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News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **ArtsFiesta! moves indoors with mariachi and dancing**

Shake off the snow and enjoy hot mariachi and dancing tonight at ArtsFiesta! held indoors 5:45-9:30 p.m., at the Abundant Life Church, 157 Park Central Square. Admission is free.

The Springfield Sister Cities Association's annual celebration of Mexican arts and culture features live authentic mariachi music and traditional Mexican dancing. Mariachi Viva Xalisco, from Springfield's Mexican sister city of Tlaquepaque, Jalisco, performs with special guests Paco Padilla and Sheila Rios. Numerous folkloric dances will be performed by Springfield-based Grupo Latinoamericano, Branson's Grupo Libertad and Monett's Grupo Monett. Bilingual storytelling for children and a display of original art from Tlaquepaque will be at the Park Central Branch Library, 128 Park Central Square.

"Sister Cities is most grateful for the hospitality of Abundant Life Church, which is graciously allowing the show to go on indoors tonight," said Louise Knauer, chair of the Springfield Sister Cities Association ArtsFiesta! committee. "The lousy weather won't dampen our celebration of friendship, music and dancing with our friends from Tlaquepaque and throughout southwest Missouri."

Interviews with ArtsFiesta! coordinators are available after 1:30 p.m. today at Abundant Life Church.

ArtsFiesta! kicks off a weekend of center-city events that also includes the First Friday Art Walk downtown and the 33rd annual Artsfest on Historic Walnut Street. Free parking is readily available at the College Station and Heer's car parks just west of the Square, public lots at Olive and Boonville and elsewhere downtown.

Great Southern Bank is this year's presenting sponsor for ArtsFiesta! Bilingual storytelling is made possible thanks to support from Dr. Michael Hanks. Other sponsors include Nippes & Associates, the Downtown Springfield Community Improvement District, Mother's Brewing Co., and the City of Tlaquepaque.

Springfield Sister Cities Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people of the City of Springfield and people of similar cities in foreign nations acquire a consciousness of each other and to understand one another as individuals, as members of their community, and as part of our global community. For more information on other upcoming SSCA events, visit [PeaceThroughPeople.org](http://PeaceThroughPeople.org) or 'like' the page at [Facebook.com/SpringfieldSisterCities](https://www.facebook.com/SpringfieldSisterCities).

For more media inquiries, call Jenny Fillmer Edwards, Public Information Administrator, Springfield-Greene County Park Board, (417) 874-2176 or (417) 224-5510.