

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta Kicks off Friday



The downtown waterfront is jammed with people for Cinco de Mayo Fiesta, one of the largest festivals in Oregon, returning for a four-day run on Friday.



The Cinco de Mayo Fiesta celebrates family, culture and community at Tom McCall Waterfront Park. The 24th-annual event opens Friday on the downtown waterfront.

Celebrates arts, music and folklore

The Cinco de Mayo Fiesta is a four-day celebration that opens Friday at Tom McCall Waterfront Park, downtown.

The celebration brings to Portland and all Oregonians the beautiful colors, cuisine, arts, music and folklore of Mexico and specifically, Guadalajara,

Portland's sister city.

This will be the 24th anniversary for the largest Cinco de Mayo fiesta in North America. Your perennial favorites from Guadalajara, the Ballet Folklórico and Mariachis will be back and performing daily.

New for this year's event will be the

Guadalajara Pavilion. It showcases artisans and other successful businesses from Guadalajara, Mexico. Representatives from Guadalajara have taken the reins and promise to provide a distinctive environment with artisans and jewelers from Guadalajara who will demonstrate their craft onsite and sell their wares.

The Cinco de Mayo Fiesta is a boost for tourism and supports our local,

regional and global economies with hundreds of people who join us as guests from Portland's sister city of Guadalajara as well as people from across Oregon and other states across our nation.

Unique to the celebration is the ability to provide entertainment and activities for families and people of all ages.

The fiesta will start on Friday, May 2

at 11 a.m. and continue through Cinco de Mayo which falls on Monday this year. Fireworks will kick-start the fiesta Friday night at 9:45 p.m.

Admission is \$8 for ages 12 to adult, \$2 for children under 12 and free for kids under 3.

Free admission is scheduled before 4 p.m. on Friday and from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday.

Diverse background leads to crusader for jobs

continued ▲ from Front

a different experience—but generally speaking I certainly understand that we all need to work together."

Dozono says the campaign is not about running against anyone but about what an experienced minority businessman can bring to the city, though he introduced subjects with "I disagree with my chief opponent" repeatedly in his conversation with the Portland Observer.

He also says that he tries not to be evasive about his similarities to Mayor Tom Potter, preferring to talk about some programs he would keep like supporting housing for inner-city families.

One thing Portlanders can be sure of with Dozono as mayor is a concentration on attracting businesses to the city and keeping existing enterprises happy. Even when talking about public schools needing more advocacy in Salem, along with the city's reinvestment in school buildings

to make the district more cost-efficient, economic issues remain tantamount.

"All that stuff begins with a healthy economy, because if you don't have good, family-wage jobs, everything else is nothing," Dozono says.

As mayor, he plans to reduce taxes for companies and travel the world to tell business leaders that the city is open to business, saying, "For too long at least the perception is that Portland is business-unfriendly."

Transportation commissioner turns to schools

continued ▲ from Front

Adams led last year will be a controversial tax measure on this November's ballot to raise money for long-term transportation fixes and paving projects, replacing bridges, easing congestion and building streetcar lines.

On initiatives to reduce the use of carbon fuels, he says, "I would be loath to do any sort of carbon tax that didn't have a break for low-income people.

As a fighter for social concerns, Adams has strong convictions. "I make absolutely no apologies for the priorities that I've made or the decisions that I've made," he says.

Adams has some opponents from over a decade at City Hall, yet argues that he'd be less divisive than Mayor Tom Potter, saying, "I think it's despicable that the mayor tries to play one side of the city off on another side of the city.

But with messages such as "a city is only as good as its public schools," Adams can remain positive and goal-oriented at the same time. He envisions a "self-improving prophesy" that links Jefferson High School and its neighboring campus of Portland Community College.

Hoping to build on his advocacy for low-income housing, Adams campaigns for affordable living with taxes on real-estate

transactions and large developments.

A non-tax method aimed at improving the schools involves Adams' proposal to make companies pay employees for work lost attending parent-teacher conferences.

Various plans in partnership with school districts, county and business representatives make the top city position, in his words, "equal parts private-sector fundraiser in chief, honorary accountability officer and parental involvement cheerleader."

"Only a mayor can do all that," he says. "I can't change people's minds, but hopefully I can change their pocketbooks."



Artist and muralist Isaac 'Isaka' Shamsud-Din is encouraging young art students to participate in an art competition with the theme "The Black West."

Young, Gifted and Black

Art contest embraces cultural histories

A local African-American artist and muralist is encouraging African-American or African-Diaspora high-school students in the Portland metro area to participate in an art competition under the theme "The Black West."

Isaac "Isaka" Shamsud-Din is one of the organizers of the competition sponsored by the African American Visual Arts Scholarship Committee at Portland State University, the Portland Rose Festival and the office of Mayor Tom Potter.

Cash prizes of \$500, \$250 and \$100 will be awarded for original two dimensional works with a maximum size of 36 by 36 inches. Some exceptions will be considered. All entries will be exhibited at the 2008 Rose Festival.

The purpose of the contest is to encourage the study of rich cultural history as a living legacy and inspire the creation of original works of art. Throughout time, the study and knowledge of history has given artists a foundation to fashion their visions as they chronicled and interpreted past and present people, places and events.

A deadline of May 23 has been set for submissions. Each entry must be accompanied by a typed 100- to 200-word essay or outline from readings that provide the basis for your art. Be sure to attach student information: name, address, phone number, school, art teacher's name and year in school.

Deliver entries to Jefferson High School, in care of Amy

Hargrave, 5210 N. Kerby Ave., Portland, OR 97211 (phone 503-916-5180, extension 1391) or Mr. Shamsud-Din (phone 503-232-1671) or visit the website aavas.com.

The African American Visual Arts Scholarship Committee is actively seeking young African-American artists, offering tuition, financial support, mentoring, tutoring, portfolio development and a network of art students of color throughout the Portland area.

Recipients must be African-American or African-Diaspora art majors enrolled as full-time students, concentrating in studio art, drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, graphic design with computer graphics components or art history.

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