A Decade of Global Fest: Experience the World in a City

Aurora is truly the world in a city, and nowhere is that more apparent than at Global Fest, the city’s annual signature event showcasing international cultures. After a successful celebration last year with over 10,000 attendees, Global Fest is back for its tenth year, with more exciting festivities from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19, at the Aurora Municipal Center Great Lawn, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway.

This unique multicultural event—presented by the city of Aurora—brings together the sights, sounds and flavors of nations around the world in celebration of the many diverse cultures and communities that call Aurora home.

Global Fest offers entertainment for all ages with two stages of musical and dance performances, an international marketplace, art displays, kids’ activities, resources, food vendors and much more. Attendees will also experience a globally inspired fashion show and the exciting Parade of Nations procession with representation from dozens of countries.

Admission to Global Fest is free. Learn more about this wonderful event and find a complete schedule of activities at AuroraGlobalFest.org. Be sure to follow the city of Aurora’s social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn) for updates.

If your mouth is already watering for some amazing global cuisine, visit AuroraEats.org to explore the numerous authentic, specialty restaurants and markets in Aurora.
**Explore Aurora’s Arts District**

If you haven’t ventured to the Aurora Cultural Arts District in a while, there are plenty of reasons to come and see what’s new on East Colfax.

**Aurora Fox Arts Center**

This mainstay in the arts district is reimagining how the city-owned Aurora Fox can better serve its patrons and lay the foundation for dynamic new programming options, including aligning its season timeline to match the city’s fiscal year.

This means the next official season will not begin until January 2024. But to accommodate the shift, the Aurora Fox will host “The Fox Interlude,” a lineup of entertainment playing through December. Shows include the Tony-nominated musical “Blues in the Night” from Sept. 22 to Oct. 8 and the nine-singer, band-backed “Motones & Jerseys: Holiday Hi-Fi” from Dec. 7 to 18. “The Fox Interlude” will kick off with “Jubilation!,” a fundraiser party Sept. 9 to support this historic theater and announce the 2024 season. Tickets are available at AuroraFox.org.

The arts center also will feature a touring production of “Cinderella” for young audiences Oct. 12 and 13, and Phamaly Theatre Company’s epic dance production “Indescribable,” a co-production with America’s Got Talent Season 6 runners-up The Silhouettes from Nov. 3 to 5. For details, visit AuroraFox.org.

**Public Art**

The city’s Art in Public Places Program manages more than 15 public artworks in this area such as murals and sculptures, including Lawrence Argent’s iconic “Ghost Trolley” in the Colfax median and Christopher Weed’s “Unglued,” a towering and abstract blue chair at East Colfax Avenue and Dallas Street.

Many of the murals visible in the arts district are part of Colfax Canvas, an annual mural festival that will return for a neighborhood block party Sept. 16. To find out more about the murals and the event, visit ColfaxCanvas.com.

**The People’s Building**

This city-owned facility at 9995 E. Colfax Ave. offers flexible event space and a gallery to host cultural events, workshops, meetings, independent artists, musicians, dancers and event planners. From theater performances and live music to independent film screenings and immersive art, this venue is the place to be for unique arts and cultural experiences. There’s something new and different happening there weekly, and the schedule constantly changes. Learn more at Facebook.com/ThePeoplesBuilding.

**Other Notable Locations**

The Aurora Cultural Arts District nonprofit organization has earned the Colorado Creative District designation from the state of Colorado. The organization hosts periodic events at Fletcher Plaza, adjacent to the Martin Luther King Jr. Library at 9898 E. Colfax Ave., and recently opened its East Colfax Art Gallery and Studio, 10201 E. Colfax Ave. Other arts groups that operate on East Colfax include the Vintage Theatre, Downtown Aurora Visual Arts, Red Delicious Press, Roshni Productions, the Aurora Symphony Orchestra and Nueva Escuela de Música. More information is available at AuroraCulture.org.

While visiting the Aurora Cultural Arts District, enjoy great cuisine or a drink at places like Baba & Pops Pierogi, Báhn & Butter, Cerebral Brewing, La Cueva, La Morena, Lady Justice Brewery and Mango House. Find these and other great places to eat in the city’s Aurora Eats guide at AuroraEats.org.
Sprucing up neighborhoods one project at a time

A community message board, a neighborhood market, neighborhood cleanups and landscaping are among the projects selected this year for the city’s 2023 Neighborhood Improvement Grant Program.

The city of Aurora awarded $60,000 in grant funds to 14 groups across all city council wards.

These competitive grants of up to $5,000 each promote projects that improve a neighborhood’s physical condition, enhance pride and identity, increase neighborhood communication, or bring new assets to the neighborhood that foster gathering and positive experiences.

Awarded neighborhood groups include:

- Del Mar Parkway Neighborhood
- Business Arts and Culture Alliance
- 45th Place of Hawks Landing
- Meadowood Neighborhood Association
- Highland Park East Neighborhood Association
- Tyndall Green II Homeowner’s Association
- Northwest Aurora and Del Mar Neighborhoods
- Mission Viejo Homeowners’ Association
- Lake Shore Community Neighborhood Watch
- Summit Park Townhomes
- Chambers Ridge Garden Club
- Prairie Ridge at Saddle Rock East
- Star Pass at Saddle Rock
- Shadow Creek Neighborhood

Neighborhood organizations and residents (where a neighborhood organization may not exist) were encouraged to apply. Awarded groups have until October 2023 to use the grant funds and complete their projects.

Although the Neighborhood Improvement Grant Program is now closed for the year, residents are encouraged to apply for one or more neighborhood mini-grants, including a Know Your Neighbor Grant for a block party or clean-up events, a Printing Assistance Grant to provide posters and flyers for community activities, and a Small Neighborhood Activity Grant for events like festivals or tournaments. Mini-grant applications are open now at AuroraGov.org/NeighborhoodGrants. For questions, email engagecec@auroragov.org or call 303.739.7280.
Aurora Water moves to **normal watering stage**

Although Aurora's reservoir levels remain below average, the abundant rain has reduced outdoor water demands, allowing Aurora residents to use less water. City Council has lifted the stage 1 drought, and Aurora is in a normal watering stage.

Customers may choose any three days to water each week. Watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. is not allowed until Oct. 1. And, just because you can water more often, doesn't mean you need to. The monthly watering schedule provides enough supplemental water to keep your turf happy and healthy.

Please remember, because our reservoirs have not fully recovered, continue to use water wisely. For water conservation tips, updated watering times and more information may be found at [AuroraWater.org](http://AuroraWater.org).

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**Let your lawn go blonde**

While we are familiar with the tan browns of dormant grass in the winter, we don’t think about dormancy during summer. Just like that sun-kissed look of blonde hair, during July or August, you should let your grass go dormant during these hot days to reduce outdoor water use.

Cool-season grass, like Kentucky bluegrass, can require up to two inches of water every week just to stay green. However, one-quarter inch of water per week keeps the crowns hydrated and alive. It also reduces water consumption by 85%.

This grass will change color, but it isn’t dead - it’s alive and happy during its nap. To determine the difference between dormant and dead grass, we recommend the tug test. Grab a handful of grass and give it a slight tug. If it offers some resistance, the grass is sleeping.

If you have grass you water and mow but otherwise never use, Aurora Water can help you transform it into a beautiful water-wise landscape. Check out our Grass Replacement Incentive Program by visiting [AuroraGov.org/GRIP](http://AuroraGov.org/GRIP). For program questions, email [conservation@auroragov.org](mailto:conservation@auroragov.org) or call 303.739.7195.

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**Prevent flooding through storm water protection**

Storm water is generated by water from rain, snow or even runoff from improperly watering lawns. The water runs across impervious surfaces, such as sidewalks, parking lots and roof-tops. Streets are the primary means of conveying storm water and are part of the storm drain system that is designed to carry storm water directly to nearby creeks.

During large rainstorms, flooding can occur when storm drain systems and waterways are clogged with trash and debris. To protect your area from flooding, do not rake or blow grass or leaves into the gutter and pick up trash so it is not washed into the storm drain. At your home, be sure to check your roof gutters to ensure they are clean and direct the downspouts away from your home. Many basement floods occur because simple gutter and downspout maintenance is overlooked. For additional ways to protect you, your loved ones and home, visit [AuroraGov.org/Flood](http://AuroraGov.org/Flood).

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Free paint recycling available

Is that 2010 paint color of the year still taking up space in your garage? Don’t let the questionable paint decisions of your past haunt you. Through the free PaintCare program, unused paint can be returned to many of the locations where it was purchased. For a complete list of locations and items accepted, visit [PaintCare.org/Colorado](http://PaintCare.org/Colorado). There are limitations on how much paint you can drop off at each visit, and not all retail stores accept paint for recycling. Contact the store directly to confirm business hours and their ability to accept what you would like to recycle.