

Dear Festival of Nations friends, supporters, and participants,

I am writing to you heavy hearted. For the first time in the 88 years that the International Institute of Minnesota has hosted the Festival of Nations, we are making the impossible decision to cancel the Festival. I regret to inform you the 2020 Festival of Nations from 30 April - 3 May is canceled and will not be rescheduled.

The International Institute of Minnesota and the Festival of Nations' highest priority is the health and safety of you: our participants, volunteers, staff, and community. As we stated in earlier communication, the Institute will follow the recommendation of the [Minnesota Department of Health to reduce the spread of COVID-19](#) and at this time, it is recommended events with 50 people or more do not convene.

Gathering together as a community has been a ritual of togetherness and a highlight of the year for many in the Festival community. We will miss the many ways that our communities come together and the ways we overlap and reinforce each other.

We know canceling the Festival will put significant strain on the finances and missions of your nonprofits and businesses, just as it will strain the finances and [mission of the International Institute of Minnesota](#). However, we also know that it is the right decision for the community, and that together we can find alternative ways to celebrate and support one another.

### **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

The Institute is prepared to return all registration fees for the Festival, however we hope that you'll consider one of the following alternatives:

1. Donate your registration fees to support the mission of the International Institute of Minnesota and help New Americans who are working hard to build a better life.
2. Defer your 2020 registration fees to book your spot in the 2021 Festival of Nations, 29 April - 2 May, 2021.

**Please communicate your intent to opt for one of the above options or request a refund by emailing Aisling Reynolds at [areynolds@iimn.org](mailto:areynolds@iimn.org) by April 30, 2020.**

In addition, please also:

3. Buy directly from our ethnic communities online. You can check out links to their sites using the vendor directory attached (If I have missed your business please let me know before I share with schools and the general public on Monday).

4. Send me, [areynolds@iimn.org](mailto:areynolds@iimn.org), pre-recorded videos of your dance groups performing, demonstrators demonstrating their craft, the stories you were going to highlight in the exhibits, cooking demonstrations of food you were going to cook at the Festival, and links to your shops if they are already not in the spreadsheet. We will share on our social channels amplifying the voice of you, the community.

5. Stay connected to the Institute's work year-round by subscribing to our [electronic newsletter here](#).

Thank you for your support and understanding of this difficult decision. Your friendship and commitment means so much to us.

Please take good care of yourself, your family and your community. We look forward to seeing you in 2021.

With gratitude to each and every one of you,  
Aisling

Aisling Reynolds  
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Hi all,

After a long time planning and meeting for all of us and for the FON organization. It's hard for them and us to make the call on cancel the Festival of Nations.

Like I was discussing on previous email, and some of you. For our members and volunteers health and safety is our #1 priority, it's probably the best to not going forward for this year FON. I'm glad that they made the best decision.

Per her email, the registration fees can be return, donate or defer to 2021 FON registration. As far as our financial situation, we are still in good standing situation. This is open for discussion, please share your thoughts on this.

On her next 3, 4 and 5, we can sent out email and social media to let our member know to support local ethnic vendor and business. And for #4, If Gary, Peter and Tiffany have prerecorded video on highlights of our Culture, Cafe and Bazaar team. Please sent it to me, I will email it to Aisling as one.

I trusty apparent all your hard work and your time. I know everyone is putting a lot of their personal time and heart to it. Thank you. I believe our next year FON/CultureFest will be great as usual.

And I know our community is loving and caring for each other. I propose in this up coming email to encourage our members with their availability to call or help others in need, elderly or poor families/friends/neighbors to show them Taiwanese is willing to help if we can in this bad situation.

Please share your thoughts, and we can make through this. Once again, thank all of you helping!

Best,  
Yang Fan