

This year, we are celebrating 48 years of Summer Celebrations. We have spent an entire year planning an exciting event for our community and we look forward to having continued success this year. At Indiana Black Expo, we take the safety and security of our guests and the Indianapolis community very seriously.

All local news outlets are predicting severe weather this weekend with the anticipation of heavy rain and thunderstorms.

Therefore, due to the weather forecast and keeping the safety and security of our community at the forefront, Indiana Black Expo has decided to move the Music Heritage Festival I - free concert scheduled for Friday July 20, 2018 at 6 pm into the Indiana Convention Center, Halls A & B.

We understand that part of the fun of the music festival is the outdoor element that allows attendees to celebrate on the lawn of the War Memorial, and we hope to return there next year – if Mother Nature Cooperates! We just cannot predict the weather.

With the location change this year, here is what to expect:

- Holding the concert indoors at the Indiana Convention Center means that we will have limited seating. Because of capacity, we have put a process in place. Though the concert is still “free”, attendees will need a printed complimentary ticket to attend. These complimentary tickets will be made available on a first come first served basis on two separate occasions before the concert: the first distribution will begin today at 2:00 PM (Thursday July 19) at the Indiana Convention Center box office and the second distribution will be made tomorrow (Friday July 20) at noon at the Indiana Convention Center Box Office which is located adjacent to Hall A
- Only 2 tickets will be provided per person and Identification is required to receive the tickets.
- VIP tickets will still be available for sale and all VIP credential holders will be provided special VIP seating
- Attendees will be required to go through security checks at the entrance. This is the same requirement that we have for all attendees attending the exhibition halls in the Convention Center.
- No outside food or drinks will be permitted inside the Convention Center. Food and drinks will be available from Centerplate, the contracted caterer with the Convention Center
- Doors open at 4 pm and guests should plan to limit the number of bags they bring in. No coolers, lawn chairs, blankets, or other items normally used at our outdoor concert. This is now an area style affair with general admission seating. There are no reserved seats except the VIP area. No saving of seats will be permitted.

Please know that we have exhausted every scenario before arriving at this decision. We looked at rescheduling the concert on Sunday but the forecast on Sunday also predicted heavy rain and potential thunderstorms. We also could have waited to see how the weather fares, but the safety risk to our attendees is not worth that wait. Also, this option could result in canceling the concert completely which would be a worse result for the community which happened a few years ago. The process for complimentary tickets and what attendees should not bring inside the venue will be available on our website.

At this time, I want to thank all of our partners for their patience as we arrived at this decision. I also want to thank Mayor Joe Hogsett for his support and the Convention Center staff for helping make this option available for our community. Thanks for your support and understanding. This was not an easy decision but with ultimate responsibility for the safety of all involved we made this decision to move the concert indoors. First responders, Security, acts, stagehands, and guest. Some tickets have been set aside for out of town guests. If you are planning to attend the concert from out of town, please contact Lynna Townsend at the IBE office. 317-925-2702.