

For Immediate Release

38th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade & Irish Faire Shifts to Virtual Event on March 13

In Partnership with The Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library, The Long-Standing Tradition in Phoenix Won't Be Stopped by the COVID-19 Pandemic with Goal of Raising \$50,000

PHOENIX (February 10, 2021) – Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Phoenix community will still have the opportunity to support the annual Phoenix St. Patrick's Day Parade & Faire with a **virtual event on March 13**. This telethon-type party is being made possible by partnering with the <u>Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library</u> in Downtown Phoenix.

On March 13 from noon to 8 p.m. folks can login to the event at the <u>virtual event website</u> and enjoy live performances from some of your favorite Irish bands, interviews with local celebrities and more. Hosted by this year's <u>Arizona Colleen</u> and other Irish community members, it's a party you won't want to miss. And, you can enjoy things right from the comfort of your own home! You can even record your own video to be aired during the festivities.

"The Parade and Irish Faire is a staple here in the Valley, and it's also an important fundraiser for our community," said Jeffrey Aspland, President, St. Patrick's Day Parade & Irish Faire Committee. "We are grateful for the partnership with the Irish Cultural Center and are excited to make this year's event something fun for everyone, until we can get back to our normal celebrations in the years to come."

The event is free to join, just log in and enjoy. Once you "enter" the event, you will have the opportunity to donate if you would like. The event fundraising goal is \$50,000 and, while people can watch for free, any donation amount will help to secure the future of the St. Patrick's Day Parade & Faire and Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library as well as other initiatives to support the #AZIrish Community in the Phoenix area.

"We are thrilled to partner with the Phoenix St. Patrick's Day Parade and Faire Committee," said Ciara Archer, Operations Director for the Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library. "We know this is not how we thought we would be celebrating our favorite holiday of the year - BUT, if we have learned anything in the last year it is to pivot and make due with what you can! We thank the various Celtic groups in the community for their support and partnership and look forward to celebrating with the global Irish diaspora (born or adopted for the day) on this St. Patrick's Day! We encourage everyone to donate if they can to ensure our organizations' futures, and hope you will sit back, relax and enjoy the show!"

Those interested in recording their own video to be played during the event can do so for \$25 by visiting https://stpatricksdayphoenix.org/sponsor. Likewise, additional sponsorship opportunities are available at https://stpatricksdayphoenix.org/sponsor.

For additional information call 623.377.4026, email phxstpatricksday@azirish.org or go to phxvirtualstpatricksday.org.

About The Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library

The Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library, the heart of the Celtic Community, are divisions of the Irish Cultural and Learning Foundation a 501 (C) (3) nonprofit corporation and are owned and maintained by the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department.

About the St. Patrick's Day Parade and Faire

The St. Patrick's Day Parade and Faire Committee is composed of a group of hard-working, volunteer, elected individuals that make the Phoenix St. Patrick's Day Parade and Faire a reality. For nearly 40 years they have spent hours meeting and planning the events to make sure each year is better than the last.

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