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The Bridge GR Launches Art, Cultural, Music and Community Event Series
Month-long celebration creates platform for the advancement of a culturally and economically equitable, inclusive and diverse community

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., (August 20, 2020) — On August 28, The Bridge GR will launch a series of live events celebrating Grand Rapids' arts, culture, music and community. More than 30 events, hosted by a diverse range of community groups, businesses, neighborhood associations and other organizations will take place downtown and in neighborhoods throughout the city from August 28 to October 3.

All events will follow State of Michigan guidelines on crowd capacity, social distancing, masking and sanitation.

- Events will be limited to 100 attendees.
- People not a part of the same household will be required to maintain six feet of distance from one another.
- Even though outdoors, masks are encouraged.

Safety protocols are detailed on [The Bridge GR website](#), and attendees will be asked to follow all specific guidelines that event organizers have in place.

“This exciting community celebration serves to bridge the gap between our current reality and our brighter future,” said Grand Rapids City Manager Mark Washington. “Many in our community are suffering because of the pandemic, and our national conversation has been weighted with important issues of racial and economic justice. By giving our community this platform, we hope not only to celebrate who we are, but to build conversations that promote resiliency, healing, shared understanding and progress in Grand Rapids.”

The City of Grand Rapids, Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc., the Grand Rapids Chamber and Experience Grand Rapids are partnering to sponsor and organize the celebration. The event series is designed to support economic recovery and community revitalization, while emphasizing safety protocols.

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The Bridge GR Launches Community Celebration – Page 2
August 20, 2020

Events will focus on art, community, culture and music and will showcase local artists while providing them a platform to sell their work. Vendors and performers include painters, sculptors, musicians, dancers, chefs and cultural groups. With activities ranging from face painting and pumpkin picking to wine tasting, swing dancing and a community comedy game show, fun will be geared to all ages. Participants are also encouraged to take part in community conversations around social justice and equity.

“The Bridge will bring together the best that Grand Rapids has to offer in a safe and entertaining way,” said Tim Kelly, president and CEO of DGRI. “This is a time to unite in celebration of the diverse talent and cultures that make Grand Rapids unique. It is also a time to support artists and local businesses who continue to be financially impacted by the pandemic. Bridge GR will have activities for the whole family and will help ensure our community stays resilient into the future.”

The series kicks off in Rosa Parks Circle on August 28 with “Open Windows,” a digital and live art activation commemorating the Summer 2020 #WindowsGR downtown activation. That’s followed by “Summer in the City,” an outdoor concert in the Piazza at Studio Park on September 5. “Swing and Line Dancing” in Rosa Parks Circle and “Storytime GR in the Park” at Lincoln Park both start on September 8. Then on September 10, the “EHCN Fall Concert Series” returns to Cherry Park and the “Open Door Pillowcase Project” by Dégagé Ministries opens in Ah-Nab-Awen Park and on the Gillett Bridge. This art installation features 4,700 pillowcases decorated by community members commemorating the 4,700 women Dégagé has hosted for overnight respite.

The full series of events along with a list of host organizations, dates and locations can be found at www.TheBridgeGR.com. The event calendar will be updated throughout September as additional events are confirmed.

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About The Bridge GR

The Bridge GR is a series of events celebrating Grand Rapids’ art, music, culture and community. The celebration is organized by the City of Grand Rapids, Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc., The Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce and Experience Grand Rapids and will feature events, activities and exhibitions hosted by a diverse range of community organizations between August 28 and October 3. Events will follow all State of Michigan guidelines on crowd capacity, social distancing, masking and sanitation.

www.TheBridgeGR.com