

Five reasons to check out the 2013 Downtown Eastside Heart of the City Festival

BY SHAWN CONNER, VANCOUVER SUN OCTOBER 23, 2013



Sansho Daiko, Vancouver's newest taiko group, will appear at the Downtown Eastside Heart of the City Festival along with the veteran ensemble Uzume Taiko in collaboration with LOUD.

2013 Downtown Eastside Heart of the City Festival

Oct. 23 to Nov. 3 | Various times and locations

Info: heartofthecityfestival.com

1: Put a bird (lots of them) on it. The 6th Annual Park-A-Palooza exhibition at Gallery Gachet will once again showcase the art of the Downtown Eastside, with 35 artists displaying works in a variety of media. In addition, the exhibition will unveil *Birds that Play*, an art show featuring hundreds of birds painted at community art workshops.

2: Dance. Choreographer Karen Jamieson leads the Carnegie Dance Troupe in *CONNECT*, described as “a processional dance performance inspired by personal and traditional music.” Live music, poetry, First Nations drumming and cultural dances are featured in the project, which was two years in the making. For flamenco enthusiasts, there's *Barrio Flamenco: Flamenco for the People*, hosted by flamenco dancer Keltie McKerracher.

3: Fine tailoring. An exhibition of pictures, words, suits and other artifacts, *Modernize Tailors: 100 Years of Dressing Modern Man* is a tribute to brothers Jack and Bill Wong. The Wongs have run *Modernize Tailors* — the last Chinese tailor shop in Vancouver — for the last 65 years, ensuring that generations of Lower Mainland gentlemen cut a dashing figure for a night on the town or a business meeting at the Ovaltine Café.

4: Atwood. Not only is she in town for the Vancouver Writers Festival, but Margaret Atwood's opera *Pauline* goes under the microscope in *Creating Pauline*, a presentation by City Opera Vancouver. Composer Tobin Stokes, director Norman Armour and others involved in the production (though, alas, not Margaret) will talk about the creation of the opera based on the life of Canadian poet Pauline Johnson.

5: Taiko. Vancouver is the birthplace of taiko in Canada, and so the DTES Heart of the City Festival is presenting an evening of the drum style. Performers include Sansho Daiko, Vancouver's newest taiko group, and the veteran ensemble Uzume Taiko in collaboration with LOUD. Also appearing are Katari Taiko and Sawagi Taiko, Chibi Taiko, and special guest Leslie Komoro. If you're a fan of taiko, you won't want to miss a beat.

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