

West End Gears Up for 5th Kids Festival

The fifth annual West End Children's Festival will celebrate the various cultures present in the neighborhood, with more than 1,500 expected to attend the event that started with about 200.

This year's festival has a theme of international flavor, with food and cultural activities planned to showcase customs from around the globe.

"More than 200 people are volunteering, a far cry from the 26 neighborhood kids who decided to hold a family-oriented party in the West End and coordinated with the West End Civic Association to make it happen," said Amy Ericson, executive director of the West End Community Center, which has taken over organizing the festival.

"Each year people are making more and more of a personal, involvement in the event, as well as making increased donations," Ericson said, adding that those donations from area residents and businesses have also helped keep the cost of the event reasonable.

This is only the second year that the festival has a theme. Last year, the event urged people to Go Green, and featured demonstrations of water treatment by the Massachusetts Water resource Authority, as well as sustainable living tips from environmentally oriented companies.

"This year, kids will experience teas from Morocco, traditional dances from Brazil, and a variety of foods and demonstrations from Asian countries," said Melvina Husin, festival coordinator. Ericson said that Husin exemplifies the multicultural of the event, being born in Indonesia and speaking seven languages.

The West End neighborhood is so diverse, so we wanted to celebrate that, and educate kids on the ethnic backgrounds and traditions of their neighbors," Ericson said.

The free festival takes place from 12 to 4 pm on Saturday, August 21st along Thoreau Path. Visit www.westendchildrensfestival.org for more information.

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West End Children's Festival Aug.21

In a longstanding tradition of celebrating international diversity in the West End, the West End Community Center is proud to announce the theme and director of the Fifth Annual West End Children's Festival. The theme of this year's festival is International Flavor, and the program director is Melvina Husin.

A native of Indonesia, Husin is a project management graduate of Boston University who speaks seven languages. She traveled the world as a young student, including Southwest Asia and Indonesia, where she attended an international and Chinese school. Through her travels, Husin has gained knowledge, experience and flavor from all around the world.

The West End Children's Festival will take place on Saturday, Aug. 21, from noon to 4 p.m. on Thoreau Path with a rain date of Saturday, Aug. 28, from noon to 4 p.m. Contact Melvina at

mvh@westendchildrensfestival.org with any questions or to participate in the festival.

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West End Children's Festival Press Release 2010

In a longstanding tradition of celebrating international diversity in the West End, the West End Community Center is proud to announce the theme and director of the 5th Annual West End Children's Festival. The theme of this year's festival is International Flavor, and our director is Melvina Husin. The West End Children's Festival was started in 2006 by the West End Civic Association and is currently run by the West End Community Center. Historically, the West End is one of Boston's most culturally diverse neighborhoods. European, Russian, Asian, African, and many other ethnic groups immigrated to the West End between the mid 1800s and mid 1900s.

The West End Community Center is happy to highlight the diverse neighborhood it currently serves by celebrating the International Flavor of the neighborhood. For the 5th Annual Children's Festival, we will be hosting numerous events including Karate demonstrations, origami folding, Boston Duck Boats, and games and puzzles. An assortment of food and beverage will also be catered including Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream, cotton candy, and pop corn. The West End Community Center plans to bring the community together with an extraordinary showcase that spans the world representing cultural diversity. The Children's Festival will be packed full of adventure and fun that will include live performances, games, and entertainment that demonstrate art, culture, as well as the community. The West End Children's Festival will take place on Saturday, August 21 from 12-4 PM on Thoreau Path with a rain date of Saturday, August 28 from 12-4 PM. Please contact Melvina at mvh@westendchildrensfestival.org with any questions or to participate in the festival.