



THE STAGE IS SET FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL HARLEM ARTS FESTIVAL

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The Mount Morris Park district will come alive this weekend with the sights and sounds of the second annual Harlem Arts Festival on June 29th - June 30th. The Harlem Arts Festival is a free annual multidisciplinary event that showcases local performers and visual artists that inspire and nourish the artistic community in Harlem.

Taking place in the newly renovated Richard Rodgers Amphitheater in Marcus Garvey Park, this multi-disciplinary festival will be a celebration of the neighborhood's best arts and cultural offerings.

"We wanted to create a platform that helps to create a shared sense of identity and community among emerging artists in Harlem and to present work that is taking a contemporary look at what is happening here now," said **Neal Ludevig**, the festival's executive director. "And, we think we've done that with this year's lineup."

In addition to the festival's Gallery Walk, where attendees will be able to admire visual arts and photography, music, theater and dance performances will be presented in the Richard Rodgers Amphitheater and on a secondary stage set up at the north west corner of the park.

Both days of the festival will also feature dance and yoga workshops, artist talks and interactive activities for children and their families.

Looking to build on the success of the inaugural event, the executive committee made some key changes that they believe will improve the overall Harlem Arts Festival experience. "Last year, more than 1,000 people came out to support the Festival and we received a lot of positive feedback," said **J.J. El-Far**, the festival's creative director. "With that in mind, there are new things that we're excited about this year that we think will provide the best possible experience for both the artists and our audience."

For more information about the festival schedule and a full list of performers and artists, go online to www.harlemartsfestival.com. And follow @HarlemArtsFest on Twitter and Instagram for live updates.

<http://www.morningsider.com/the-stage-is-set-for-the-second-annual-harlem-arts-festival/#sthash.z33YlwJ3.dpuf>