To celebrate its 50th anniversary, the Smithsonian Folklife Festival will host a series of programs exploring American identity and creativity. “Circus Arts” will take visitors behind the scenes to explore the cultural and artistic expressions of the ever-evolving circus, and “On the Move” will examine migration and cultural identity from an intergenerational perspective.

The Festival will be held Thursday, June 29, through Tuesday, July 4, and Thursday, July 6, through Sunday, July 9, on the National Mall between Seventh and 12th streets. Admission is free. Festival hours are from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, with evening performances beginning at 7 p.m. The Festival is co-sponsored by the National Park Service.

Images are for press and media use only. Contact Angelica Aboulhosn (AboulhosnA@si.edu) for access to hi-res images.

Smithsonian Folklife Festival

Visitors at the 2015 Smithsonian Folklife Festival; Photo by Francisco Guerra; Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections; Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage; Smithsonian Institution

Peruvian singer Julie Freundt performs at the 2015 Folklife Festival. Photo by Ronald Villasante, Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections; Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage; Smithsonian Institution
Circus Arts

Circus Harmony's Incredible Isabella. Photo by Jessica Hentoff

Circus Harmony's St. Louis Arches. Photo by Jessica Hentoff

On the Move

Musician Christylez Bacon. Photo courtesy of YTanou Photography

Muralist and visual artist Cita Sadeli, aka Chelove. Photo courtesy of Cita Sadeli

50 Years | 50 Objects

“Virgin of the Mall” by Rosa María Jeréz Ruíz, 2011 Smithsonian Folklife Festival. Photo by Zvonimir Bebek, Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections; Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage; Smithsonian Institution

“Transatlantic Salmon” by Graham Stewart, 2003 Smithsonian Folklife Festival. Photo by Zvonimir Bebek, Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections; Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage; Smithsonian Institution