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Cleveland World Festival

Celebrates Cleveland's Diverse Community on August 2 with Entertainment, Food and Sports from Around the World

The third annual **Cleveland World Festival** (www.clevelandworldfestival.com) returns to the unique array of gardens, meadows and hills of Cleveland's Rockefeller Park on Sunday, August 2 from 11 am to 9 pm. Celebrating Cleveland's diverse community with its over 120 different ethnic groups, the spectacular event offers visitors a unique opportunity to sample an amazing array of the music, theatre, food, and sports of the cultures that make up our region.

Produced by the Famicos Foundation (www.famicos.org) and directed by Festival Founder James Levin, the free event taking place amidst the gorgeous curving contours of Rockefeller Park (on MLK Jr. Boulevard (between St. Clair and Superior Avenues) has something for everyone: from arts, sports and performances at four stages (hip hop to opera) to a Kids' Village with sprinklers for escaping the heat, as well as a flotilla of food trucks and vendors offering delicious ethnic food and drinks. Festival highlights include:

- ***"Same Boat" a Semi-Symphonic Roving Street Song for Brass Band, Large Puppet Boat, and Cleveland's Cultural Gardens***, a commissioned site-specific musical and visual traveling performance created by Daniel McNamara, with musical inspiration from Slovak, Italian, Greek, Ukrainian, Lithuanian, Croatian Folk traditions;
- The world premiere of ***Passing Storm***, written and directed by local musician and artist, Sheela Das, in which a local group of novice and experienced performers takes the audience on a journey where they experience the calm, the growing storm, the passing of it, and finally solitude;
- ***Change Your World*** by David Rosen, a multi-national, multi-cultural and polylingual performance inspired by Gandhi's famous saying, "Be the change that you wish to see in the world";
- A bevy of belly dancers accompanied by a giant drum circle featuring James Onysko, Dylan Moffett, and Baba Jubal;
- ***Bike Cleveland Cultural Quest***, a scavenger hunt via bike through the gardens with those who complete the hunt eligible for a raffle of major prizes

Free shuttles and **free** parking (in the VA garage at East 105th and Magnolia) make the festival easy to access for families young and old, and the closure of MLK Jr. Drive allows for safe and leisurely strolling. Bike rentals will be available courtesy of Ohio City Bike Co-op. The Festival will also focus this year on creating opportunities for special needs youth and adults with improved access at parking lots and to several of the stage settings and inclusion in several of the children's activities. Several offerings will spotlight the talents of those with disabilities such as a performance by The Dancing Wheels Company and School, a theatrical work by Horvitz YouthAbility, and an exhibit of artwork by differently abled artists such as the internationally renowned **Seth Chwast**.

Visitors will be thrilled with the number and variety of performers, vendors, and buskers displaying their talents and wares as well as the opportunity to partake in games and sports competitions throughout this verdant urban oasis including:

Entertainment: Offering an unprecedented array of free entertainment in a spectacular sylvan urban setting, the performers include:

- Distinguished Gentlemen of Spoken Word, the celebrated group of African-American performance poets, ages 8-18, now touring internationally;
- Great Lakes Light Opera performing *La Vida Breve* (one act Spanish opera) and *Alice's Adventures in Operaland* (for children)
- Les Royales, led by Albanian pop rocker Dolinar Spahija
- Donaueschwäbische Blaskapelle, Cleveland's original German brass band
- Kultura Filipiniana Dance Troupe
- Vernon Jones Blues Cartel
- World class classical sitar musician Hasu Patel
- Cleveland's top martial arts group, Capoeira Brasil
- R&B group Dr. E, featuring the silky vocals of Dr. Elaine Richardson
- Aerial artists like Jasmine Dragons and magicians such as Rick Smith Jr. and more will interact with attendees throughout the Festival
- Miguel Cuni Jr. of Chappottin y sus Estrellas, Cuban artists bringing a special blend of high energy jazz fusion salsa, will close the main stage

Sports: The public can compete or just watch international sports galore, including: **futsal** (street soccer) brought to Cleveland by former professional soccer player **Otto Orf**. Just like on the streets of Rio de Janeiro or Nairobi, teams will play right on MLK Boulevard. The Cleveland Cavaliers will be on site with their interactive Caravan. And **Bo Li**, Director of the Cleveland Contemporary Chinese Culture Association, is bringing both **badminton** and **table tennis** (both in tournament form and open to the public). The following sporting events will be held in a tournament format with teams pre-registering and teams shall have the opportunity to competitively play over the two-day Festival:

- **Youth 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament:** To be held for youth 7-14
- **Youth Futsal Tournament:** To be held for youth 7-14
- **Ping Pong:** To be held for anyone
- **Badminton:** To be held for adults 18 and over
- **Chess:** Tables will be available in the Kids' Village as well as the Sports area.
- **Go (ancient Chinese board game):** Helpers will explain the game to anyone wanting to learn.

For more information or to sign up, go to www.clevelandworldfestival.com/sports.

Kids' Activities: This year, Cleveland World Festival will offer a Kids Village with its own stage and tents offering activities, entertainment, and relief from the heat for children of all ages ... from toddlers to teens. Ramps and walkways will make the Kids' Village more accessible to children with limited mobility. A quiet tent sponsored and staffed by The

Cleveland Clinic will allow children with sensory issues a place to relax and unwind. Activities include:

- **Games without Borders:** Children will learn games from various countries and be challenged to learn at least one game from each continent.
- **Sprinklers:** A series of sprinklers will keep children cooled off in between activities.
- **Upcycle Parts Shop** will be helping kids make rain sticks with upcycles materials inviting them to bring them to take part in the evening performance of Sheela Das' *Passing Storm*
- **Horvitz YouthAbility Program** of JFSA will be teaching attendees to make flower pots out of newspaper. The Horvitz YouthAbility program serves disabled and at-risk youth by engaging them in volunteer service, vocational activities, and social enrichment.
- **The Cuyahoga County Library:** Kids and teens will learn about circuits as they create an LED bookmark.
- **The Cleveland Botanical Gardens:** A selection of sensory-friendly plants will be available to touch, smell, see, taste with info on where the plants originated in the world.
- **United Healthcare** is providing a fun obstacle course for all kids including those with wheelchairs.

Food: Visitors can partake in a veritable global smorgasbord, with food available from, India, Colombia, Mexico, El Salvador, Japan, Italy, Greece, China, Hungary, Poland, and the world's best BBQ (from Glenville!) just to name a few. Beer and wine of the world will also be available, as well as coffee featuring beans from Sumatra, Brazil, Guatemala, and Ethiopia—handcrafted for the Festival in partnership with **Rising Star Coffee Roasters**.

The Cleveland World Festival and Famicos Foundation are grateful for the support of our partners the City of Cleveland, Cleveland Water Department, the George Gund Foundation, Cleveland Foundation, Cleveland Ward 9 Councilman Kevin Conwell, Cuyahoga Arts & Culture, Cleveland Music Settlement, Stonebrook Montessori, Montessori High School at University Circle, Forest City, CWRU think[box], Bike Cleveland, Ohio City Bicycle Co-op, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland Cavaliers, Pure Water Technology, AmRamp, Third Federal Savings and Loan, U.S. Bank, Wolpert Family Fund, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, Nord Family Foundation, United Healthcare, Federation of Indian Community Associations, Indian Classic Music Society, Sam and Maria Miller Foundation, Glidden House, Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, Michael R. White School, Willson School, Engage! Cleveland, Daryl Rush and Miriam Ortiz Rush, the Honorable Ray Pianka, Tastebuds Restaurant, ABC Tavern and our media partners *Scene*, *Cool Cleveland*, and *DD 214 Chronicle*.

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 23, 2013 and attracting 15,000 visitors, CWF is designed to showcase a diversity of cultures through artistic performance. Fast becoming one of Cleveland's

most popular and diverse annual outdoor events, this past September, the 2014 Festival drew over 20,000 attendees.

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 25 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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