



UTAH ARTS FESTIVAL 2019

## THE RETURN OF **Summertime in Salt Lake**

It's true, downtown Salt Lake City and the surrounding community have just not been the same without the draw of live summertime events like the Utah Arts Festival. "There's a vibrancy the live events bring to the city and community throughout the summer," says Aimee Dunsmore, the festival's director.

Summer 2021 sees the (tentative) return of some of the mainstay events, including but not limited to UAF, that were either postponed, canceled or otherwise diminished in 2020. The void they left behind heightened the feelings of isolation throughout this past year, but their return could provide the opportunity to reforge the connections to the community we lost.

### LIVING TRADITIONS FESTIVAL

(MAY 15-JUNE 26)

Rather than holding one large event, the 2021 Living Traditions Festival will consist of a series of events at various outdoor locations around downtown Salt Lake City. You can expect the signature pieces of the event to remain intact, including artists sharing their cultural heritage through traditional song and dance and, of course, the food. The festival's food market will return, featuring more than a dozen culinary artists and their respective cultural delicacies. The festival will kick off May 15 at Washington Square and conclude with the "A Taste of Living Traditions" event on June 26. [saltlakearts.org/livingtraditions/presents](http://saltlakearts.org/livingtraditions/presents)

### PRIDE WEEK

(JUNE 1-7)

The Utah Pride Center has the challenge of generating the sort of electric celebration of love we expect from Pride Week without the ability to throw massively crowded events that take over downtown Salt Lake City. A highlight of this year is the Story Garden, an interactive outdoor exhibit that draws on local artists and storytellers. Given this time of unprecedented isolation, Rob

Moolman, director of the Utah Pride Center, wants LGBTQ+ people to know there is a community out there for them, and Pride Week embodies that. "Pride and Pride Festival allows for LGBTQ+ individuals to come out and present themselves, to see themselves represented and to see themselves period. Full stop." [utahpridecenter.org](http://utahpridecenter.org)

### UTAH ARTS FESTIVAL

(AUGUST 27-29)

UAF organizers conducted multiple surveys before ultimately deciding to hold an in-person festival in 2021. The feedback they received from partners, staff, community members and especially artists was clear. "Artists have been shuttered for months. For over a year now. They're ready to get out and get back to normal," Utah Arts Festival director Dunsmore explains. The festival has virtual elements as well, including an online marketplace to view and purchase art. That being said, according to Dunsmore, "there's nothing that replaces the in-person experience of our festival—walking around with a beer, seeing a piece of art or performance, and making a connection. For an artist, it's the same thing—getting to connect to an audience." [uaf.org](http://uaf.org)

PHOTOS (TOP TO BOTTOM) COURTESY: UTAH ARTS FESTIVAL, COURTESY: HOTEL MONACO

## THE ULTIMATE CABIN FEVER CURE

While you can base any of our day trips, adventures and good-for-the-soul activities from the home+office+school you've been hunkering down in for a year, get out for a weekend and check in to **Hotel Monaco** (15 W. 200 South, SLC, 801-595-0000, [monaco-saltlakecity.com](http://monaco-saltlakecity.com)). Located in the center of downtown SLC in the renovated Continental Bank Building (the hotel restaurant, Bambara, has a private room built into the old bank's steel cash repository), the pet-friendly boutique hotel is a well-situated and civilized base to help you overcome what by now must be a severe case of cabin fever. Also, starting this summer the hotel offers a selection of guided hiking trips through the local outfitter Utah Mountain Adventures ([utahmountainadventures.com](http://utahmountainadventures.com)). If you want someone else to do the planning, these customized outings range from day hikes to multi-day backpacking excursions.

