



On the Cover: During Festival Lent, Maribor, Slovenia becomes a global village, and Folkart celebrates world cultures through music, dance, and tradition—sharing stories and identity beyond language.

Photo Credit: Žan Osim for Festival Lent, Narodni dom Maribor..

DEPARTMENTS

- 10 IFEA President's Letter
- 12 IFEA World Board
- 16 IFEA Foundation Board
- 21 2026 Pinnacle Awards Call for Entries
- 29 2026 IFEA World Festival & Event City Awards Call for Entries
- 40 2026 Hall of Fame Call for Entries
- 42 2026 Volunteer of the Year Call for Entries
- 48 The Sponsor Doc
- 56 What Does ChatGPT Have to Say?
- 64 Festivals Without Borders
- 72 The Un-Comfort Zone
- 78 Securing the Future
- 84 From URL to IRL
- 88 Leadership At All Levels
- 96 Marketplace

Summer 2026, Volume 37, Issue 2 "ie" is published quarterly by the International Festivals & Events Association, 10400 Overland Rd. #356, Boise, ID 83706, USA. Permission to quote from material herein is granted provided proper credit is given to IFEA.



- 44** **Utilizing Underutilized Spaces for Special Events**
By Alicia Gray
- 52** **Building Belonging: How Cultural Heritage Celebrations Create Social Connection at Festivals and Events**
By Caroline Chance
- 60** **Community as Currency: How Connection Became the New ROI**
By TaKeyia Dickens
- 68** **Beyond First Come, First Served: Designing a Smarter Food Truck Selection Process for Public Events**
By Annie Warner
- 76** **Five Meeting Rules That Give You Back a Full Workday Each Week**
By Joe Curcillo
- 82** **The Leadership Playbook - Six Moves That Make a Difference**
By Kate Zabriskie
- 86** **How to Succeed in the IFEA/ Haas & Wilkerson Pinnacle Awards Competition**