



Only in San Francisco[®]
SAN FRANCISCO CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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NEWS

FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS 2008

The following events are held on an annual basis and are updated throughout the year. All dates and locations are subject to change and should be confirmed with sponsors before making travel plans. A mid-year update (after July 1, 2008) as well as general city information and detailed event calendars are available at www.onlyinsanfrancisco.com.

JANUARY 2008

JANUARY 10-16

Berlin and Beyond Film Festival

Castro Theater, 415-263-8760

www.goethe.de/sanfrancisco

This unique German language film festival provides highlights of recent European cinema.

JANUARY 11-13

San Francisco Rod Custom & Motorcycle Show

Cow Palace, 2600 Geneva Ave., 866-270-1955

www.sfcustomshow.com

Nine buildings filled with some of the world's hottest custom cars, hot rods and motorcycles make this the largest car show on the West Coast.

JANUARY 15-31

San Francisco Dine About Town™

Various restaurants, 888-330-9968 or 415-391-2000

www.onlyinsanfrancisco.com

Bi-annual event featuring more than 100 fine restaurants offering prix fixe lunches and dinners for special prices.

JANUARY 19

18th Anniversary of the Sea Lions' Arrival at Pier 39

Pier 39, 415-705-5500

www.pier39.com

Pier 39 commemorates the 18th Anniversary of the sea lions' arrival for the Bay Area herring supply. Docents from the Marine Mammal Center will be on hand to illuminate the lives of these delightful creatures.

JANUARY 19-21

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Youth and Family Day and Freedom March Rally

Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, 510-268-3777

www.norcalmlk.org

San Francisco honors the civil rights leader with a host of events including annual freedom march.

JANUARY 23**San Francisco Ballet Gala Opening**

War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Avenue, 415-865-2000

www.sfballet.org

The opening program of America's oldest professional ballet company launches the 75th repertory season of full-length, classical and contemporary ballet performances.

JANUARY 23-26**17th Annual Zinfandel Festival**

Fort Mason Center, Herbst and Festival Pavilions, 530-274-4900

www.zinfandel.org

Zinfandel, often called America's heritage wine, is the draw here. As many as 300 wineries participate in this mega-tasting which draws some 10,000 wine lovers.

JANUARY 25-February 3**Noir City 6: San Francisco Film Noir Festival**

Castro Theatre

www.noircity.com

Dedicated to noir philosophy, attitude and style in films, books, art and music, the festival is the largest of its kind in the U.S.

JANUARY 26**AMP'D Mobile World Supercross Series**

AT&T Park, 24 Willie Mays Plaza, 415-972-2000 or 800-225-2277

www.attpark.com

Motor sport racing competition featuring the top supercross riders in the world.

JANUARY 26-27**Golden Gate Kennel Club Dog Show**

Cow Palace, Geneva Avenue and Santos Street, 415-404-4111

www.cowpalace.com

More than 2,000 dogs and 135 breeds vie for "Best in Show" and compete in dog agility demonstrations daily.

FEBRUARY 2008**FEBRUARY****Black LGBT Film Festival**

415-615-9945

www.bcoa.org

A showcase of the best films by and about the African American gay community.

FEBRUARY 1-3**San Francisco Ocean Film Festival**

Cowell Theatre, Fort Mason Center, 415-561-6251

www.oceanfilmfest.org

These films focus on the "earth's last frontier," including everything from documentaries to narratives.

FEBRUARY 1-3**San Francisco Arts of Pacific Asia Show**

Fort Mason Center, Festival Pavilion, 310-455-2886

www.caskeylees.com

All periods of exceptional Asian art and artifacts of the People of the Pacific and Mainland Asian Region.

FEBRUARY 2-24

Chinese New Year Parade and Celebration

Chinatown, 415-982-3071

www.chineseparade.com

The festivities ushering in the Year of the Rat include a Chinese New Year Flower Fair (February 2-3), Miss Chinatown USA Pageant (February 16), and the Chinatown Community Street Fair (February 23-24). It's all built around a fantastic parade from Market and Second Street to Columbus Avenue on Saturday, February 23. Chinese New Year Day is February 7.

FEBRUARY 3

Kaiser Permanente San Francisco Half Marathon & 5K

Golden Gate Park, 415-759-2690

www.rhodyco.com

One of the most scenic half marathons ever features a course throughout Golden Gate Park and along the Pacific Ocean with both starts and finishes together in the park.

FEBRUARY 3

Vietnamese Tet Festival

Tenderloin District, Larkin Street, 415-351-1038

www.vietccsf.org

The 11th annual Vietnamese Lunar New Year Festival celebrates Vietnamese culture with a Tet Festival queen, food, music, colorful pageantry and plenty of firecrackers in Little Saigon.

FEBRUARY 7-19

San Francisco Independent Film Festival

Roxie and Castro Theatres and various locations, 415-820-3907 or 415-421-TIXS

www.sfindie.com

The 10th annual film festival screens the best of independent films and videos from the Bay Area and beyond.

FEBRUARY 8-10

San Francisco Tribal, Folk & Textiles Arts Show

Fort Mason Center, Festival Pavilion, 310-455-2886

www.caskeylees.com

More than 80 folk and ethnic art dealers exhibiting tribal arts, pottery, textiles and jewelry from around the world.

FEBRUARY 9-10, 13-15 and 17

San Francisco Zoo's "Woo at the Zoo"

San Francisco Zoo, One Zoo Road, 415-753-7165

www.sfzoo.org

Contrary to common belief, the animals will not "mate on cue" during the Zoo's adults-only affair (21 years and older), but one will learn the many facets to the birds and the bees of the animal kingdom. This new, dynamic and multimedia event provides an entertaining approach to the amorous inclinations of wildlife and how animals choose mates and raise families.

FEBRUARY 8-10, 15-17 and 22-23

Black Choreographers Festival

Project Artaud and Dance Mission theaters and various Bay Area locations, 510-801-4523

www.bcfhereandnow.com

Celebrating African and African American dance and culture with two weekends of dynamic performances, featuring award-winning Bay Area choreographers and companies.

FEBRUARY 9

KNBR/Giants Winter Fanfest

AT&T Park, 415-995-6800

www.sfgiants.com or www.knbr.com

Fans can go "behind the scenes" and tour the Giants Clubhouse and Dugout as well as participate in an array of interactive games and displays on the Promenade and Club levels. Members of the 2008 Giants team will be on hand to sign autographs, pose for photos and participate in Q&A sessions.

FEBRUARY 13-18

Tulipmania Festival

Pier 39, 415-705-5500

www.pier39.com

More than 39,000 brilliantly colored tulips from all over the world coupled with free, guided tours.

FEBRUARY 15-17

Historic Fisherman's Wharf Classic Car Exhibit

Pier 45, Shed A, Taylor Street on Fisherman's Wharf, 415-621-0500

www.sfmodelaclub.org

The exhibit of vintage autos also features a parade of historical vehicles.

FEBRUARY 18-MARCH 22

12th Annual Youth Speaks Teen Poetry Slam

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Oakland Museum and La Pena Cultural Center, 415-255-9035

www.youthspeaks.org

Youth Speaks, one of the leaders in Spoken Word performances, works with 45,000 teens annually and is a presenter of local and national youth poetry slams, festivals, reading series and more. Preliminaries take place in February followed by the semi-finals and finals in March climaxing with the Grand Slam Finals at the San Francisco Opera House.

FEBRUARY 21-MARCH 16

Bay One-Acts Festival (BOA)

Eureka Theatre, 415-776-7427

www.threewisemonkeys.org

This showcase for new playwrights usually features a dozen new and exciting works by Bay Area writers.

FEBRUARY 23-24

The Great San Francisco Crystal Fair

Fort Mason Center, 415-383-7837

www.crystalfair.com

Over 40 exhibitors celebrating earth and spirit with a wide variety of gems and minerals (quartz, amethyst, tourmaline, etc.), jewelry, metaphysics, healing tools and the mystical arts.

FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 2

Noise Pop

Various locations,

www.noisepop.com

San Francisco's premiere independent music, film and art festival is a full-scale cultural happening which also includes gallery art shows, a music-themed film festival, an indie-designer trunk sale and educational panels.

FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 2

Pacific Orchid Exposition

Fort Mason Center, Festival Pavilion, 415-665-2468

www.orchidsanfrancisco.org/poe.htm

The 56th annual edition of the San Francisco Orchid Society's show dazzles with 150,000 flowers including hundreds of award winners selected by the American Orchid Society.

MARCH 2008

MARCH 6-JUNE 20

SFJAZZ Spring Season 2008

Various venues, 866-920-5299

www.sfjazz.org

Presenting a variety of concerts between March and June, including some family matinee performances. Check the Web site for performance schedule and venues.

MARCH 8-9

Contemporary Crafts Market

Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center, 415-995-4925

www.craftsource.org

More than 250 of the nation's top craft artists will come together to display and sell expertly handcrafted decorative, functional and fine art such as wearable art, ceramics, intricate jewelry, unique glassware and much more.

MARCH 11-15

Bouquets to Art

de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park, 415-750-3504

www.bouquetstoart.org

The 24th annual event celebrates the beauty of flowers combined with fine art. Extravagant floral arrangements from some of California's top designers and lectures by several world-renowned floral designers.

MARCH 12-16

San Francisco Flower & Garden Show

Cow Palace, 415-771-6909 or 800-569-2832

www.gardenshow.com

Fourth largest show in the country and the largest in California showcases display gardens, spring planting, gardening accessories, cut flowers, decorations and much more.

MARCH 13-23

San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival

Castro and Sundance Cinemas Kabuki Theatres, 415-863-0814, ext. 110

www.asianamericanmedia.org

The 26th annual event is the biggest event in North America dedicated to the exhibition of Asian American and Asian cinema. The festival features more than 130 films and videos from around the globe.

MARCH 13-30

ODC/Dance Downtown

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 415-863-6606

www.odcdance.org

Described as “fierce, evocative and exhilarating,” the annual spring performance of ODC/Dance always garners praise from local critics.

MARCH 14-29

Macy’s Flower Show

Macy’s, Union Square, 415-393-3724

www.macys.com

This annual floral tribute is a spring tradition; the 62nd annual show transforms windows and store interiors into a Spanish paseo. Celebration includes guest speakers and special in-store events.

MARCH 15

St. Patrick’s Day Parade

Second and Market to Civic Center, 415-395-8417

www.sfstpatricksdaysparade.com

One of San Francisco's largest annual parades and one of the longest-running parades in the U.S. is celebrated with live music, dance, beverages and traditional Irish cuisine. The 156th annual parade starts at 11:30 am.

MARCH 16

Emerald Across The Bay 12K Race

Sausalito to San Francisco, 415-759-2690

www.rhodyco.com

The largest run ever to cross the Golden Gate Bridge ends with a world-class post-race party at Fisherman’s Wharf.

MARCH 22-30

23rd Annual Jewish Music Festival

Various locations throughout San Francisco and East Bay, 510-848-0237

www.jewishmusicfestival.org

Oldest major festival of Jewish world music in the U.S.; 2008 highlights include Golem, Frank London, Benzion Miller and Chen Zimbalista.

MARCH 23

Union Street Spring Celebration & Easter Parade

Union St. between Gough and Fillmore, 800-310-6563

www.sresproductions.com

More than 30,000 people turn out for this event, which features children’s activities, alfresco dining, the Easter Bunny, a petting zoo, flowers from local garden clubs and is known as “the biggest little parade in San Francisco.”

MARCH 29

Earth Hour

www.earthhour.org

San Francisco is one of four U.S. cities to participate in the global Earth Hour; beginning at 8 pm lights on key landmarks such as the Golden Gate and Bay bridges, City Hall, Coit Tower will be turned off to show that the simple act of turning off lights for one hour can have a lasting impact on climate change.

APRIL 2008

APRIL 4-12**Grand National Rodeo, Horse and Stock Show**

Cow Palace, 415-404-4111

www.grandnationalrodeo.com

Bareback riding, steer wrestling, barrel racing, saddle bronc riding, team and tie-down roping and bull riding are among the competitive events.

APRIL 6

Chilean Cultural Festival

Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park, Ninth Ave. and Lincoln Way, 415-661- 6909 or 650-637-1494,

www.centrochilenolautaro.com

The annual festival features Chilean cuisine and wine tastings, entertainment featuring travel information, singers, musicians and folk dancers.

APRIL 7**Opening Day – San Francisco Giants**

AT&T Park, 415-972-2000 (info), tickets at www.tickets.com

www.sfgiants.com

The San Francisco Giants open their 2008 season at AT&T Park.

APRIL 9**Olympic Torch Relay**

Citywide

<http://www.sustainablejourney.org/#>

San Francisco is the only U.S. city on the international route of the 2008 Olympic Torch Relay which begins with the lighting of the flame in Olympia, Greece on March 26.

APRIL 10-26**DIVAFest**

Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy St., 415-931-1094

www.theexit.org

A theater festival with a "female persuasion" dedicated to the work of women writers and artists throughout the U.S.

APRIL 12-13, 19-20**Cherry Blossom Festival**

Civic Center and Japantown, 415-563-2313

www.nccbf.org

This is the 41st annual festival, which will be even more spectacular with more groups participating from Japan. Two consecutive weekends of performances, crafts, food, martial arts and exhibitions. A colorful parade will be held on Sunday, April 20 starting from the Civic Center to Japantown, 1 pm.

APRIL 20-OCTOBER 12 (EVERY SUNDAY)**Golden Gate Park Band**

Music Concourse, Golden Gate Park, 510-530-0814

www.goldengateparkband.org

Since 1882, the Golden Gate Park Band has performed regularly in the park. Pack a picnic and enjoy this perennial pleasure.

APRIL 24-MAY 8**San Francisco International Film Festival (SFIFF)**

Castro Theater, Sundance Cinemas Kabuki Theatres and other venues, 415-561-5000 or 415-931-FILM

www.sffs.org

The 51st annual event is an extraordinary showcase of cinematic discovery and innovation. Since its inception in 1957, the SFIFF has hosted hundreds of prominent guests from Spike Lee to Bette Davis and presented almost 6,000 films from more than 120 countries to nearly two million filmgoers.

APRIL 25-27

2008 San Francisco New Living Expo

Concourse Exhibition Center, 415-382-8300

www.newlivingexpo.com

Choose a new career path, build better relationships, improve health and discover the latest in new mind/body therapies. More than 100 renowned speakers and 275 exhibits sharing natural health products, body therapies, healthy foods and more.

APRIL 25-MAY 4

Bay Area National Dance Week

415-568-5861

www.bacndw.org

All dance! All free! All week! is the motto of Bay Area National Dance Week. More than 300 artists and organizations participate annually; events include classes, performances, lectures, open rehearsals, open houses, workshops, film screenings, etc.

APRIL 26-MAY 26

San Francisco Decorator Showcase

415-447-3115

<http://www.decoratorshowcase.org/>

With 31 years of excellence in design and the decorative arts and 20,000 visitors annually, this event is nationally recognized as one of the premier showcase houses in the country. The 2008 home is located at 2820 Scott St.

APRIL 26

San Francisco International Beer Festival

Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center

www.sfbeerfest.com

Sample more than 300 incredible beers from some of the best craft brewers in the world as well as a variety of offerings from some of San Francisco's best restaurants. Must be 21 or over to enter.

APRIL 27

Opening Day on the Bay

415-331-0702

www.picya.org

Kick off sailing season on San Francisco Bay with a festive boat parade and the blessing of the fleet, sponsored by Boat U.S. and Parker Diving under the auspices of the Pacific Inter-Club Yacht Association composed of 104 yacht clubs in Northern California.

MAY 2008

MAY 3-4

17th Annual Spring Open Studio

Hunters Point Shipyard, 415-235-7878

www.springopenstudio.com

There are more than 250 artists at the Hunters Point Shipyard; each spring 160 of them open to the public. Visitors can explore more than five acres of art studios housed in six buildings.

MAY 3-OCTOBER 26

Yerba Buena Gardens Festival

Yerba Buena Gardens, 415-543-1718

www.ybgf.org

The Yerba Buena Gardens Festival encompasses more than 150 artistic, cultural and community events from May through October in Yerba Buena Gardens. Events include popular and operatic music series, cultural festivals, dance performances, international music concerts, visual art exhibits, theater and spoken word performances.

MAY 3

Cinco de Mayo

Dolores Park, Dolores and 18th St., 415-206-0577

www.sfcincodemayo.com

This community-based cultural heritage event commemorates the self-determination of the indigenous people of Mexico.

MAY 4

San Francisco Inline Marathon

John F. Kennedy Drive, Golden Gate Park

www.sanfranciscoinlinemarathon.com

Some of the top names in inline skating will compete in a 26.2 mile (11 laps) course in Golden Gate Park; half-marathon (six laps) three-lap Super K also offered.

MAY 4

How Weird Street Faire

Howard and Second Streets

www.howweird.org

Billed as a “street fair for the 21st century,” the event includes nine stages of music over seven city blocks; food and vendors from around the world, and educational booths.

MAY 10

KABOOM

Piers 30/32

www.kfog.com

The 15th annual fireworks celebration sponsored by KFOG Radio features a synchronized soundtrack, live music and children’s stage.

MAY 17

Uncorked – The San Francisco Wine Festival

Ghirardelli Square, 415-775-5500

www.ghirardellisq.com

Enjoy tastings from a variety of Bay Area wineries and experience the ambience of the waterfront and entertainment throughout Ghirardelli Square and along Beach Street.

MAY 17

Asian Heritage Street Celebration

Japantown

www.asianfairsf.com

A celebration of all Asian cultures, the goal of the Asian Heritage Street Celebration is to promote and foster Asian Pacific American identity; live entertainment and more than 50 vendors makes this one of the largest pan-Asian events in the U.S.

MAY 17-18**Oyster and Beer Festival**

Great Meadow, Fort Mason, 415-989-6222

www.oreillysholygrail.com

The inimitable joy of pairing fresh oysters and creamy stout draws some 20,000 annually to celebrate a timeless tradition that began in Ireland.

MAY 17-25**Young at Art 2008**

de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park, 415-750-3600

www.famsf.org

The de Young Museum teams up with the San Francisco Unified School District to present a celebration of student creativity and arts education showcasing visual and performing arts by 3,500 students from 250 schools.

MAY 17, JUNE 6 AND 21-22**Juneteenth Festival**

Civic Center and Fillmore District, 415-931-2729

www.sfuneteenth.org

The African-American community celebrates the 1865 announcement of emancipation in Texas. On May 17 the Juneteenth Youth Triathlon traverses the Presidio of San Francisco from 11 am to 3 pm. A mid-day City Hall reception on June 6 kicks off events for the 59th annual observance on June 21-22 at Civic Center Plaza from 11 am to 7 pm. The outdoor summer festival includes live entertainment, food, arts and crafts, and is the largest Juneteenth celebration outside of Texas. Parade begins at Civic Center Plaza.

MAY 18**ING Bay to Breakers**

The Embarcadero to the Great Hwy., 415-359-2800

www.ingbaytobreakers.com

Since 1912 tens of thousands of people have gathered in San Francisco to see the world's largest footrace unfold as more than 70,000 costume-clad runners and walkers push off at 8 am. A two-day Greater Body Expo precedes the race on May 16-17 at Justin Herman Plaza.

MAY 21-JUNE 8**San Francisco International Arts Festival**

Various venues, 415-399-9554 or 800-838-3006

www.sfiarf.org

This year's festival, "The Truth in Knowing/Now: Threads in Time, Place, Culture" will focus on art that evokes a sense of social change and will seek art that is "transcendent, vital and provides a thread to community."

MAY 24-25**Carnaval 2008**

Mission District, 415-920-0122

www.carnavalsf.com

Celebrating its 30th anniversary San Francisco's version of Mardi Gras, one of its largest annual public events, features exotic carnival dancers with a mixture of latino, jazz, samba, Caribbean influences. Festive parade on Sunday morning draws upon a broad cultural pageantry.

MAY 31-JUNE 1

Union Street Eco-Urban Festival

Union Street between Gough and Steiner, 800-310-6563

www.unionstreetfestival.com

One of San Francisco's largest, free art festivals is going green this year with an organic farmers market, arts and crafts created with recycled and sustainable materials and eco-friendly exhibits; 150 artists, 20 gourmet food booths, live entertainment on two stages as well.

JUNE 2008

JUNE 1-15

San Francisco Dine About Town™

Various restaurants, 415-391-2000, www.onlyinsanfrancisco.com

Bi-annual event featuring more than 100 fine restaurants offering prix fixe lunches and dinners for special prices.

JUNE 1-30

National Queer Arts Festival

Various venues, 415-864-4124

www.queerculturalcenter.org

During the month of June, the Queer Cultural Center presents this festival at numerous venues around San Francisco and also has an extensive online component. Readings, gallery tours, performances and film screenings are part of this multi-disciplinary festival.

JUNE 3

Cable Car Bell-Ringing Competition

Union Square Plaza, 311 or 415-701-2311(outside Bay Area)

www.sfmta.com

Operators of San Francisco's world-famous cable cars make beautiful music in this annual competition. Noon-1pm.

JUNE 4-8, 11-15

San Francisco Black Film Festival

Theater Artaud, Museum of the African Diaspora, African American Art and Culture Complex and other venues, 415-771-9271

www.sfbff.org

The 10th annual festival showcases diverse collection of films celebrating African American cinema and the African cultural diaspora.

JUNE 7

Urban Kidz Film Festival

Museum of the African Diaspora, 415-771-9271

www.sfbff.org

A fun one-day festival of short films, animated shorts, and special features from a black perspective, just for kids.

JUNE 7-8

The Great San Francisco Crystal Fair

Fort Mason Center, 415-383-7837

www.crystalfair.com

More than 40 exhibitors celebrating earth and spirit with a wide variety of gems and minerals (quartz, amethyst, tourmaline, etc.), jewelry, metaphysics, healing tools and the mystical arts.

JUNE 7-8**Fiesta Filipina 2008**

Civic Center Plaza

www.fiestafilipinausa.com

The biggest Filipino festival in America celebrates the Philippines' Independence Day with musical performances, a talent search and more.

JUNE 7-29 (WEEKENDS ONLY)**Ethnic Dance Festival**

Palace of Fine Arts Theatre, 415-474-3914

www.worldartswest.org

One of the largest events of its kind in the country featuring real people, real dances and real music of Northern California communities.

JUNE 8**Escape From Alcatraz Triathlon**

Various venues, 310-473-0411

www.escapefromalcatraztriathlon.com

The 1.5 mile swim to Alcatraz, 18-mile bike ride and eight-mile run through the Golden Gate National Recreation Area with a finish at Marina Green draws some 2,000 triathletes/relay teams annually.

JUNE 8**Haight Ashbury Street Fair**

Haight St. between Masonic and Stanyan Sts., 415-664-2970

www.haightashburystreetfair.org,

Music, arts, crafts and food are the mainstay of this event celebrating the cultural history and diversity of one of San Francisco's most internationally celebrated neighborhoods - the Haight-Ashbury district.

JUNE 14-15**The Precious Cheese North Beach Festival**

Washington Square Park, 415-989-2220

www.sfnorthbeach.org

San Francisco's oldest street fair delights with juried arts and crafts, live entertainment, pizza toss, animal blessings and other surprises. Sponsored by the North Beach Chamber of Commerce. Validated parking is available.

JUNE 15–AUGUST 17 (EVERY SUNDAY)**Stern Grove Festival**

Stern Grove, 19th Ave. and Sloat Blvd., 415-252-6252

www.sterngrove.org

The Stern Grove Festival celebrates its 71st season of free Sunday concerts featuring renowned music and dance groups set in a beautiful outdoor amphitheater in the heart of San Francisco.

JUNE 19-29**Frameline: San Francisco LGBT Film Festival**

Castro Theatre, 415-703-8650

www.frameline.org

This is the world's premier showcase for lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender cinema.

JUNE 28-29**San Francisco Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Pride Celebration Parade**

Embarcadero to Civic Center, Market St., 415-864-FREE

www.sfpride.org

San Francisco's annual celebration of lesbian and gay pride culminates with a festive parade from the Embarcadero to the Civic Center on June 29.

JULY 2008

JULY 4

Fourth of July Waterfront Festival

Pier 39 and Fisherman's Wharf, 415-705-5500

www.pier39.com

Dazzling fireworks, local bands, food, arts and crafts ignite this annual waterfront party. Fireworks begin around 9 pm. Dress warmly.

JULY 5-6

Fillmore Street Jazz Festival

Fillmore St. between Jackson and Eddy Sts.,

www.fillmorejazzfestival.com

Three stages of continuous jazz performances, more than 300 artists booths and international food courts with some of the best food and beverages that San Francisco has to offer.

JULY 11-13

San Francisco Silent Film Festival

Castro Theatre, 415-777-7908,

www.silentfilm.org

The San Francisco Silent Film Festival presents silent films accompanied by live music. This festival promotes silent film as art and historical record.

JULY 17-AUGUST 3

Midsummer Mozart Festival

Herbst Theater and various Bay Area venues, 415-627-9141

www.midsummermozart.org

A Mozart musical festival featuring world-renowned artists and a first-class local orchestra.

JULY 21-27

North Beach Jazz Festival

North Beach venues, 415-839-8484

www.nbjazzfest.com

One of San Francisco's favorite neighborhood-wide celebrations features a variety of the Bay Area's best local jazz talent performing in bars, cafes, restaurants and other venues throughout the North Beach district.

JULY 23-28

Festival of Sail

Fisherman's Wharf and The Embarcadero, 650-375-0002

www.festivalofsail.org

More than 15 tall ships and other vessels from around the world are expected to visit San Francisco. The schedule of events will include a parade of sail, dockside tours, concerts, fireworks, wine tasting cruises and educational programs.

JULY 24-AUGUST 11

San Francisco Jewish Film Festival

Castro Theater and other venues around the Bay Area, 415-621-0556 (info)

www.sfjff.org

Films from American and international filmmakers showcase the diversity and vitality of Jewish culture. The festival is the first, oldest and most prestigious celebration of its kind in the world.

JULY 27

San Francisco Theater Festival

Yerba Buena Gardens/Center for the Arts/Zeum Theater, 415-543-1718

www.sftheaterfestival.org

An amazing one-day, 11 am to 5 pm, annual celebration of live theater. More than 70 theater groups perform short pieces — drama, comedy and musical — on 10 stages. Plus 10 shows for children. Free admission.

JULY 27

Up Your Alley Fair

Dore Alley between Folsom and Howard and adjoining block of Folsom between Ninth and 10th streets, 415-777-3247

www.folsomstreetfair.com

Similar to September's Folsom Street Fair, which is the climax of Leather Pride Week, this event has a more local appeal for leatherfolk and draws some 12,000+ attendees.

AUGUST 2008

AUGUST 1-31

BATS Summer Improv Festival

Bayfront Theater, Fort Mason Center

www.improv.org, 415-474-8935

More than 100 improvisers from near and far gather for the annual festival to take classes and perform onstage; professional ensemble shows Thursday, Friday and Saturday throughout the month; student shows every Sunday night. Among the highlights are the annual "grudge match" competition between Northern and Southern California.

AUGUST 2-OCTOBER 16

AfroSolo Arts Festival

Various venues, 415-771-AFRO (2376)

www.afrosolo.org

Celebrating its 15th year, featuring celebrity and emerging African American artists in various performances such as theater, dance, music, spoken word and visual arts.

AUGUST 2

Positively 6th Street Fair

Sixth St. at Minna Alley, 415-538-8100 ext. 202, www.positively6thstreetfair.org

Community togetherness is celebrated in this event specifically designed for low income residents who live on the busy Sixth Street corridor; live entertainment, food and services are provided free of charge.

AUGUST 2-3

San Francisco Aloha Festival

Parade Grounds, Presidio, 415-281-0221

www.pica-org.org or www.sanfranciscoalohafestival.org

Two-day arts festival celebrating Pacific Islanders' culture, Polynesian dance, islander food, music, ethnic arts and crafts, educational workshops and activities.

AUGUST 2-3

San Francisco Gem and Mineral Show

San Francisco County Fair Building, Ninth Ave. and Lincoln Way, 415-564-4230

www.sfgms.org

Rock hounds abound at this annual show featuring pre-historic fossils, lapidary, unique jewelry and educational demonstrations.

AUGUST 3**San Francisco Marathon, Half Marathon, 5K Run/Walk**

Ferry Building, The Embarcadero, 415-284-9653

www.runsfm.com

Enjoy the amazing city of San Francisco by taking part in one of the world's great marathons. The USAT&F Certified course is a "best of San Francisco" tour and includes a loop over the Golden Gate Bridge. Choose from running the marathon, half marathon, progressive marathon or 5K run/walk races.

AUGUST 3**Jerry Day**

Jerry Garcia Amphitheater, 40 John F. Shelley Dr., 415-272-2012

www.jerryday.org

The Excelsior District celebrates native son and Grateful Dead leader Jerry Garcia with an outdoor concert and family fun.

AUGUST 9-10**Nihonmachi Street Fair**

Japantown and Japan Center, 415-771-9861

www.nihonmachistreetfair.org

This 35th annual Japanese festival features lion dancers, taiko drummers, Japanese arts and crafts, musical entertainment, food and children's events.

AUGUST 15-17**ACC Craft Show**

Fort Mason Center, 800-836-3470

www.craftcouncil.org

This is the largest juried craft event in the West, featuring more than 250 of the nation's premier craft artists. Works of art include hand-blown glass, clay and ceramic objects, wearable art, metal works, wooden furniture, quilts and baskets.

AUGUST 16-17**Golden Gate Renaissance Faire**

Speedway Meadows, Golden Gate Park, 415 354 1773

www.ggfaire.com

The ultimate Renaissance bash offers feasting, knights on horseback, magicians, jugglers, music and an amazing shopping experience.

AUGUST 23**Viva Las Americas!**

Pier 39, 415-705-5500

www.pier39.com

Hispanic heritage is the focus of this event, featuring music and dance performances commemorating the artistry of Mexico and Central and South America. Face-painting and craft-making for kids.

AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 1**Sausalito Art Festival**

Sausalito, 415-331-3757

www.sausalitoartfestival.org

Sausalito's yearly art festival has been showcasing stars from the contemporary art world since 1952. Browse fine art and crafts along the beautiful bay shore.

AUGUST 29-SEPTEMBER 1

Slow Food Nation

Civic Center and Fort Mason Center

www.slowfoodnation.org

A major project of Slow Food USA, this event will celebrate, explore and educate about food that is delicious, ecologically sustainable and socially just. Activities include tastings, forums, workshops, films, exhibits, music and talks.

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 21 (WEEKENDS ONLY AND LABOR DAY MONDAY)

San Francisco Shakespeare Festival

Main Post Parade Ground Lawn, Presidio, 415-865-4434

www.sfshakes.org

Pericles, Shakespeare's grand tale of heroic adventure, is this summer's fresh take in the fresh air of the Bard's best.

AUGUST 31

Hairrison Street Fair

Entry gates located on Harrison Street at 11, 12 and 13th (Division) Streets, 415-255-8658

www.hairrison.org

This Labor Day weekend tradition organized by PrideWorks draws more than 5,000 "hairy, hunky guys" and is a celebration of all that is furry and fun. Restricted to ages 21 and over.

SEPTEMBER 2008

SEPTEMBER 1-30

Architecture and the City

Citywide, 415-362-7397

www.aiaf.org/archandcity.

Sponsored by AIA San Francisco, the largest architectural and design festival in the U.S. includes a series of architectural tours, film screenings, exhibitions, design lectures, home shows and more. In 2007, more than 20,000 people attended the festival.

SEPTEMBER 3

San Francisco Symphony's Opening Gala

Davies Symphony Hall, 415-552-8000

www.sfsymphony.org

The San Francisco Symphony initiates its 2008-09 season with a gala opening evening.

SEPTEMBER 3-14

San Francisco Fringe Festival

Exit Theatre and other downtown venues,

415-931-1094 (info), 800-965-4827 or 415-673-3847(tickets)

www.sffringe.org

The 17th annual festival is a marathon of 40-plus shows over 12 days with low price tickets and a wide variety of alternative, classical, comedy, cabaret and new theater open to all performers on a non-curated basis.

SEPTEMBER 5**San Francisco Opera Opening Gala**

War Memorial Opera House, 415-864-3330

www.sfopera.com

The 2008-09 season begins with the annual opening night gala, Opera Ball 2008.

SEPTEMBER 6-7**Ghirardelli Square Chocolate Festival**

Ghirardelli Square, 415-775-5500

www.ghirardellisq.com

Discover unique chocolate desserts and delicacies from Ghirardelli and beyond at this annual chocolate celebration.

SEPTEMBER 6-7**Autumn Moon Festival**

Grant Ave. between California and Pacific Sts., 415-982-6306

www.moonfestival.org

This event features multicultural entertainment, traditional lion and dragon dances, arts and crafts, lantern village, moon cakes and children's activities.

SEPTEMBER 7**San Francisco Opera Concert in the Park**

Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park, 415-864-3330

www.sfopera.com

Enjoy this outdoor venue and free admission to an afternoon opera concert featuring arias and ensembles by the stars of the San Francisco Opera and the Opera Orchestra.

SEPTEMBER 20-21**Treasure Island Music Festival**

www.treasureislandfestival.com

Internationally renowned artists gather for a spectacular two-day, outdoor concert festival featuring local designers, artists, food and beverage.

SEPTEMBER 20-21**Family Day Kite Festival**

Marina Green, 415-383-0500

www.fdkf.org

Free, open-air, panoramic and eco-friendly event features all forms of kiting from kite-flying to kite-boarding to kite-boating.

SEPTEMBER 20-21**The Great San Francisco Crystal Fair**

Fort Mason Center, 415-383-7837

www.crystalfair.com

More than 40 exhibitors celebrating earth and spirit with a wide variety of gems and minerals (quartz, amethyst, tourmaline, etc.), jewelry, metaphysics, healing tools and the mystical arts.

SEPTEMBER 21**Banana Chase 5K and 10K and Young Champions Race**

Golden Gate Park and Kezar Stadium Track, 415-759-2690

www.rhodyco.com

Come join the 5K run for everyone at Golden Gate Park; there will be races just for kids. All races begin and end at the stadium.

SEPTEMBER 25-28

44th Annual Big Book Sale

Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason Center, 415- 626-7500

www.friendssfpl.org

Sponsored by Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, this is the largest book sale on the West Coast. A logistical feat that involves more than 300,000 books in 50-plus categories, 350 volunteers, 8,000 boxes and 300 tables, the sale is free and open to the public.

SEPTEMBER 26-28

San Francisco Blues Festival

Great Meadow at Fort Mason, 415-979-5588

www.sfblues.com

The oldest blues festival in America presents some of the best blues musicians and concerts in the world every September.

SEPTEMBER 28

Comedy Day

Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park, 415-820-1570

www.comedyday.com

Laugh out loud ... it's the 28th anniversary no less of this free comedy "concert" featuring 30 of the U.S.'s and Bay Area's best comedians.

SEPTEMBER 28

Folsom Street Fair

Folsom St. between Seventh and 12th Sts., 415-777-3247

www.folsomstreetfair.com

The "daddy of all leather celebrations," the Folsom Street Fair is the largest leather, alternative and fetish street fair in the world drawing some 400,000 attendees annually, dressed in leather, rubber, uniforms, drag or very little at all.

OCTOBER 2008

OCTOBER 1-NOVEMBER 2

Free Night of Theater Celebration

Various venues; 415-430-1140

www.tixbayarea.com

Billed as a "free-for-all," this program has been expanded from one night to a rolling giveaway of an estimated 8,000 free tickets over four weeks. New batches of tickets will be available every Wednesday from October 1-October 22.

OCTOBER 2-5

Oktoberfest By The Bay

Fort Mason Center, Festival Pavilion

www.oktoberfestbythebay.com

Bringing Munich's autumn beer festival to the Bay, Oktoberfest features non-stop singing, dancing, music, German food and beverages.

OCTOBER 3-5

Hardly Strictly Bluegrass

Speedway Meadows, Golden Gate Park

www.hardlystrictlybluegrass.com

For this seventh year this free celebration of music in the park includes a who's who of top entertainment.

OCTOBER 3-11

Litquake 2008

Citywide, www.litquake.org

A San Francisco literary festival showcases hundreds of the Bay Area's finest writers for a week of readings, discussions, films, cross-media happenings and more.

OCTOBER 4-5

Aki Matsuri (Fall Festival)

Japantown, Post and Buchanan Sts.

www.japantownparking.com

Japantown Merchants Association presents two full days of exciting events marking the arrival of fall, including taiko drumming, traditional Japanese festival dancing, children's games, food and much more.

OCTOBER 4-NOVEMBER 2 (WEEKENDS ONLY)

ArtSpan/San Francisco Open Studios

Various locations, 415-861-9838

www.sfopenstudios.com

San Francisco's most exciting artists open their doors to the public and reveal their latest projects, how they work and what's for sale.

OCTOBER 4-5

San Francisco International Dragon Boat Festival

Treasure Island, www.sfdragonboat.com

Nearly 100 dragon boat teams and 2,500 paddlers from across North America will race the 500-meter course; the 13th annual festival also features entertainment and children's activities.

OCTOBER 5

Glide Bridge to Bridge Run

Golden Gate Bridge to Bay Bridge, 415-995-6868

www.bridgetobridge.com

Participants run from the Bay Bridge to the Golden Gate in this seaside 12K and 7K race.

OCTOBER 5

Blessing of the Fishing Fleet

Fisherman's Wharf

www.fishermanswharf.org

Traditionally the first Sunday in October, this event goes back several centuries

OCTOBER 5

Castro Street Fair

Castro St., 415-841-1824

www.castrostreetfair.org

Arts and crafts booths, live entertainment, dancing and music are all part of the fun at this gay-friendly street festival.

OCTOBER 9-14

Fleet Week San Francisco

Aquatic Park and Pier 39, Fisherman's Wharf, 650-599-5057

www.fleetweek.us

Fleet Week is the Bay Area's opportunity to honor the nation's men and women of the Navy and marine services. Navy ship tours and air show. Reserved seating and corporate packages available.

OCTOBER 12

San Francisco Italian Heritage Parade and Festival

Fisherman's Wharf and North Beach, 415-434-1492

www.sfcolumbusday.org

The City celebrates its Italian heritage with a lively parade through North Beach with food, music, entertainment and celebrities, beginning at 12:30 pm on Sunday, Oct. 12.

OCTOBER 17-30

San Francisco Documentary Film Festival (DocFest)

Roxie Cinemas, 3117 16th St., 415-820-3907

www.sfindie.com

These documentaries, while exploring fun and lighthearted subject matter, often uncover serious truths. Promoted by the SF IndieFest.

OCTOBER 17-NOVEMBER 9

San Francisco Jazz Festival

Various locations, 866-920-5299

www.sfjazz.org

One of San Francisco's biggest and best musical festivals features local, national and international jazz artist performances at locations throughout San Francisco.

OCTOBER 23-26

San Francisco Fall Antiques Show

Fort Mason Center, 415-989-9019

www.sffas.org

The oldest continuously operating international antiques show on the West Coast. Currently celebrating its 27th year, the show includes 70 distinguished antiques dealers from America and Europe selling a broad range of antique merchandise.

OCTOBER 24-26

International Vintage Poster Fair

Landmark Building A, Fort Mason Center, 650-548-6700

www.posterfair.com

The oldest and largest vintage poster fair in the world features American and European posters from the 1890s to the 1980s.

OCTOBER 24-25

Exotic Erotic Ball and Expo

Treasure Island, 415-567-BALL (2255)

www.exoticeroticball.com

A celebration of "flesh, fetish and fantasy" the ball has been titillating San Francisco audiences for more than 25 years and is considered one of the No. 1 adult-themed party events in the world. The two-day Expo features its own entertainment lineup, in addition to more than 100 exhibits.

OCTOBER 25

Coit Tower 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee

Coit Tower, Pioneer Park, Telegraph Hill

Activities celebrating the anniversary include special exhibits, docent tours and free elevator rides to the top of the 210-foot structure.

OCTOBER 26

Pumpkin Pandemonium

Pier 39, 415-705-5500

www.pier39.com

Kids in costume can trick or treat throughout Pier 39's shops, restaurants and attractions. Enjoy pumpkin carving demonstrations, face painting and a pumpkin patch.

NOVEMBER 2008

NOVEMBER 6-9

Sundance Stompede

415-820-1403

www.stompede.com

San Francisco's annual Country Western weekend for the LGBT community and friends. Join hundreds of cowboys and cowgirls as they dance their feet off with three days of workshops and three nights of open dancing.

NOVEMBER 7-15

American Indian Film Festival

Palace of Fine Arts and Landmark Embarcadero, 415-554-0525

www.aifisf.com

The world's oldest festival dedicated to films by and about Native Americans showcases new and exciting work.

NOVEMBER 7-23

Latino Film Festival

Castro Theater, Galeria de la Raza, Mission Cultural Center and other venues, 415-454-4039

www.latinofilmfestival.org

This quickly-growing festival spotlights the best in U.S. premieres, documentaries, features and shorts emerging from Latin America and Latino filmmakers.

NOVEMBER 13-21

San Francisco World Music Festival

Various venues, 415-561-6571

www.sfworldmusicfestival.org

Music festival showcases the musical diversity from the Bay Area and around the globe by presenting high quality world music performances by master artists both locally and overseas, and from traditional to contemporary explorations.

NOVEMBER 14-16

San Francisco Green Festival

Concourse Exhibition Center

www.greenfestivals.org

A joint project of Global Exchange and Co-op America to bring individuals, businesses and investors together to work cooperatively on positive economic solutions for communities and the environment, this is one of the largest and most authentic sustainability events in the world.

NOVEMBER 21

Embarcadero Center Building Lighting Ceremony

Justin Herman Plaza, Embarcadero Center, 800-733-6318

www.embarcaderocenter.com

Bring the family to stroll through a holiday fair, enjoy live entertainment and witness the lighting of the Embarcadero Center's dramatic office towers which illuminate the San Francisco skyline with 17,000 lights throughout the season.

NOVEMBER 21-23

San Francisco Hip-Hop Dance Festival

Palace of Fine Arts, 415-392-4400

www.sfhiphopdancefest.com

Micaya, local teacher, choreographer and producer presents hip hop dance companies from around the world at this award-winning, multi-cultural dance festival.

NOVEMBER 22-29

San Francisco International Automobile Show

Moscone Center, 415-331-4406

www.sfautoshow.com

More than 40 of the world's major car manufacturers display 2009 model cars, trucks and vans plus special displays.

NOVEMBER 23

Holiday Harmony and Pier 39 Tree Lighting Ceremony

Pier 39, 415-705-5500

www.pier39.com

A multi-cultural celebration, Holiday Harmony features Bay Area groups performing seasonal favorites from around the world. Pier 39's majestic tree, adorned with 400 glistening ornaments and 2,000 twinkling lights will be lit at 5:30 pm in the Entrance Plaza; festivities begin at 1 pm.

NOVEMBER 28

Ghirardelli Square Tree Lighting Ceremony

Ghirardelli Square, 415-775-5500

www.ghirardellisq.com

Ghirardelli's magical square comes alive with colorful performers, music, Mr. and Mrs. Claus and a 50-foot Christmas tree lighting up the night.

NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 21 (WEEKENDS ONLY)

The Great Dickens Christmas Fair

Cow Palace, 415-897-4555

www.dickensfair.com

The Dickens Christmas Fair revives the tradition of an old English Victorian Christmas with theaters, a music hall, dance parties, taverns, shops, stalls, food, street vendors and period costumes.

NOVEMBER 29-30

The Great San Francisco Crystal Fair

Fort Mason Center, 415-383-7837

www.crystalfair.com

More than 40 exhibitors celebrating earth and spirit with a wide variety of gems and minerals (quartz, amethyst, tourmaline, etc.), jewelry, metaphysics, healing tools and the mystical arts.

NOVEMBER 29-30, DECEMBER 6-7

Celebration of Craftswomen

Herbst Pavilion, Fort Mason Center, 415-431-1180

www.celebrationofcraftswomen.org

Visit the 30th annual celebration of the nation's largest women's craft fair featuring fine quality crafts from 300 artists, working in glass, fiber, ceramics, jewelry, leather, paper, sculpture, wood and other fine arts.

NOVEMBER 30

Run Wild for a Child 5K and 10K

Music Concourse, Golden Gate Park, 415-759-2690

www.rhodyco.com

Participants are invited to dress up as their favorite childhood toy for this race and bring a toy or two for the San Francisco Firefighters Toy Drive.

DECEMBER 2008

DECEMBER 6

Union Street Fantasy of Lights

Union Street between Van Ness and Steiner, Fillmore Street from Union to Steiner, 800-310-6563

www.sresproductions.com

The parade on Saturday, December 6, launches a month-long celebration of happenings along this famous street in San Francisco.

DECEMBER 11-28

San Francisco Ballet Nutcracker

War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Ave., 415-865-2000 (tickets)

www.sfballet.org

"Nutcracker" performed by America's oldest ballet company presents Tchaikovsky's beloved family classic every year.

DECEMBER 13

Parol Lantern Festival & Parade

Bayanihan Community Center, 1010 Mission St., 415-348-8042

www.bayanihancc.org

Bay Area Filipino community gathers for the fifth annual celebration of holiday spirit, hope, unity and pride to the glow of hundreds of lights from colorful handcrafted parol lanterns. Parade begins at 5 pm from center and goes through Yerba Buena Gardens.

DECEMBER 27

Emerald Bowl

AT&T Park, 24 Willie Mays Plaza, 415-947-BOWL (2695)

www.emeraldbowl.org

Enjoy the color and excitement of high impact college football as two of the country's top teams clash at the Emerald Bowl on the eve of the new year.

10.13.2008