

North Charleston
ARTS FESTIVAL

May 4-12, 2012

Opening Processional Information for Group Contacts

THE OPENING PROCESSIONAL SCHEDULE, Saturday May 5, 2012:

9:00am - 9:30am - Check-In
9:30am - Line-Up
9:45am - Opening Processional begins (around the Convention Center)
10:00am - Participants march across the stage
10:00am - 10:30am – Performing participants will be Spotlitged
10:30am - The Main Event begins with a performance by <i>Adande!</i>

Your involvement in our Opening Processional is vital to its success. Because this is a people's processional open to the public, the number of participants is unknown. Also, there has not been an opportunity to practice the Opening Processional. Therefore, as a Group Contact, your support and assistance is needed in the following manner:

1. Make sure any music that has to be played during the Performance Spotlight has been brought to the processional coordinator at the Cultural Arts Office during the week before the processional. Failure to do so will jeopardize the group's slot in the spotlight.
2. Have someone assigned to be with the audio technician to make sure the correct music is played for your Performance Spotlight.
3. Check-in at the Check-In Table under the crossover at the Convention Center entrance nearest Embassy Suites Hotel. (**NOTE: Parking is most convenient to the registration check-in at the Coliseum Drive entrance to the Convention Center off of International Blvd. Park in the lot at the back of the Convention Center nearest the Embassy Suites Hotel).**)
4. Have the group wear what they will perform in for the Performance Spotlight, as there will not be enough time for costume changes.
5. Follow the lead group, *Adande*, along the processional route, from the Convention Center near the Embassy Suites Hotel to the Performing Arts Center. *Adande* will enter the Performing Arts Center and continue to play.
6. All processional participants will proceed across the stage as they welcome the audience. You are a part of the big event so be sure to tell the kids to wave and smile!
7. After you cross the stage, if your group is one of the processional participants who will also be performing in the optional 3-5 minute Performance Spotlight, please go to the offstage wings and wait for your introduction.
8. If your group is participating in the processional only, please take a seat in the audience once your group has crossed the stage.
9. After the performances have concluded, we encourage everyone to stay for the full day of festivities! Tour the whole festival and have fun!

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May 4 - 12, 2012

Opening Processional Application

Main Event, Saturday, May 5

North Charleston Performing Arts Center and Charleston Area Convention Center Complex

Check-In: 9:00am–9:30AM

Line-up: 9:30am

Processional Begins: 9:45am

Applications are now being accepted for participation in the **2012 North Charleston Arts Festival Opening Processional**. The Opening Processional has kicked off the Arts Festival's Main Event festivities for over ten years! This year, the processional will begin at 9:45am on Saturday, May 5. Participants will line up in front of the Charleston Area Convention Center (near the Embassy Suites) and proceed around the complex to designated entrances of the North Charleston Performing Arts Center. Once the Processional enters the North Charleston Performing Arts Center Auditorium, the celebration continues with a Performance Spotlight, featuring 3-5 minute performances by pre-selected groups.

Children and adults may participate in the Opening Processional. Examples of participants include groups dressed in brightly colored outfits and costumes, volunteers carrying giant puppets, banners and other crafted props, jugglers, dance troupes, and local performing groups. In past years the processional has been led by African drummers and dancers. It is a delightful activity that celebrates the arts and welcomes residents and visitors to the Arts Festival's Main Event.

The North Charleston Arts Festival is one of the most comprehensive arts festivals in the Lowcountry, providing thousands of residents and visitors with a fabulous array of performances, exhibitions, and activities. The Main Event, held the first weekend in May, offers free admission and parking to over 40 performances on four stages. Other Main Event activities include judged art, photography, and fine craft exhibitions, a gem and mineral show, children's activities, arts and crafts booths, and an outdoor food courtyard. The Arts Festival continues with over 50 free or moderately priced ticketed events throughout the week at various locations around North Charleston and concludes with fireworks over the Cooper River at the Grand Finale at Riverfront Park.

If you and/or your group would like to participate in the Opening Processional, complete and return the attached application as soon as possible. Please indicate if you wish to participate in the 3-5 minute Performance Spotlight. **The application deadline is 5:00pm Friday, April 20.** Performance Spotlight slots will be filled on a first come, first served basis, so be sure to get your application in early! Confirmation letters will be mailed with details of your participation. For more information, contact Nancy Rodriguez at 740-5851 or rodriqn@northcharleston.org.

Visit the City of North Charleston website to reference the 2011 schedule and updates on the 2012 festival, including downloadable applications for Judged Art, Photography, Youth Art, SC Palmetto Hands Fine Craft, National Outdoor Sculpture competitions and exhibitions; Arts, Crafts, and Food Booths; and Volunteers.

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