First Friday

2022/2023 VENUE
PLANNING GUIDE

FIRSTFRISPOKANE
FIRSTFRIDAYSPOKANE.ORG
On behalf of the Downtown Spokane Business Improvement District (BID) we invite you to participate in First Friday, a promotional program designed to showcase the locally owned and operated retail and restaurant scene in downtown Spokane.

The Downtown Spokane First Friday series launched in November of 2003 in conjunction with the Spokane Arts Commission and has grown into a favorite monthly activity enjoyed by people of all ages.

**Why participate?**

First Fridays are popular promotions held in a variety of ways all across the nation and the world. This monthly celebration is the ideal opportunity to showcase your business, foster new customers and introduce patrons to new and diverse business offerings while having a great time! First Friday always occurs on the First Friday of the month.

**Promotion**

Your commitment of a special activity in your store, tasting room, restaurant, gallery or business entitles you to promote your special event alongside other like-minded proprietors.

Promotions include collaborative monthly paid advertising and earned media on all downtown social media platforms. Downtown Spokane lists all participants and details on a venue-based interactive map found at firstfridayspokane.org.

**Fees**

There are no fees to participate. First Friday promotions are paid for by the Ratepayers of the Downtown Spokane Business Improvement District (BID). Venues located outside of the BID are not eligible for BID specific First Friday promotions.

Venues located in Kendall Yards are eligible to participate in promotions through Greenstone, a dues paying member of the Downtown Spokane Partnership (DSP), which serves as the program manager of the BID.

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**2022 DATES**

**JULY 1**
Print Deadline, June 22

**AUGUST 5**
Print Deadline, July 27

**SEPTEMBER 2**
Print Deadline, August 24

**OCTOBER 7**
Print Deadline, September 28

**NOVEMBER 4**
Print Deadline, October 26

**DECEMBER 2**
Print Deadline, November 23

**2023 DATES**

**JANUARY 6**
Print Deadline, December 29

**FEBRUARY 3**
Print Deadline, January 25

**MARCH 3**
Print Deadline, February 22

**APRIL 7**
Print Deadline, March 23

**MAY 5**
Print Deadline, April 26

**JUNE 2**
Print Deadline, May 25

Don’t miss the City-wide Visual Arts Tour presented by Spokane Arts. The first weekend in February and October, visit www.spokanearts.org for more.
Plan a variety of engagements for visitors of all ages.

**Exclusives**
- Feature a special menu item, themed drink, or collaboration.
- Featured themed merchandise (for example, 10% off on all golf themed items for Father’s Day)
- Offer door prizes

**Activities**
- Hands-on activity for kids and adults to express their artistic side
- Hold a cooking class
- Show off a “little seen” part of your business

**Art**
- Connect with a local artist or artists and have them display their work in your business for First Friday (and the entire month).
- Invite youth or a local school to create art for display.

**Entertainment**
- Hire a musician
- Showcase spoken word, readings, poetry or other performances

**Share**
- Extend your event to the sidewalk. Place banners or signs (Available for free from downtown Spokane) on the sidewalk during First Friday to visually indicate your participation.
- Create a pop-up sidewalk studio or patio.
- Coordinate with neighboring businesses to create a density of activity for patrons.

**FIND AN ARTIST**
Downtown Spokane does not place artists for First Friday. Staff recommend that venues seeking new artists resource the Artist Roster through Spokane Arts. spokanearts.org/artists

**FIND A MUSICIAN**
If you are interested in having a local musician perform in your business on First Friday, visit the Professional Musicians AFM Local 105. afm105.org/

**OBSERVATIONS**

**JANUARY**
- New Years Day
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**FEBRUARY**
- Black History Month
- President’s Day

**MARCH**
- Women’s History Month
- International Women’s Day
- Irish American Heritage Month

**APRIL**
- Arab American Heritage Month
- Earth Day

**MAY**
- Asian Pacific American Heritage Month
- Jewish American Heritage Month
- Historic Preservation Month
- Spokane Lilac Festival Month
- Armed Forces Day
- Memorial Day

**JUNE**
- Pride Month
- Flag Day
- Juneteenth

**JULY**
- Independence Day

**AUGUST**
- Back to School Month

**SEPTEMBER**
- Hispanic Heritage Month
- Labor Day

**OCTOBER**
- German American Heritage Month
- Italian American Heritage Month
- Polish American Heritage Month
- Disability Employment Awareness Month
- Indigenous People’s Day

**NOVEMBER**
- Native American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month
- Veteran’s Day
- Thanksgiving

**DECEMBER**
- Hanukkah
- Christmas Day