



June 27, 2022

**Marketing and
Communications**

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www.cityofws.org

Dear Downtown Resident or Business Owner,

The 2022 National Black Theatre Festival is back Monday August 1 through Saturday, August 6. The event will bring hundreds of visitors to our vibrant downtown area. Below details the events that will impact our downtown.

On Friday, July 29 before the official start of the festival, the city will unveil 4 new Arts, Culture, and Entertainment Memorial Walk of Fame inductees outside of the Benton Convention Center on the Cherry St. sidewalk. The outdoor portion of the event will temporarily block Cherry St. between 5th and 6th streets at 10:30 a.m. More information about the program can be found at CityofWS.org/WalkoffFame.

Two parades are planned for the festival week, August 2 and 6. On Tuesday, August 2 the participants for Marvtastic Mile parade will gather at Embassy Suites, 460 North Cherry Street, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the 400 block of Marshall Street adjacent to Embassy Suites. The participants will travel south on Marshall Street, turning left onto Fourth St. The parade will turn left onto Trade St. and left onto Fifth St., concluding at the Benton Convention Center.

On Saturday, August 6 beginning at 11:30 p.m. the closing parade participants will gather at the entrance of the Marriott Hotel at 425 N. Cherry St. It will proceed north from the entrance of the Marriott Hotel. The parade will turn left onto Fifth Street, left onto Marshall Street, left onto Fourth St. The parade will pause at the intersection of Fourth and Marshall streets for a brief ceremony at the Larry Leon Hamlin marker. The parade will then continue turning left onto Cherry Street, ending at the Marriott.

August 4 – 6 the city will sponsor The Old School Block Party at Corpening Plaza from 7:30 to 11 p.m. each night. The event will include food trucks, live music, and African drumming. No streets will be completely closed, however the far-right lane of Liberty St. between Second and First streets will be closed to accommodate the food trucks from 6 to 11:30 p.m. each night. Detailed information can be found on the city's website: CityofWS.org/OSBP.

As always you can get more information on activities regarding the festival at NBTF.org. We hope you'll join us in supporting this year's National Black Theatre Festival.

Thank you,

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Sue Spainhour
336-747-7360

CityLink311

Call 311 or 336-727-8000
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City Council: Mayor Allen Joines; Denise D. Adams, Mayor Pro Tempore, North Ward; Barbara Hanes Burke, Northeast Ward; Robert C. Clark, West Ward; John C. Larson, South Ward; Jeff MacIntosh, Northwest Ward; Kevin Mundy, Southwest Ward; Annette Scippio, East Ward; James Taylor, Jr., Southeast Ward; City Manager: Lee D. Garrity