



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Downtown Tempe Cancels 2020 Fantasy of Lights Parades Modified Tempe Festival of the Arts Will Continue

DTA launches 'Downtown Tempe Holiday Special' on Facebook Live

Tempe, Ariz. - The [Downtown Tempe Authority](#) is reinventing the holiday season in downtown Tempe. As we approach this holiday season, we are encouraging patrons to make downtown Tempe their home for the holidays.

Unfortunately, changes to our fall and winter events are inevitable considering the ongoing pandemic. It saddens us to announce that our [2020 Fantasy of Lights Opening Night Parade](#) and [Boat Parade](#) are cancelled. While we know these events are important to the community, these decisions were made with an abundance of caution as the parades do not allow for a free-flowing atmosphere and do not encourage social distancing.

"We are disheartened by the cancellation of these beautiful parades and realize this will impact our downtown merchants," Kate Borders, Executive Director of the Downtown Tempe Authority, said. "But this decision was not taken lightly as we know how important these parades are to the community. We only want to produce events that demonstrate our commitment to quality safety."

We fully expect to bring back these holiday parades in 2021.

Downtown Tempe Live!

Never fret, the holiday cheer will go on! Mill Avenue is lit up and decked out for the season and we are excited to announce our *NEW* "[Downtown Tempe Holiday Special](#)," sponsored by [Edward Jones](#).

This live-streamed event invites viewers to tune into Facebook Live on Thanksgiving night at 7 p.m. to enjoy holiday tunes and warm messages from Tempe Mayor Corey Woods, Tempe City Council members, a special guest from the North Pole, and a wonderful surprise we are sure the community will enjoy!

Follow the official Downtown Tempe [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) pages for updates and notifications.

During this holiday special and continually on our website, there will be a special link for viewers to donate to the [Tempe Community Action Agency](#). The organization hopes to raise \$10,000 for their hunger relief program. It is our responsibility to give back to our community during hard times and especially this holiday season.

Tempe Festival of the Arts

On Dec. 4-6, downtown Tempe will host a modified version of the 52nd Annual Fall [Tempe Festival of the Arts](#).

This festival will look different from previous years but the focus will remain on providing a variety of quality art and food in a socially distant environment. As the event takes over the entirety of downtown Tempe, there is an abundance of room for social distancing in our 10 block footprint.

“We are thrilled to be able to continue with this fall’s festival,” Borders said. “With the support of the City, we are working around the clock to ensure this festival is as safe and enjoyable as possible.”

In addition to our 300 artists, there will be dozens of food options scattered through the downtown area. Food remains one of the most popular features of the event! This year, we will have options such as Dole Whip, steamed buns, a Mediterranean food truck, kettle corn and so much more!

Changes to the Festival

This year will not feature any wine or beer vendors on the street as we want the focus to be the art and safety. We encourage all attendees to visit our downtown Tempe merchants for drinks and eats as they can use all the support they can get during these difficult times.

Additionally, we will not feature programming elements such as our Kid’s Block activation, Young Artists Exhibition or have any live entertainment, including local performers, face painting, or balloon artists. We are focused on making this festival all about the art and the support of small businesses.

This is an open-air event and takes place in an extremely large footprint. In addition, the vendor tents will be spread out to at least 6 ft. apart, allowing for increased social distancing between artists and attendees.

Patrons will still have access to a limited number of tables and chairs. There will be a dedicated staff member present to clean and sanitize all tables and chairs after they are used.

Over the course of all three days, all staff members, artists, vendors and security are encouraged to check their temperature and health *before* coming to the festival. Furthermore, DTA will be taking daily temperature checks for all participants and will be issuing colored wristbands per day to identify those that have complied with our safety protocols.

We are requiring all vendors to have hand sanitizer in their booths and are encouraging all our vendors to clean and sanitize their booths frequently and ensure physical distancing in their spaces. For attendees, there will be multiple hand sanitizing stations throughout the festival footprint.

The mask mandate by the [City of Tempe](#) and [Maricopa County](#) will be enforced and masks will be available for those without one at the Information Booth, located at 4th Street and Mill Avenue.

We are following all health authority and government agency guidelines for all of our downtown Tempe events. Please note, every local regulating body may be determining protocols differently than other neighboring authorities. Please see our [website](#) for more detailed guidelines and precautions as they relate to the Tempe Festival of the Arts.

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About Downtown Tempe Authority: Since 1993, the award-winning Downtown Tempe Authority has been the private, non-profit organization that works in partnership with the City of Tempe to increase the value of Downtown Tempe through enhanced management, safety, marketing and promotional services on behalf of DTA members and other downtown stakeholders.

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