

THINGS TO DO

## There's a full-day celebration of Toronto's rich diversity with global dishes to try

The festival will celebrate the "rich tapestry of diversity" that makes Toronto so special.



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Wednesday, August 6, 2025 | ⌚ 1 min to read

🕒 Article was updated Aug 14, 2025



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The festival will take place in Toronto on Aug. 9.  
Toronto Diversity Festival



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A free one-day festival is coming to Toronto this weekend and it's celebrating the "rich tapestry of diversity" that makes the city so special.



On Aug. 9, the eighth annual **Toronto Diversity Festival** will transform Sankofa Square into a "world of cultures," Lynne McIntee, host of programs and director of development, festivals and special events at Moksha Canada Foundation, tells [Toronto.com](https://toronto.com).



The Ontario-based not-for-profit foundation organizes the festival and also runs programming throughout the GTA, Niagara and Windsor.



This year, the theme will be "Unity in Diversity" and highlight artists from many different cultural backgrounds. Performances include West Indian dancing, traditional Chinese dancing, K-pop, Afrobeats and much more.

There will also be international food vendors serving up everything from Egyptian and East Indian cuisine to Caribbean and Filipino dishes. And visitors can also shop their way through the local marketplace while they're at the celebration.

"Anyone and everyone are welcome," says McIntee. "We are who we are because of our diverse communities, and it makes us a rich society."



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With Toronto often referred to as the "[most multicultural city in the world](#)," this festival offers a "safe and inclusive space for all to celebrate our diversity," according to the team. The celebration will run noon to 11 p.m. at 1 Dundas St. E.

While the festival takes place at Sankofa Square, the square's official opening isn't until later this month. On Aug. 23, the space will officially launch with a "landmark" Sankofa Day.

Known as "[Canada's most prominent public space](#)," Sankofa Square got its name in 2023 and will soon host a "powerful" full-day celebration to mark a "significant new cultural tradition for Toronto, rooted in remembrance, healing and the vibrant future of the square."

The free celebration day will be anchored in the theme of "Looking Back, Building Forward," as it commemorates UNESCO's International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, also known as Sankofa Day.

The Aug. 23 event will run from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. for a "dynamic blend" of programming that includes Indigenous and African ancestral ceremonies, art installations, food, film showcases and sports activations. There will also be live performances and a DJ headliner to close out the night.