



City of Arts & Innovation

News Release

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Riverside Hosts Cesar Chavez Mini Film Festival Friday-Saturday

Free events, including films, live performances and art displays, benefit Riverside Arts Academy

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – The Cesar Chavez Mini Film Festival, a two-day event in downtown Riverside, kicks off tonight (4/1) with a free 7 p.m. screening of “The Fight in the Fields: Cesar Chavez and the Farmworkers Struggle” at the Culver Center, 3834 Main Street.

The Festival, which is a fundraiser for the Riverside Arts Academy, continues Saturday from 12-3 p.m. with live student performances and art displays, and special guest, Nacho Bustillos. Screenings continue in the afternoon and evening with:

- “Cesar’s Last Fast,” at 3 p.m. Saturday, which is preceded by a 2 p.m. discussion with producer and director Richard Ray Perez and Dr. Carlos E. Cortés, Professor Emeritus of History at UC Riverside.
- “The Fight in the Fields: Cesar Chavez and the Farmworkers Struggle” at 4:45 p.m. Saturday.
- “Cesar’s Last Fast,” at 7 p.m. Saturday, with a discussion following the show with producer and director Richard Ray Perez, Carolyn Schutten of the Riverside Art Museum and Scott McNaul Hernandez of Riverside City College.

“The Cesar Chavez Mini Film Festival is a great way to deepen our understanding of a man who is such an icon in California and across the country,” said City Councilman Andy Melendrez, who organized the event and helped fund it, along with sponsors. “This free event also is a great way to honor Cesar Chavez so close to his birthday on March 31.”

Admission is free, but tickets must be reserved in advance at: <https://artsblock.ucr.edu/Film/List>

The festival is a fundraiser for the Riverside Arts Academy, which offers free and low-cost lessons in art, music, dance and the arts to young people across Riverside. The Academy is collaboration between community volunteers and the City of Riverside Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department.

Volunteers got the program started and advocated for City support, which includes \$50,000 per year for instructor salaries and supplies and a like amount in support and oversight from Parks staff. The Academy started about three years ago at the Chavez Center in the Eastside neighborhood and has since expanded to the Casa Blanca and Arlanza neighborhoods.

Additional information is available at: <https://www.facebook.com/Chavezfilmfestival/>

To reserve a spot for the discussions of “Cesar’s Last Fast,” call 951-826-5419.