

# **San Diego Healing Arts Festival**

The **Alternative Healing Network** is a 501(c)(3) that promotes the use of “integrative” healing arts (the combination of Eastern and Western medicine) and improves access to care in underserved communities. We have established free temporary clinics (“Integrative Health Nights”) in City Heights and Southeast San Diego that offer comprehensive treatments in acupuncture, massage, chiropractic and other alternative techniques. We have also recently opened a permanent ‘sliding-scale’ health center on Adams Avenue in Normal Heights with all the proceeds going to fund our free clinics. Here patients decide how much they can afford for treatment based on self-reported income levels.

In order to promote the use of these techniques, we have been hosting community outreach events that bring music (one of the greatest healing forces in the World) together with Eastern and Western health practices. Since 2004, our largest annual event has been the “**San Diego Healing Arts Festival**”. Here we use music and dance to entice the community towards healthy lifestyle choices and awareness of better health practices. We offer sample treatments and information on acupuncture, massage, chiro, nutrition and more through our over 75 exhibitors. In our “Workshop Area”, participants can experience our free classes in yoga, qi gong, and other meditative arts. The “Demo Zone” offers dance, capoeira, tai chi and other more active healing arts. We also host a “Kid’s Zone” that focuses on healthy practices for families such as art and music therapy, Family nutrition and yoga for kids.

All through 2008, we have partnered with the **World Beat Center** to host “Alternative Happy Hours” bringing music and healing together in a fun and accessible environment. These mini-festivals were extremely well received and we hope to continue their success in 2009 as well as cultivate our relationship with the World Beat Center for collaboration on our expansion of the Healing Arts Festival this coming May.

This year marks the fifth anniversary of our event (Note: the 2005 event was canceled due to scheduling conflicts.) Each year we have experienced substantial growth in attendance and number of exhibitors (2004=2500 guests/ 30 exhibitors, 2006=5500 guests/ 45 exhibitors, 2007=12,000 guests/ 60 exhibitors, 2008= 18,000 guests/ 75 exhibitors.) This year we are expecting 25,000 guests throughout the day and approximately 100 exhibitors. Although we are not at the saturation point yet for the field itself, we would still like to spread out, add another solar powered stage and other music/ dance therapy areas as well as accommodate the expected increase in potential exhibitor interest. **We are now requesting your approval to expand the footprint of our event to include the Federal Building Lot adjacent to the field at Park Blvd. & President’s Way.**

We will keep a firelane around the outer ring of the Federal Lot at all times and staff the walkways between the lot and the field at all times with “crossing-guards” in case of emergency vehicle usage. We hope to park our artists and vendors in spaces along the first row of the field, along the canyon edge leading down to Starlight Bowl, and in the Western portion of the federal lot past the main entrance to the lot. I would like to invite the Air & Space Museum, Municipal Gymnasium, and Starlight Bowl to host exhibitor booths and work with us on reducing impact further. We want to work with the Park on this and minimize our impact on other park activities and organizations.

Thank you for your support of integrative health in the community.

Sincerely,

Ryan Altman, L.Ac./ Executive Director/ Event Coordinator

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