



WELCOMING WEEK

WELCOMING WEEK 2024
PUBLIC CALENDAR OF NEBRASKA EVENTS
September 13-22 and beyond!
We're all in!

**This calendar will be updated throughout Welcoming Week.
Check back for additional events!**

COLUMBUS

[All Lassoed In](#) with Centro Hispano

- **Fri Sept 13 (5:30pm-7:30pm CT): Columbus Table Talks: Homestead Dialogues** at The Innovation Center. Where conversations spark change! Connect with community members, share ideas, and collaborate on making a positive impact in Columbus. No registration needed. Heavy hors d'oeuvres provided.
- **Mon Sept 16 (5:30pm-7pm): Saddle Up & Send** at Centro Hispano. Join our text banking crew and turn your energy into action as we remind folks to register to vote! Register to volunteer by calling 402-564-2110. Dinner provided.
- **Tues Sept 17 (12pm-2pm): Boots on the Ground: Civic Cowboys** at YMCA Multipurpose Room. Gather for our Civic Participation series as we continue to dialogue around voting and how to engage with our friends from Columbus Young Latinos Professional Association (CYLPA). No registration needed. Lunch provided.
- **Wed Sept 18: Trail to Citizenship** at Centro Hispano (By appointment only.) Our Citizenship Clinic provides a trail to citizenship. USCIS and representation fees covered 100%. Register by calling 402-564-2110. No cost.
- **Thurs Sept 19 (10:30am & 1:30pm): Welcome Wagons** at Columbus Public Library. Round up and let's read together with our friends at the library. Activity and light snacks provided. No registration needed. No cost.

- **Fri Sept 20 (5:30pm-9pm): We Are All In** with the Oak Room of Columbus at Star Escape Rooms. Get ready to rope in the fun at our social where you can meet your community members and wrangle the clues and bust out before time is out. No registration needed. No cost. Drinks and appetizers provided.

CRETE

- **Mon Sept 16 (6pm CT): [FREE MOVIE - Radical](#)** hosted by **Kalkwarf & Smith Law Offices** at the Isis Theatre. The movie, Radical, will be shown in Spanish with English subtitles. A teacher in a Mexican border town full of neglect, corruption, and violence tries a new method to unlock their students' curiosity, potential, and maybe even their genius.
- **Wed Sept 18 (5pm-8pm CT): [Celebrate Crete](#)** hosted by **Doane University** and the **City of Crete** invites every community member to celebrate the people and cultures of Crete. Enjoy a variety of foods, music, performances, a dunk tank, games, and much more, at Tuxedo Park.
- **Thurs Sept 19 (5:30pm-8pm CT): [Cuban Night/Noche Cubana](#)** hosted by the **Blue River Arts Council** and **The 1206**. Come join us for an evening of vibrant Cuban culture with live music, refreshing themed drinks, and the fascinating art of Tania Estrada Jiminez. This event is free to attend, so bring your friends and enjoy the lively atmosphere!

GRAND ISLAND

Join the [Grand Island Welcoming Initiative](#) and local partners during Welcoming Week 2024!

- **Fri Sept 13 (6pm-12am CT): [Hear GI Bridge Concert. Hear Grand Island](#)** is partnering with the **Grand Island Welcoming Initiative** to bring you the 4th annual bridge concert! Join us at Railside at Amur Plaza for hot local music followed by Rosendo Robles!
- **Sat Sept 14 (11am-12pm CT): [Welcoming our Neighbors Storytime Activity](#)** hosted by **Rooted Books & Gifts**! Join for a read aloud of the book 'All Are Neighbors' by Alexandra Penfold and Sucanne Kaufman followed by an art activity & guided discussion for young folks!
- **Sat Sept 14 (2pm-3:30pm CT): [Latino Identity & Language in the Midwest](#)**. Dr. Velasquez from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is hosting an interactive discussion on Latino identities and language in the midwest. She will provide insight on how the Latino/a identity differs between generations.
- **Mon Sept 16 (5pm-7pm CT): [4th Street Business Tour!](#)** Join **Heartland United Way** and **Sandra Barrera with the UNL Extension** for a 4th street business tour! Each business will showcase their lovely shop and share their story. Come learn more about what makes 4th Street businesses so unique.

- **Wed Sept 18 (5:30pm-7pm CT): [To the State of the Good Life - Free Film Screening](#)** hosted with the **Multicultural Coalition!** [To the State of the Good Life](#) is an intimate exploration of the American Dream through the eyes of Raúl Arcos Hawkins, a stalwart community leader and DACA resident in Grand Island, Nebraska. There will be light hors d'oeuvres followed by a panel discussion of local DACA community members.
- **Wed Sept 18 - Thu Sept 19 (9am-3pm CT): [Mural Painting with the Literacy Council of Grand Island!](#)** Join the **Literacy Council of Grand Island** as they paint a beautiful mural on their building! If your place of business, organization, group, or friends want to come to help paint, please reach out to Angelica and schedule a time to come down and paint! RSVP at 308-875-3292.
- **Thu Sept 19 (8:30am-1pm, 4pm-6pm CT): [Courage to Care Training & Workshop](#)** hosted by the **Grand Island Community Foundation** and **Heartland United Way**. Training and workshop is open to community members, board members, community leaders and nonprofit organizations!
- **Thurs Sept 19 (1pm-2pm CT): [Naturalization Ceremony](#)** hosted by the **Grand Island Public Library!** Come celebrate our new citizens and watch the beauty of patriotism in action!
- **Fri Sept 27 - Sun Sept 29: [Grand Island's First-Ever Asian Street Food Fair & Cultural Music Festival!](#)** The Lao Temple in Grand Island is thrilled to invite you to this unique opportunity to experience the rich and diverse flavors of Asian street food, paired with vibrant cultural music! Bring your family and friends to enjoy!
 - Location: 724 W 12th ST, Grand Island
 - Friday & Saturday Hours: 2 PM - 10 PM
 - Sunday Hours: 9 AM - 3 PM

LEXINGTON

- **Mon Sept 16: [2nd Annual Leadership Development Program Kick Off](#)** for this 9-week leadership development series (Mondays 6pm-8:30pm CT) hosted by **EI Camino** and **Lexington Public Library**.
- **Thurs Sept 19 (5:30pm): [Meet your Neighbor Family Fun Night](#)** Learn about other countries! Sample foods from other countries! Special Dance presentations!

LINCOLN

- **Fri Sept 13 (10:30am-11am CT): [Family Storytime](#)** hosted by **Bennet Martin Library** will feature welcoming and culturally diverse stories. Designed for children ages 3, 4, and 5, Storytime is designed to promote early literacy with presenters sharing stories, songs, and other activities that support language development, build vocabulary, and instill a love of books.

- **Fri Sept 13 (2pm-4pm CT): [Welcome Center Open House](#)** hosted by **Lincoln Public Schools' Welcome Center for English Learners** will have international treats and tea, as well as give a tour and a chance to learn more about the services provided to English Language Learner students in LPS.
- **Fri Sept 13 (4:30pm-6:30pm CT): [Welcoming Week Open House](#)** hosted by **Lincoln Literacy** welcomes students, tutors, and community members to visit classrooms and renovations, learn about fall classes, meet coordinators and teachers, hear student stories, and participate in an art activity, henna, music, and eat food.
- **Fri Sept 13 (5pm-7pm CT): [Storytelling: A Celebration of Culture](#)** hosted by the **International Quilt Museum** celebrates the diversity in the Lincoln community including a show-and-tell from people around the world who call Lincoln, Nebraska home. There will also be free snacks and an art project for families.
- **Sat Sept 14 (2pm-6pm CT): [Latino Festival](#)** hosted by **El Centro de las Americas** will include Latin music, dance, art, food, and traditions. There will also be live cultural performances, delectable food items from a variety of Latin American countries, artisan exhibits, and more.
- **Sun Sept 15 (4pm-5pm CT): [Let's Explore Transparent Language](#)** hosted by **Bennet Martin Library** will teach us how to use Transparent Language, the free language tool, to learn another language.
- **Sun Sept 15 (5pm-7pm CT): [Samples of the World](#)** hosted by **Good Neighbor Community Center** seeks to foster connections, build bridges, and celebrate the beauty of multiculturalism. Delight your taste buds and expand your culinary horizons. See event link to purchase tickets.
- **Mon Sept 16 (4pm-5pm CT): [Capitol Experience Tour](#)** hosted by **Civic Nebraska** involves a tour of the Nebraska State Capitol building, and stories of Nebraska immigrants and Native Americans who built our great state. Sign up to hold your space for this free event.
- **Tues Sept 17 (10:05am-10:35am CT): [Music & Movement Storytime](#)** hosted by **Gere Library** features welcoming and culturally diverse stories so families and their littles can have fun and get active.
- **Tues Sept 17 (10:15am-10:45am CT): [Preschool Storytime](#)** hosted by **Walt Library** will feature welcoming and culturally diverse stories. Designed for children ages 3, 4, and 5, Storytime is designed to promote early literacy with presenters sharing stories, songs, and other activities that support language development, build vocabulary, and instill a love of books.

- **Tues Sept 17 (11am-11:30am CT): [Preschool Storytime](#)** hosted by **Walt Library** will feature welcoming and culturally diverse stories. Designed for children ages 3, 4, and 5, Storytime is designed to promote early literacy with presenters sharing stories, songs, and other activities that support language development, build vocabulary, and instill a love of books.
- **Tues Sept 17 (6pm-8pm CT): [Citizenship Celebration](#)** hosted by the **Asian Community and Cultural Center** celebrates this great accomplishment and honors our immigrant neighbors becoming new American citizens.
- **Wed Sept 18 (10:05am-10:35am CT): [Music & Movement Storytime](#)** hosted by **Gere Library** features welcoming and culturally diverse stories so families and their littles can have fun and get active.
- **Wed Sept 18 (10:15am-10:45am CT): [Preschool Storytime](#)** hosted by **Walt Library** will feature welcoming and culturally diverse stories. Designed for children ages 3, 4, and 5, Storytime is designed to promote early literacy with presenters sharing stories, songs, and other activities that support language development, build vocabulary, and instill a love of books.
- **Wed Sept 18 (10:30am-11am CT): [Preschool Storytime](#)** hosted by **Anderson Library** will feature welcoming and culturally diverse stories. Designed for children ages 3, 4, and 5, Storytime is designed to promote early literacy with presenters sharing stories, songs, and other activities that support language development, build vocabulary, and instill a love of books.
- **Wed Sept 18 (10:30am-11am CT): [Preschool Storytime](#)** hosted by **Eisley Library** will feature welcoming and culturally diverse stories. Designed for children ages 3, 4, and 5, Storytime is designed to promote early literacy with presenters sharing stories, songs, and other activities that support language development, build vocabulary, and instill a love of books.
- **Wed Sept 18 (10:45am-11:15am CT): [Music & Movement Storytime](#)** hosted by **Gere Library** features welcoming and culturally diverse stories so families and their littles can have fun and get active.
- **Wed Sept 18 (11am-11:30am CT): [Preschool Storytime](#)** hosted by **Walt Library** will feature welcoming and culturally diverse stories. Designed for children ages 3, 4, and 5, Storytime is designed to promote early literacy with presenters sharing stories, songs, and other activities that support language development, build vocabulary, and instill a love of books.

- **Wed Sept 18 (2pm-3pm CT):** [Let's Explore Transparent Language](#) hosted by **Walt Library** will teach us how to use Transparent Language, the free language tool, to learn another language.
- **Thurs Sept 19 (10am-10:35am CT):** [Music & Movement Storytime](#) hosted by **Gere Library** features welcoming and culturally diverse stories so families and their littles can have fun and get active.
- **Thurs Sept 19 (10:30am-11am CT):** [Preschool Storytime](#) hosted by **Eisley Library** will feature welcoming and culturally diverse stories. Designed for children ages 3, 4, and 5, Storytime is designed to promote early literacy with presenters sharing stories, songs, and other activities that support language development, build vocabulary, and instill a love of books.
- **Thurs Sept 19 (10:30am-11am CT):** [Preschool Storytime](#) hosted by **Bethany Branch Library** will feature welcoming and culturally diverse stories. Designed for children ages 3, 4, and 5, Storytime is designed to promote early literacy with presenters sharing stories, songs, and other activities that support language development, build vocabulary, and instill a love of books.
- **Thurs Sept 19 (4pm-5pm CT):** [Civil Conversations: Voting is People Power](#) hosted by **The Sheldon Museum** examines the history of voting and civic power. Build a better understanding with fellow students and community members from all different backgrounds through respectful dialog about civic engagement and voting. Tour the Voting is People Power exhibition and engage in facilitated conversations. Make a "vote" button, register to vote, and learn more about the 2024 elections. Light refreshments provided.
- **Thurs Sept 19 (6:30pm-7pm CT):** [Music & Movement Storytime](#) hosted by **Gere Library** features welcoming and culturally diverse stories so families and their littles can have fun and get active.
- **Fri Sept 20 (1:30pm-7pm CT):** [Lincoln Unites](#) hosted by the **Lincoln Children's Zoo** is an annual festival bringing community members from all walks of life together who are proud that Lincoln is inclusive and welcoming to all of its neighbors, including immigrants and refugees. Celebrating new citizens and sharing art, music, and heritage of the many faces of Lincoln helps create one strong and vibrant community.
- **Sat Sept 21 (11am-2pm CT):** [Family Storytime](#) hosted by **Walt Library** will feature welcoming and culturally diverse stories and invites the entire family to participate. The theme is "How do you say Hello? Welcome to Storytime." Designed for children from birth to age 5, storytime is designed to promote early literacy through storytelling, songs, and other activities supporting language development, building vocabulary, and instilling a love for books.

- **Sat Sept 21 (11am-2pm CT): [Hawley Hamlet Tours](#)** is hosted by **NeighborWorks Lincoln**. Tucked away in the center of Lincoln, Hawley Hamlet is a gardener's haven. Learn from experienced gardeners and the inspiring transformation of their neighborhood, hear from immigrant gardeners about their journey, and enjoy a family-style lunch. Space is limited, so RSVP soon!
- **Sun Sept 22 (4pm-7pm CT): [Harvest Moon Festival](#)** is hosted by the **Asian Community & Cultural Center** is an annual celebration of cultural diversity in Lincoln. This family-friendly event will have a variety of cultural performances, music, food, and activities.
- **Wed Sept 25 (4:30pm-6:30pm CT): [CORAL Project Exhibition](#)** hosted by **Lincoln Commission on Human Rights** is a reception with participants in a UNL student photo project featuring immigrant and refugee community members. Photos will hang on the 3rd floor of the County City Building throughout the month.

NORTH PLATTE

- **Sat Sept 28 (11am-3pm CT): 4th Annual [International Bazaar Multicultural Festival](#)** is an opportunity to celebrate the diversity of the Lincoln County community! Try food from different cultures and experience art and dance from around the world.

OMAHA

- **Thurs Sept 12 (11:30am CT): [Kick off for Hispanic Heritage Month](#)** with a special presentation at **El Museo Latino**.
- **Fri Sept 13 (5pm CT) - Sun Sept 15 (11pm CT): [Fiestas Patrias Omaha](#)** begins Hispanic Heritage Month with vibrant celebrations of independence for Mexico, Guatemala, and El Salvador.
- **Sat Sept 14 (10:30am-12pm CT):** The historic **[Desfile de Fiestas Patrias 2024](#)** parade begins on historic South 24th Street.
- **Sat Sept 14 (11:30am-3pm CT): [Health Fair Fiestas Patrias](#)** offers screenings and health information.
- **Sun Sept 15 (5pm-7pm CT): Refugee Women Rising** are hosting **[A Latin American Feast: Bienvenidos a la Mesa](#)** prepared by guest chefs from Latin América who are curating a HomeDish meal that will delight your senses and stir your heart. Women ages 16 and older only please. Please register with the link above.
- **Sun Sept 15 (10:30am-12pm CT): [Misa de Mariachi](#)** at Plaza de la Raza!
- **Sun Sept 15 (1pm-2pm CT):** Everybody move at **[Zumbaton!](#)**

- **Sun Sept 15 (6pm-11pm CT): [El Grito de Independencia](#)** completes the week's celebrations with live music, food, and fun. ¡No te lo pierdas!

SCOTTSBLUFF

- **Wed Sept 25 & Thurs Sept 26:** The [Multicultural Youth Leadership Conference - Student Event](#) helps middle and high school youth celebrate diverse cultures, provides cool workshops and an opportunity to learn about civic engagement, and to hear from inspiring speakers!
- **Wed Sept 25 (6pm-8pm MT):** The [Multicultural Youth Leadership Conference - Community Event](#) celebrates the beauty of our diverse cultures in our community through food, art, and guest speaker, Shiloh Lebeau. [Register here](#) as space is limited.

SOUTH SIOUX CITY

- **Mon Sept 16: (10am-12pm CT)** [Immigrant Business Tours / Tours de Negocios Inmigrantes](#) visit businesses up and down Dakota Avenue on this guided tour.
- **Wed Sept 18 (6pm CT): [Lotería \(Bingo\) Night](#).** Bring the family for fun and prizes! ¡Únete a nosotros para la noche de Lotería! 🎉 ¡Traiga a la familia para divertirse y la oportunidad de ganar premios!
- **Fri Sept 20 (6pm CT): [Welcoming Parade/Desfile de Bienvenida](#)** Dakota Avenue will be festive with this year's theme of "Carnival"!
- **Fri Sept 20 (8pm CT): [Movie Night/Noche de Cine](#)** Watch this animated adventure comedy with the whole family at the Dibble Soccer Complex. Laugh at their adventures as this family of Mallards migrates from New England to Jamaica.
- **Sat Sept 21 (11am-1pm CT): [Mental Health Walk and Fair in Collaboration with Celebrate Siouxsland](#) (Caminata Mentas Sanas)** Join Heartland Counseling and Unity In Action for the 6th annual Mental Health Awareness Walk & Fair beginning at Heartland Counseling.
- **Sun Sept 22 (11am - 9pm CT): [Latino Heritage Festival](#).** Bring the family and enjoy live performances from regional and international bands at the Dibble Soccer Complex. Food and merchandise vendors will be on display, a kid zone with bouncy houses, and much more.