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Family Fun at the Northwest Folklife Festival, Memorial Day weekend in Seattle

Seattle, April 3, 2008— “Bring the family” has never had more meaning or potential. Family fun for kids of all ages is a key attraction at the Northwest Folklife Festival, Memorial Day weekend at Seattle Center. Children are welcome throughout the Festival, and there are also specific participation areas, concerts, storytelling, dance parties and other activities that are tailored for the young and young-at-heart.

The 37th annual Northwest Folklife Festival, Friday, May 23, through Monday, May 26, is open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. each day. While admission is free, visitors’ donations make the Festival possible.

“Every year, thousands of families begin their summer at the Northwest Folklife Festival,” says Robert Townsend, executive director of Northwest Folklife. “Families participate in a wide variety of crafts and activities, including puppet making, storytelling and clay animation at the Folklife Commons.”

Activities in the Folklife Commons are open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., on the Broad Street side of Seattle Center, and include:

- Batik flag making for the Solstice Parade “Children of the Sun” float. Ages 3 and up.
- Science demonstrations with Pacific Science Center staff and ParentMap. All ages.
- Relief prints of native flora and fauna, with Terra-Forma Education. Ages 5 and up.
- Puppet making with experts from Planet of the Puppets. Ages 5 and up.
- Clay animation with Renaissance Man Productions. All ages.

The Folklife Discovery Zone at the Folklife Commons features participatory workshops as well as activities related to the Cultural Focus: Urban Indians. Adults and children can learn to play a Native-American flute, join in a rhythm jam and more. This year, there is a tipi (teepee) at the Commons, where visitors can listen to Native-American storytelling, watch drum and dance groups, and learn more about our urban Indian neighbors from around the Puget Sound.

About Northwest Folklife Festival

The Northwest Folklife Festival was launched in 1972 and is one of the world’s largest free community arts festivals. The Festival honors people and traditions from the Pacific Northwest and around the world. Northwest Folklife is dedicated to celebrating, sharing and sustaining the vitality of folk, ethnic and traditional arts for present and future generations. With approximately 250,000 visitors annually, the Northwest Folklife Festival brings communities together to share their arts and learn from each other. For details, please visit www.nwfolklife.org.

The 2008 Northwest Folklife Festival is made possible by the generous support of Safeco Festival, Seattle Center, KIRO 710, B97.3, the Mayor’s Office for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the Boeing Company, Sage Foundation, JiJi Foundation, the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation and 4Culture King County.

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Northwest Folklife Festival

Memorial Day Weekend

May 23-26, 2008

Play • Sing • Taste • Dance • Learn • Participate