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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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PEABODY, MA - Plans have now been finalized for Peabody's 32nd Anniversary of the International Festival to be held on Sunday, September 20, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. in downtown Peabody.

Week's Events: The 14th Annual International Race for Research will take place on Saturday, September 12, 2015 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at Leather City Common. The race is presented by the Progeria Research Foundation and sponsored by North Shore Bank. The event consists of a benefit 5K road race and 2-mile walk to help find a cure for Progeria, a "rapid aging" syndrome afflicting children across the world. For more information visit [www.progeriaresearch.org](http://www.progeriaresearch.org) or call (978)-535-2594.

Festival Highlights: There will be 80 food and exhibit booths set up in the area of Peabody Square and Main Street. The booths will feature a variety of food and art from Peabody's many ethnic groups. There will also be continuous entertainment provided at three entertainment sites from 10:45 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Performance acts include Britannica, Rancho Folclorico de Peabody, North Shore Acappella and the Brian Maes Band. The Art Galleria, located on Foster Street, will feature the works of more than 50 local artists. Kid's Day will be at East End Veterans Memorial Park during the festival and will include moon bounces, face painters, and arts and crafts. D.J. Michael Phillips will MC the event alongside interactive acts such as Mass Motion Dance North, Mary Beth Maes, Phunk Phenomenon and many more.

Traffic: At 6:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 20, the following roads will closed or detoured for the International Festival and its respective events.

1. Central Street from Railroad Avenue to Peabody Square (Southbound side)
2. Lowell Street from Chestnut Street to Peabody Square (Both east and westbound)
3. Foster Street from Summer Street to Peabody Square
4. Wallis Street from Main Street to Walnut Street
5. Nichols Lane from Main Street to Summer Street
6. Little's Lane from Spring Street to Main Street (Open to Residents Only)
7. Main Street from Peabody Square to Washington Street

The following streets will be posted "No Parking" from 6 a.m. until approx. 9 p.m. on Sunday, September 20, 2015 for the International Festival.

1. Lowell Street, both sides from Chestnut Street to Peabody Square
2. Chestnut Street, both sides from Lowell St. to Franklin St.
3. Main Street, both sides from Peabody Square to Washington St.
4. Franklin Street, both sides from Chestnut St. to Foster St.

5. Park Street, both sides from Main St. to Spring St.

\*\*Those setting up booths will be allowed into the Festival Venue from 8:00 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. only to drop off materials and supplies

\*\*General traffic will be routed around these area throughout the day. The Peabody Police Department and festival volunteers will be at key locations during the day to provide assistance, directions, and answers to questions.

Parking: For those attending the festival, parking will be available on the side streets around the Square, at the city's municipal lots (except the lots on Foster Street and Central Street), and at the District Courthouse. As a convenience to festival goers, there will be shuttle buses providing free transportation to the International Festival throughout the day. Shuttles will run beginning at 11:00 a.m. and pick up at the following sites: Higgins Middle School and the Northshore Mall parking lot (closest to Prospect Street). These buses will run back and forth every 15 minutes.

General Information: Maps and general information will be available from volunteers stationed at the Festival entrances as well as at the Courtesy booth. The Courtesy Booth, located in Peabody Square, will be staffed throughout the day with Festival Committee members and volunteers ready to assist the general public and to register invited guests. It will also be the central location for reporting problems, lost items, etc. In case of rain, the Festival will be postponed until Sunday, September 27, 2015. Announcements will be made on the City of Peabody website ([www.peabody-ma.gov](http://www.peabody-ma.gov)), the festival website ([www.peabodyinternationalfestival.com](http://www.peabodyinternationalfestival.com)), and Peabody's Cablevision Television channels (8, 9 & 99). The Office of the City Clerk will be providing voter registration forms at the Courtesy booth and information on the City's upcoming Centennial Celebration.

Restrictions: The sale or use of "silly string" and "poppers" within the Festival perimeter is prohibited, as well as raffles, balloons and t-shirt sales. No alcohol or drugs will be allowed. Also, no bicycles, skateboards, dogs or other pets will be allowed within the Festival area.

Medical Assistance: Support for medical emergencies will be provided by personnel from the City of Peabody Nurse's Station located on Main Street. Medical assistance will also be provided by EMTs from North Shore Ambulance, who will be located on Church Street (beside City Hall).

Television: Peabody Access Telecommunications (PAT) will be broadcasting live throughout the day, featuring the entertainment and activities of the Festival. Coverage will be from 11:00 a.m. until 5:30 a.m. and may be seen live in Peabody on channels 8, 9 & 99. These shows are rebroadcast after the Festival.

Program: A special ceremony will be held at the entertainment site located at the City Hall stage at 2:00 p.m. Peabody Mayor Edward A. Bettencourt, Jr. will offer words of welcome alongside International Festival Co-Chairs Barry Osborne and Michael F. Zellen. International Festival Committee members and invited guests will also be introduced. The Peter Torigian Memorial

International Festival Spirit Award will be presented by the Torigian Family. Miss Dana Sheridan will open the ceremony with the National Anthem.

The International Festival will feature entertainment, foods, art and exhibits from many of the ethnic groups that make up the city. Admission to the Festival is free of charge and open to the public. Visit [www.peabodyinternationalfestival.com](http://www.peabodyinternationalfestival.com) or call (978)-538-5700 for more information.