

FESTIVALS

XIII Pan American Games

July 23 - August 8, 1999

The Festivals Division is responsible for the Games' cultural activities. Through its programs it will provide an opportunity for Canada to showcase its cultural heritage for the entertainment of athletes and spectators. Encompassing everything from the Games' Opening and Closing ceremonies, to the presentation of community performing groups at the Athletes villages to the MTS Festival of the Americas site and the Arts & Cultural Initiative, the Festivals program will highlight the common elements of music, dance, and artistic expression that unite all Pan American nations.

Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony, with a live audience of 42,000 spectators and a television audience of 400 million viewers will take place on July 23, 1999, between 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. at Winnipeg Stadium. The ceremony will feature the entrance of 5,000 athletes from 42 competing nations, the raising of the Games flag, and the lighting of the Pan Am Games flame. The Opening Ceremony is our opportunity to share Canada's cultural heritage and traditions with the world.

Closing Ceremony

The Closing Ceremony will take place Sunday, August 8, 1999, at Winnipeg Stadium. During the Closing Ceremony, broadcast live on television throughout the Western Hemisphere, the Games Flag will be lowered and the flame extinguished as athletes and spectators join in tribute to all who were a part of the Pan Am Games.

Athlete Villages Entertainment

Athlete Villages Entertainment will provide 19 days of live programming each night at the Games' three main villages (University of Manitoba, CFB Winnipeg, and Southport).

MTS Festival of the Americas site

The MTS Festival of the Americas site will provide entertainment from July 24 to August 7, 1999, on the grounds of Winnipeg's historic Forks development. The site will feature daytime community performances and nightly attractions on the Royal Bank Stage. Access to all activities will be free.

Daytime performances will be scheduled approximately between 12 noon and 6:00 p.m. In addition, the Royal Bank Stage will present 15 nights of feature performances highlighting a mix of entertainment. The site will also be home to Canada House (the Government of Canada's feature pavilion), the MTS Technology Centre and the Pan American Games Corporate Hospitality Village.

Arts and Cultural Initiative

In the year leading up to the Games, the Arts and Cultural Initiative will promote opportunities for artistic and cultural expression to celebrate the 1999 Pan American Games and thereby leave a lasting legacy. The initiative will showcase the dynamic cultures of Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Canada in an endorsement program that features self-produced community projects that reflect the essence of the Games and embrace all forms of the arts. The program is open to Canadian professional and non-professional arts and cultural groups.