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## ***Jersey City Kicks Off Event Season With A Robust Cultural Calendar of Festivals, Parades and Performances***

*Continued Expansion of Event Programming by Fulop Administration Builds Community and Highlights Jersey City's Diversity*

JERSEY CITY – The warmer months mark the launch of the City of Jersey City's unofficial event season with festivals, outdoor marketplaces, live music performances and other cultural events emerging in every ward. Every weekend and many week nights offer Jersey City's residents an array of entertainment and local shopping options.

Jersey City has seen a steady growth in its public event programming on its cultural roster every year since **Mayor Steven Fulop** took office, with an increase in special event permit application submissions from area organizers including the **3rd Annual Cultural Diversity Festival** in Hamilton Park on July 16th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with arts and crafts, live music and food vendors highlighting the City's varied ethnic cultures. The City has additionally partnered with local organizations on events such as the **Bike JC Ward Tour** and **TEDx Jersey City** to proliferate community programming.

In addition to new programming being introduced, the City of Jersey City's existing free entertainment events are expanding into longer seasons. **The Summerfest Music Series** at Liberty State Park kicks off this week with live music programming on Sundays and Tuesdays through September. For a full schedule of upcoming events, visit <http://www.jerseycityculture.org>.

**Concerts at the MLK Hub** will return on Wednesdays from 5pm to 8pm on July 13th with area R&B and soul acts. The much-anticipated **Jazz For Lunch Music Series** launched earlier this summer at J. Owen Grundy Pier and runs every Thursday from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. through September 22nd.

"Jersey City has one of the most vibrant arts and cultural communities in the country," said **Mayor Fulop**. "Our cultural events are an exciting and accessible way to engage residents and visitors through art, music and cultural traditions in every ward of the city, while strengthening communities."

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Ongoing cultural programming serving Jersey City's diverse community will continue through 2016 and beyond with celebrations that include monthly flag raisings and annual processions. The ***Indian Flag Raising*** is scheduled for Monday, August 15th followed by the ***LGBT Flag Raising*** on August 19th. Other events, such as the ***Bolivian Parade and Festival***, are anticipated to return to Jersey City's streets this August.

The month of October celebrates Jersey City's arts scene with ***ARTober Jersey City***. The ***26th Annual Jersey City Art & Studio Tour (JCAST)*** will be kicking off the festivities on October 8th and 9th with a weekend highlighting Jersey City's diverse and burgeoning art scene, featuring over 1,000 area artists in various mediums. The event weekend features self-guided tours of nearly 600 venues that include galleries, studios, public art, live music and performances. The ***JCAST*** is New Jersey's premier art and cultural event, and is free and open to the public. ***ARTober*** continues with exhibitions and events that include visual art, multimedia, film, music, performance and everything in-between. For more information, visit [www.thejcast.com](http://www.thejcast.com).

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