

# It's all 'Fair' game for volunteers

As a city with the reputation for being Canada's Festival City, there's no doubt our festivals are a source of community pride and an important element to our quality of life.

That's why Janice Bell, director of Volunteer Edmonton, hopes Edmontonians will come to the fair, which is happening at the TransAlta Arts Barns, 10330 84 Ave., to learn more about how to become involved in volunteering.

The event, hosted by Volunteer Edmonton with the support of the Edmonton Arts Council, Fringe Theatre Adventures, the Edmonton Realtors Association and

## Festival opens the door to helping others

River City Event Rentals, is free of charge and open to all ages.

"This once-a-year event is a great opportunity to learn more about the diversity of Edmonton's festivals and to find out how to join the fun as a volunteer," says Janice Bell, director of Volunteer Edmonton.

"We want to make festival volunteering easy and accessible to everyone."

With a number of different festivals celebrating visual arts, dance, music,

culture, film and more, visitors should have no problem finding the perfect volunteer opportunity.

Bell explains that the estimated total number of volunteers required by all festivals is about 8,000 people.

"The sky's the limit when it comes to

the kind of volunteer opportunities available. Depending on the festival, there could be opportunities to be greeters, costume designers, part of the clean up crews, food services, cashiers and so

much more," she says.

"Festival volunteering is about being part of the action and excitement."

Visitors will have the opportunity to browse the various displays and

booths, speak one-on-one with festival representatives about volunteering, and even pick up and fill out volunteer applications on the spot.

The idea is to provide visitors with the ease and convenience of a "one-stop festival volunteer shopping" opportunity.

Noree Claerhout, resource development manager for the Edmonton International Fringe Theatre Festival, believes the Festival Volunteer Fair is a great opportunity for festivals to not only recruit volunteers, but to also promote and raise awareness about their festival.

"What people don't realize is the sheer number of festivals that exist. Many of these festivals are small, completely volunteer-run, newly established and lack the budget required to reach a wide audience. The Festival Volunteer Fair offers festivals an opportunity to showcase their festival and what they're all about."

Bell urges Edmontonians to consider attending the Festival Volunteer Fair to learn how to support festivals struggling to fill empty volunteer roles.

"I think it's safe to say that we wouldn't want to lose any of Edmonton's unique and interesting festivals because of a lack of volunteers. We get so much out of the performances and activities festivals offer; this is our chance to give back."

To view a complete list of the festivals participating in the second annual Festival Volunteer Fair or to learn more about volunteerism, visit [www.volunteeredmonton.com](http://www.volunteeredmonton.com).

**The sky's the limit when it comes to the kind of volunteer opportunities available.**

Janice Bell  
VOLUNTEER EDMONTON

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