

Your Culture Days 2011 schedule is up to you

London Arts Council is preparing to kickoff Culture Days 2011 with a launch event on Sep. 30 at Museum London.

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It will be a celebration of arts and culture and everyone is invited.

London will be celebrating Culture Days 2011 from September 30 until October 2, giving area residents a unique opportunity to mix and mingle with local artists.

"London has a very diverse and vibrant cultural and arts community and that's why London also responded (to Culture Days) and became a part of this nationwide movement," said Dhira Ghosh of the London Arts Council.

Started in 2010, Culture Days is a volunteer-based movement that aims to increase public participation in the arts and to give people a chance to see what goes on before the curtain rises.

The London Arts Council is organizing a kick off party for Culture Days on Friday, September 30 at Museum London. That evening, fusion artist Ryan Mahy will be providing Londoners a cocktail of visual arts and music. Various cultural groups will also be on hand to entertain and educate the public.

Ghosh said there are more than 50 scheduled activities that Londoners can participate in this year. Londoners can create their own schedule for the celebration's three days by visiting www.culturedays.ca and using a feature called "Bright Spots."

The Grand Theatre, Museum London, The London Public Library and London Children's Museum are some of the organizations participating in this year's events.

"Culture is a part of everybody's day-to-day life. This is a once in a year chance to go and see something that normally you wouldn't get a chance to explore," Ghosh said.

During the three-day event, Londoners can witness behind the scenes activities such as a rehearsal and a prop building session at The Grand Theatre.

"It is important for the (artists) to get feedback from the public, to know what they are hoping to see," Ghosh said. "So it is an excellent opportunity for these two groups."

The London Arts Council is hoping for a full house at Museum London on September 30 and is expecting Culture Days 2011 to be a successful event in the Forest City.

"We want the London community to support (Culture Days). All they have to do is make it a part of their itinerary for that weekend and support (the event)," Ghosh said.

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