



Mission

The International Folk Festival was created to celebrate the richness of the diverse cultural roots of our community. By showcasing historic artistic customs and traditions of a culture, the festival strives to foster an appreciation of our diversity while preserving the historical and traditional art forms that infuse a culture with its specific identity. The purpose and scope of the festival is to present the arts and creative expression of all of our community's ethnic and cultural groups with a professional approach.

Participants

Participants in the festival will be limited to:

1. Bonafide cultural organizations (see description below) whose principal aim is to promote the traditional culture and heritage of their group specifically through the following forms:
 - a. Dance
 - b. Music
 - c. Storytelling
 - d. Art/crafts
 - e. Food
2. Individuals and/or groups who are active bearers of traditional folklife in North Carolina and internationally, or accomplished interpreters of folk traditions.
3. Staff and/or volunteers and others involved in providing essential services necessary to the Festival.
4. International Folk Festival sponsors.
5. Arts/crafts and food vendors other than participating cultural groups.

While current popular culture has intrinsic value in shaping a community, expression of pop culture is outside of the scope and purpose of the International Folk Festival which remains rooted and focused on presenting the variety of unique and original artistic traditions of the participating groups. The festival is produced solely to provide an opportunity to the general public to learn about these traditions. The festival is not to be used as an avenue for political or religious statements or commercial exposure outside of Festival sponsors.

Bonafide cultural groups are vetted through a committee and selection for participation in the festival is based, in part, on the following:

1. Is the organization formally structured? (Does the group have bylaws, meeting agendas, steering committees, etc.)
2. What is the overall purpose of the group?
3. Does the group promote education about a specific culture? In what ways (e.g., scholarships, community festivals, etc.)?
4. Does the group's proposed participation in the festival support the integrity and intent of the festival?

All participating cultural groups agree to adhere to the intent and scope of the International Folk Festival. Participating cultural groups agree to work in complete compliance with all legal requirements and in unity with all other participants, festival organizers and volunteers.