



Cleveland World Festival Returns Sunday, August 2

Famicos to Produce 2015 Celebration of Cleveland's Diverse Community with Feast of Fun, Music and Sports from Around the Globe

The third annual **Cleveland World Festival** (www.clevelandworldfestival.com) will return to the vast expanse of fields, forests and gardens of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens on Sunday, August 2, 2015 from 11 am to 9 pm. Celebrating Cleveland's diverse community with its over 120 different ethnic groups, the spectacular event will once again offer visitors a unique opportunity to sample a smorgasbord of the customs, costumes, music, food, and sports reflecting the diverse cultures that make up Cleveland's heritage.

The free one-day event taking place amidst the gorgeous curving contours of Rockefeller Park (on MLK Jr. Boulevard between St. Clair and Superior Avenues) will have something for everyone...with a wide array of activities and entertainment for the whole family including performances from some of the city's most talented international singers and dancers on three stages, a Kids Village offering an escape from the heat with several large waterslides, a Sports Village featuring games of the world sport's competitions, as well as a Food Village with a flotilla of vendors offering delicious ethnic food and drinks.

Fast becoming one of Cleveland's most popular and diverse annual outdoor events, this past September, the 2014 Festival drew over 20,000 attendees. According to John Anoliefo, Executive Director of Famicos Foundation, which will produce the festival this year, "This unique blend of natural beauty and cultural offerings has brought attention and new visitors to the Glenville neighborhood. Our hope is that the 2015 festival will build upon last year's success, and continue to introduce the Cultural Gardens and Rockefeller Park to a whole new group of Clevelanders who will return to this unique and beautiful urban respite year-round, resulting in a neighborhood renaissance."

Ward 9 Councilman Kevin Conwell, who has designated the COWF as his "councilmatic event" concurs, commenting, "The Cultural Gardens and Rockefeller Park together serve as homages to Cultural Diversity and Peace, unique among public spaces in the United States. Showcasing this hidden gem and under-used resource in the center of the Glenville neighborhood on Cleveland's east side, the Cleveland One World Festival has not only brought tourists and first-time Clevelanders to the area, but has become an integral part of the Cleveland cultural landscape."

Being retained by Famicos to once again produce the festival is Executive Director James Levin, who commented, "The success of the first two festivals has been personally rewarding as it has shone a bright light on the depth and diversity of creative expressions among the cultural entities that make up the Northeast Ohio community. This year, after listening to feedback from vendors, performers and attendees, we are returning to a one-day event that will consolidate the best of cultural food, music, and

sports that will be easy to navigate with a special emphasis on a fun experience for children. We hope to make the 2015 Cleveland World Festival the best ever.”

About Cleveland World Festival

Cleveland World Festival (CWF) is an arts and entertainment event staged in the nationally acclaimed Cleveland Cultural Gardens of Rockefeller Park, in partnership with the Famicos Foundation. First held on August 25, 2013 and attracting 15,000 visitors, CWF is designed to showcase a diversity of cultures through artistic performance.

About the Cleveland Cultural Gardens

The Cleveland Cultural Gardens lie in Rockefeller Park, a 276-acre tranquil, ravine-like setting that runs two miles between University Circle, Cleveland’s cultural center to the south and Lake Erie to the north. John D. Rockefeller donated the site as parkland in 1896 to commemorate the city’s first centennial. Ernest Bowditch, a renowned Boston landscape architect, designed a meandering parkway flanked by wide-open green space and framed by steeply sloped terrain. Interspersed amid this pristine landscape, above and adjacent to the grassy meadows bordering Doan Brook, are 29 formally dedicated gardens representing the various nationalities that comprise Greater Cleveland and the world community. Eight new gardens are currently being created. The Gardens remain an untapped resource and unexplored realm by the great majority of Cuyahoga County residents. Cleveland World Festival seeks to reopen the region’s eyes to this hidden cultural gem.

About the Famicos Foundation

Famicos Foundation (www.famicos.org) is one of the oldest community development corporations (CDC) in the city of Cleveland. This non-profit 501(c)3 has a mission to improve the quality of life in Greater Cleveland through neighborhood revitalization, affordable housing and integrated social services. Known for its work in historic housing preservation/restoration, Famicos’ portfolio ranges from permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals to market-rate housing for moderate and middle-income families.

Management Team

Director James Levin founded the Cleveland World Festival in 2013 and is seeking to produce the annual festival through 2016 (the 100th anniversary of the Gardens) and beyond. Levin, the founding director of Cleveland Public Theatre and the Ingenuity Festival, sees the Cleveland World Festival as delivering the same kind of economic boost that CPT provided in the Gordon Square Arts District some 20 years ago. He will be joined by Emily Hoag, Project Manager of the youth programming, and Chuck Karnak, Levin’s production partner at Ingenuity and Director of All Go Productions.

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