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Phoenix Festival of the Arts Celebrates 15 Years with Quinceañera-Inspired Celebration

Free December 12 festival centers the 51-year-old Phoenix Center for the Arts in a celebration of art, culture, community and creative participation

PHOENIX, AZ – November 24, 2026 – Phoenix Center for the Arts (PCA) will celebrate a milestone when the 15th Annual Phoenix Festival of the Arts (PFA) returns Saturday, December 12, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. for a free celebration of art, culture and community.

Inspired by the cultural significance of the quinceañera, this year's festival honors the artists, families, partners and community members who have shaped its first 15 years while looking toward its next chapter.

Yazmin Quezada serves as the Festival's Cultural Ambassador, helping PCA approach the quinceañera-inspired anniversary with cultural intention and education.

"Yazmin taught me that a quinceañera is about much more than turning 15. It recognizes growth, identity, tradition, community and the people who helped you reach that milestone," said Angelique Kane, Executive Director of Phoenix Center for the Arts. "That gave us a beautiful framework for honoring where PFA has been while creating space for our community to be part of where it goes next."

The Center Becomes the Festival

Phoenix Festival of the Arts has traditionally activated the East Lawn of Hance Park, directly adjacent to Phoenix Center for the Arts. For its 15th anniversary, that orientation changes.

This year, the Center is PFA, and the celebration expands outward from it.

The new footprint activates spaces throughout the 51-year-old Center's campus and extends into the surrounding outdoor spaces. PCA describes the configuration as PFA "hugging the Center." Festival planning intentionally connects stages, vendors, programming and other activities across the campus and its relationship with Hance Park.

"There is something powerful about a 15-year-old PFA celebrating this milestone from within a 51-year-old community arts institution," said Kane. "The Center becomes the heart of PFA, and everything expands outward from there. It connects where we have been with where we are going."

Festival Highlights

Festivalgoers will find opportunities to experience, make and support the arts throughout the day, including:

- Live music and cultural dance across outdoor stages and performances inside the newly renovated Third Street Theater.
- PFA IDOL performers selected through PCA's artist-development initiative.

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- An all-day open-air DJ experience and The Art of the DJ: From Passion to Professional, powered in partnership with PCA Resident Organization School of Hip Hop and MUSE, PCA's Culture Producer-in-Residence, featuring William Feggins, Miyani, DJ Rampage and D.K. the Punisher.
- A large community marketplace featuring artists, makers, creative entrepreneurs and food vendors.
- Cultural experiences including a quinceañera dress program, exhibit, family activities, car show and additional interactive experiences.
- Two live mural experiences, including an interior mural created by Maxx Valentine and a collaborative outdoor Paint-By-Number mural led by PCA Teaching Artist Juan Paniagua.

PFA will also feature free workshops and artist demonstrations curated by Central Arts Market as an extension of PCA's p(ART)icipate initiative, which creates accessible opportunities for people to engage in creative expression.

The two mural experiences embody that spirit of participation: inside, the community experiences an artist creating; outside, the community becomes part of the creation.

The outdoor mural will face Hance Park, where so much of PFA's history has unfolded. As the Center becomes the heart of this year's celebration, the community will collectively help create what PCA presents back toward that historic festival space.

"This is not only a celebration that people attend. It is a celebration people help create," said Kane. "We're honoring where PFA has been while inviting our community to help create what comes next."

Event Details

15th Annual Phoenix Festival of the Arts

Saturday, December 12, 2026 | 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

Phoenix Center for the Arts

1202 N. Third Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004

Free and open to the public

About Phoenix Center for the Arts:

Operated by Central Arts Alliance, Phoenix Center for the Arts is a leading nonprofit community arts organization dedicated to expanding access to arts and culture through equitable education, innovative programming, and community-centered advocacy. Serving diverse audiences across the Valley, the organization creates inclusive, creative spaces where individuals of all ages and backgrounds can learn, connect, and thrive through the arts. Learn more at www.phoenixcenterforthearts.org