sale on the front lawn of the Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ceramic art, jewelry, textiles, paintings and more will be on display.

All the art is created by the teachers, students, staff, and board members of the MAC.

"We try to close it at about 50 artists," said Joan Wray, outgoing MAC board president. "So there's plenty of room and we can put out as much as possible. It's all on the front lawn—nothing inside in the summer. And we pray for no rain."

The art show benefits the Arts Center, with 35 percent of each sale going to support programs. That split is a little better than most galleries, so artists do well, too.



A wide variety of hand-made art is available at the Multnomah Arts Center during the Multnomah Days street fair on Aug. 19. (Photo courtesy MAC)

Last year approximately \$10,000 was raised, which Wray said is the biggest single-day fundraiser each year.

The Kiwanis pancake breakfast is being held from 8-11 a.m. Vendor booths will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the parade begins at 10 a.m. Parade entries should check in and line up an hour ahead of time at Handy Andy's near the bridge. The beer and wine garden opens at 11 a.m. and stays open until 10 p.m. There will be live music scheduled on several stages from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Those interested in volunteering are asked to contact Jason Sharp at Umpqua Bank.



These two sousaphone players get ready to perform in the 2016 parade with The Beat Goes On marching band. (Post file photo by Don Snedecor)



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