



LIVING 40 YEARS
TRADITIONS
festival
Impact Report

LIVING TRADITIONS *Overview*

The 40th annual Living Traditions Festival, presented by the Salt Lake City Arts Council, took place on May 15-17, 2026, at the Civic Center in Downtown Salt Lake City. The 2026 festival was an America250 event and was in collaboration with the Smithsonian Folklife Festival and the Utah Division of Arts and Museums, bringing the festival national visibility, recognition, and the ability to host multiple national artists.

28,985
Attendees



93

Performances

49

Craft Artists

17

Food Vendors

9

*Workshops &
Food Demos*



SCHOOL DAY

1,395
Students

School Day is a curated version of the Living Traditions Festival designed specifically for elementary school students from across the region, with a range of exciting programming. At School Day, students encounter art, performances, and stories from a broad range of cultures and have the chance to engage in many hands-on activities. School Day is free to attend and is a key part of the Living Traditions Festival's mission of facilitating understanding and belonging among communities.

5 ACTIVITIES



15 PERFORMANCES



6 WORKSHOPS





COMMUNITY *Impact*

VOLUNTEERS

506 total hours volunteered.

Over 50% of volunteers were returning participants.
Here's what they had to say...

“My favorite part is being a part of the festival. I loved seeing the families get excited to be outside.”

“I enjoyed seeing the smiles on festival-goers. I look forward to the festival every year.”

ACCESSIBILITY

12 performances and workshops included American Sign Language services.

A dedicated sensory space and prayer tent were available throughout the festival.

SUSTAINABILITY

305 people utilized the bike valet.

350 lbs. of food waste was diverted from the landfill, back to the community, by working with WasteLess Solutions and Odyssey House.



The **SMITHSONIAN**



OUR PARTNERSHIP

This year, we were fortunate to be selected by the Smithsonian Folklife Festival to collaborate on the Festival. As part of this collaboration, we had headliner artists as performers Friday and Saturday night, as well as in the craft area and food demonstration area.

SMITHSONIAN ARTISTS

Pamyua, came from Alaska and opened up the festival by sharing Inuit traditions and history through music.

Preservation Hall Jazz Band, brought a taste of New Orleans music to Salt Lake City.

Roen Hufford, 2023 NEA National Heritage Fellow, demonstrated traditional Hawaiian kapa making.

Elena Terry, of the Ho-Chunk Nation presented two demonstrations focused on Indigenous foodways.

40th Anniversary **HIGHLIGHTS**

DRUM EXHIBITION

Utah-based performers representing drumming traditions from around the world shared their individual traditions and also performed as a collective. This performance brought different cultures together, showing the community that our many cultures share a literal and figurative foundational heartbeat.

YOUTH SHOWCASE

Our youth showcase put a spotlight on young performers still learning their craft. This program celebrated the next generation, giving them an opportunity to experience onstage performances with an audience.

UTAH GRAND POWWOW

This year's Powwow was a monumental gathering that brought together all nine sovereign tribes of Utah in a display of unity and tradition. This event was more than a performance; it was a sacred space for storytelling, dance, and honoring the enduring legacy of Utah's first inhabitants.



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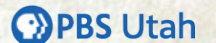


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LIVING 40 YEARS
TRADITIONS
festival

**Thank you for making this
special 40th anniversary year of
Living Traditions so spectacular!**

