

Art Happenings

Red Rock Arts Festival • 3 Days of Storytelling, Ceremony & Play

The 2023 Red Rock Arts Festival welcomes neighbors and wanderers to Moab, Utah for three days of storytelling, ceremony, and play. Centrally located in downtown Moab at the Moab Arts facility (111 E 100 N), free programming will highlight human history and dreams for the future through collaborative projects, art experiences, and all-ages events.

Festivities begin with *A Daily Celebration of Aliveness* by Cecelia Foley, one of two projects selected via an open call for participatory work that address the theme “Ceremonies for the Future.” *A Daily Celebration of Aliveness* is a collaborative dance and art-making invitation that welcomes the public to begin cultivating a practice of envisioning a future full of celebrations, and gratitude for the creative spirit that makes us feel alive. Participants are asked to add songs to a public dance playlist on Spotify (A DAILY CELEBRATION OF ALIVENESS by Cecelia Foley, direct link on the festival website) and are encouraged to begin the process of dancing followed by artmaking prior to the festival. Artwork created independently will be on display at Moab Arts in the Dance Room, and there will be three opportunities to join in on a massive dance party during the festival, where art materials will be available to make large-scale collective pieces. *A Daily Celebration of Aliveness* will take place in the Dance Room at Moab Arts: 9/29 at 10 a.m., 9/30 at 5 p.m., and 10/1 at 8 p.m.



Daily Celebration

Two free workshops will be offered as part of this year’s festival: podcasting and ceramics. *Sounds of Moab: A Beginner’s Podcasting Workshop* with Emily Arntsen (9/29 from noon to 2 p.m. at Moab Arts) will walk students through



Emily Arntsen

the process of creating a podcast from start to finish using free and accessible software and equipment. The final product will be an audio story broadcast on KZMU that explores the question: What does Moab sound like? Pre-registration is required. Limited to 8 students, ages 16+. *Sculptural Seed Pods* with Desert Sun Ceramics (9/29 from 3-6 p.m. at Moab Arts) is a ceremonial “playshop” where participants will create small garden creatures and ceremonial symbols filled with a little soil and flower seeds. The sculptures are meant to transform back to the earth over time, offering seeds that will sprout in the spring. Pre-registration is required. There will be three separate sessions: 3-3:45 p.m., 4-4:45 p.m., and 5-5:45 p.m. All materials and tools provided. Limited to 30 students per session, ages 5+. Learn more about our instructors and register in advance for both workshops at the festival website.

Junkyard Reverie, an installation and performance in the Moab Arts Side Yard by Molly Marie Gurney and Rachel Toups, was the second project selected from the “Ceremonies for the Future” open call. The immersive, absurdist project explores imagined futures, delving into such human concepts as time, spirituality, and the gamification of the sacred and mundane. There will be three chances to experience *Junkyard Reverie* during the festival: 9/29 from 6-7 p.m., 9/30 from 3-4 p.m., and 10-1 from 4-5 p.m.

Friday programming will end with *The West of the Future*, a film screening, discussion, and costume party



Street Festival

hosted by Elise Park with drinks for sale by Proper Brewing. Using the 1989 film *Sundown: A Vampire in Retreat* as a launch point, we’ll discuss the mythic American West synonymous with Southeastern Utah’s iconic landscape and how our interpretation of the West might change or evolve

with the development of AI, space travel, and other futuristic technologies. *Sundown* was filmed in Arches, Hittle Bottom, and Thompson, and stars 9-year-old Moab local Vanessa Pierson alongside David Carradine and John Ireland. The film is rated R, and this event is for ages 18+. Doors open at 7 p.m., screening to be held in the Moab Arts Stage Room. Costumes encouraged!

Saturday, September 30 from Noon to 7 p.m., join us for Street Fest — a block-party-style event featuring an array of talented artisan vendors selling awesome wares, live music, participatory art activities, food trucks and a beer garden with drinks by 98 Center. Participating food and beverage vendors include Hells BBQ, Sushi Squad, Moab Kitchen, El Local, Adobe Garden Apothecary, and Curve Coffee. Pre-register for the chalk drawing competition, taking place from Noon to 2 p.m.! Chalk pastels are provided. Prizes will be awarded based



Chalk



ArTTrails Keeper

on public vote in adult and kids’ categories. Additional all ages activities include participatory art and writing projects with students and teachers from Grand County High School, as well as Day of the Dead crafts with the Moab Valley Multicultural Center and a community native seed project with Adobe Garden Apothecary. Don’t miss the Art Stroll with Moab ArTTrails beginning at 3:30 p.m. This is your chance to get a look at this year’s brand new rotating sculpture exhibit and meet the artists. Live music will kick off with Salt Lake City based honky-tonk-rock-n-rollers Josh Doss and The Cancers from Noon-1 p.m.,



Gold Tides

Bummer Girl

followed by psychedelic rock band Bummer Girl from Phoenix, Arizona from 2-3 p.m., Neosoul R&B singer Anais Chantal, also hailing from SLC, will grace the stage from 3-4 p.m. and the evening will conclude with Santa Fe’s surf rock group Gold Tides. Preview tracks from each artist on the festival website, where you’ll also find a list of participating artisan vendors and the full breakdown of the day’s events.



Ceramics

Renowned artist and muralist Chip Thomas will debut two new murals for the festival that highlight different periods of industry in the Moab Valley. Join Thomas and staff from the Moab Museum for an artist talk, *Radioactivity and Black People in the Richest Town in the U.S.*, on Sunday,



CT La Isla Memory

October 1 from Noon to 2 p.m. Learn more about the project, which features two historic photographs from the Moab Museum’s Collection. Thomas will also discuss how the work relates to his larger body of work across the

Southwest, including his recent work on a new exhibit entitled buffalo soldiers: revision at Fort Garland Museum in Colorado. Meet at Moab Arts, where we will walk around the block to view the murals, then return for discussion.

Finally, you will not want to miss *All Roads Lead to Moab*, a story slam event from 5:30-8 p.m. on October 1 in the Moab Arts Stage Room, hosted in collaboration with The Storied Self. Names are drawn from a hat and



Charles Glass & Friends

storytellers have 5-8 minutes each to tell their own true story based on the theme. No notes, no props, no experience necessary. *All Roads Lead to Moab* asks you to tell us about your arrival, landing, stranding, or homecoming — at some point, you realized there was no turning back. Has your dust settled yet?

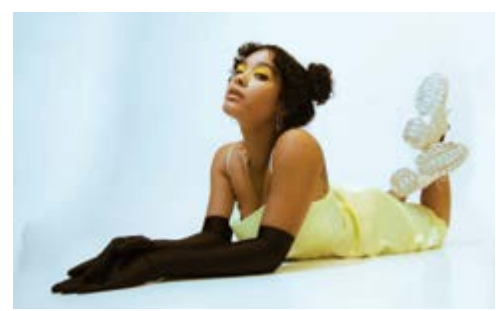
For more information about the festival (including a full schedule of events) and to stay in the loop, visit www.redrockartsfestival.com, sign up for the Moab Arts newsletter at www.moabarts.org, and follow us on social media: @moabarts on Instagram and @Moab Arts - The MARC on Facebook.

See ad with schedule on page 8A.

The Red Rock Arts Festival is facilitated by Moab Arts, the arts and special events department of the City of Moab. And be sure to mention you read about the Red Rock Arts Festival in Moab Happenings.



Josh Doss



Anais Chantal