

Around Moab

Bluff Arts Festival Returns October 15–18, 2026, Celebrating Art, Landscape, and Community in Southeastern Utah

The Bluff Arts Festival returns October 15–18, 2026, bringing four days of visual art, literature, film, music, and artist-led workshops to the small southeastern Utah town of Bluff. Set against a dramatic landscape, the annual festival celebrates the region’s creative communities, cultural heritage, and distinctive sense of place.

Now in its 22nd year, the Bluff Arts Festival creates opportunities for artists and audiences to connect in a rural community without permanent arts institutions. The festival welcomes local residents, regional artists, visitors from across the Four Corners and beyond, and anyone interested in experiencing art in one of Utah’s most remarkable landscapes.

Four Days of Art and Community

The 2026 festival opens Thursday evening, October 15, with a literary program featuring **Morgan Sjogren**, winner of the Ellen Meloy Desert Writers Award, alongside a community storytelling event. The evening celebrates the longstanding connection between writing, landscape, and storytelling in the Four Corners.

Friday, October 16, features artist-led workshops throughout the day and the **Bluff Art Walk** from 12pm-4pm, inviting visitors to explore artwork and exhibitions throughout town. There will also be two literary panels featuring a variety of regional authors. The day’s activities are followed by an evening **film program** showcasing regional filmmakers.

Saturday brings the festival’s largest day of programming, including an **artist market featuring more than 30 artists**, hands-on activities and live music. Across the weekend, the festival will offer approximately **15 artist-led workshops**, providing opportunities for participants of all ages and experience levels to learn directly from working artists.

Featured artist **Arlene Benally**, a Diné weaver whose practice is rooted in family, tradition, and generations of knowledge, will be part of this year’s festival programming--she will be weaving throughout the weekend and will be teaching an all day Navajo weaving workshop on Sunday. Her participation reflects the festival’s commitment to highlighting artists whose work is deeply connected to the cultural heritage and landscapes of the region.

Art in a Place Like No Other

Bluff Arts Festival takes place in a community surrounded by red rock canyons, desert rivers, and the Bears Ears landscape. The region’s Indigenous cultural heritage and continuing Native presence are an essential part of the place in which the festival takes place.

Rather than separating art from its surroundings, the festival embraces the relationship between creativity, landscape, culture, and community. Visitors encounter artists and artwork throughout Bluff while also experiencing the natural and cultural landscapes that have inspired generations of makers, writers, and storytellers.

A Regional Gathering

Although Bluff is home to fewer than 300 residents, the festival draws artists and audiences from throughout Utah, the Four Corners, and beyond. Visitors have traveled from across the United States and as far away as France to participate in and experience the festival.

For four days each October, Bluff becomes a gathering place for artists, writers, filmmakers, musicians, educators, families, and community members—creating opportunities for connection that extend beyond the festival itself.

For the complete schedule, workshop information, artist announcements, and festival updates, visit bluffartsfestival.org or follow the Bluff Arts Festival on social media.

About the Bluff Arts Festival

The Bluff Arts Festival is an annual celebration of art, creativity, landscape, and community in southeastern Utah. The festival brings together visual artists, writers, filmmakers, musicians, educators, and audiences for four days of exhibitions, workshops, performances, demonstrations, and community events. Located in a rural community with no permanent arts institutions, the festival creates opportunities for

OCTOBER 15th–18th, 2026

Bluff, Utah

THURSDAY

Soup Off 4:30pm–6pm
Story Telling 6:30pm–9pm

FRIDAY

Art Walk 12pm–4pm
Workshops times vary
Film Festival 6pm–10pm
Literary Events times vary

SATURDAY

Literary Events 9:30am–11am
Artist Market 10am–4pm
Workshops times vary
Live Auction 4:30pm
Live Music 5:30pm–10pm

SUNDAY

Workshops times vary
Literary Events 9:30am–11am

BLUFF ARTS FESTIVAL 2026

artwork adapted from rug design by Featured Artist Arlene Benally

hosted by:

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR MAKING THIS EVENT POSSIBLE:

visit bluffartsfestival.org or scan this QR code

the TURQUOISE

Utah Division of Arts & Museums

Bluff DWELLINGS Resort & SPA

RED CANYON COUNTRY

Bluff Dwellings

Utah

Desert Rose

Bears Ears Partnership

RSJD

Adventure Health

Post Offices in ...

residents and visitors to engage directly with artists and experience a wide range of creative practices in the unique cultural and environmental landscape of Bluff.

30th Rim Rock Marathon, Half-Marathon Happens in Scenic Colorado National Monument, November 1st

By Sharon Sullivan

Colorado National Monument is a park of stunning red rock canyons and towering monoliths, located on the edge of Fruita and Grand Junction. The 30th Rim Rock Marathon and Half-Marathon will take place on the monument’s historic Rim Rock Drive, Sunday, November 1 – and there’s still space to sign up.

While most participants are from Colorado’s Western Slope, last year there were runners from 30-35 different states, including New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, Hawaii, Texas and Florida, said Ben Snyder, race director, and executive director of the Grand Junction Sports Commission – the event’s sponsor.

The full marathon starts at the Devils Kitchen Picnic Area near the Grand Junction park entrance, and finishes at the Fruita Community Center for a total of 26.2 miles. Eight aid stations along the route will be stocked with water, hydration drinks, snacks, and a first aid kit. Start time is 7:30 a.m.

The Half Marathon begins at 9 a.m. at Artists Point, and will also finish at the Fruita Community Center – for a total distance of 13.1 miles. This route will offer four aid stations along the way. The westbound lane will be closed during the race.

Runners will receive event apparel, a finisher’s medal, access to the Colorado National Monument, chip

timing (a device that measures when a runner actually crosses the start line), plus food and beverages at a party afterward at the Fruita Community Center. Registrants are encouraged to pick up their event packets on Saturday, October 31, between 3-6 p.m. at the Fruita Community Center. Participants can also pick up their packets Sunday morning prior to catching a shuttle to the start line.

Runners will be shuttled from the Fruita Community Center to the start lines starting at 6 a.m., with the final full-marathon shuttle departing at 6:40 a.m., and the last half-marathon shuttle leaving at 8 a.m.

Cutoff times for the full marathon will be at 9:15 a.m. at mile 6.0 at Red Canyon Overlook, mile 12.2 at 11 a.m. at Highland View, and Mile 17.9 at Saddlehorn Entrance at 12:30 p.m. The cutoff time for the Half-Marathon will take place at 12:30 p.m. at Saddlehorn Entrance (mile 4.4).

Cost to register for the event is \$144 for the Half-Marathon, and \$154 for the Full-Marathon.

To sign up, volunteer, or for more information, visit: www.grandjunctionsports.org/rimrockmarathon

And be sure you mention you read about it in *Moab Happenings*.

Photo courtesy: Grand Monument Media

You can pick up

Moab Happenings

in Grand Junction!

Fairground Liquors

Trek Bicycles

In the Middle Liquors

Fisher Liquor Barn

Family Dollar

Andy’s Liquor

Bookcliff Liquors

Clifton Liquors

Pufferbelly’s Restaurant

Orchard Mesa Market

True Value Hardware

Western Colorado Center for the Arts

Habitat for Humanity Restore

Kokopelli Liquors

Walgreens

Homestyle Bakery

Conoco Stop & Save

Walmart - Delta

Starvin Arvin’s - Delta

Don’s Market-Paonia

Stop & Save - Paonia & Montrose

GoFer Store-Cedaredge

Foodtown - Cedaredge

Crossroads Fitness

Post Offices in ...

Grand Junction, Palisade, Clifton, Fruita, Delta, Montrose

and many other locations