

Press Release

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Mark Your Calendars: LEAF Festival Moves to a Magical New Location, Plus Key Fundraising Events Announced for 2026

Asheville, NC — LEAF Global Arts announces its 2026 calendar of key community gatherings, inviting all to celebrate music, arts, and global cultures while supporting the organization's mission during a pivotal time.

The season kicks off with the **LEAF Love Gala on February 14**, the culminating event of the **LEAF Love Giving Campaign**. This is followed by **Deep Roots on May 30**, a family-friendly, one-day event featuring local musicians alongside youth performers of **LEAF Schools & Streets** and **LEAF International**. In the fall, the time-honored **LEAF Festival returns October 16–18** at a brand-new location, providing a fresh setting for the immersive arts and community experience that LEAF is known for. The year concludes with an elegant **Masquerade Ball on November 7**, a festive celebration of cultural arts and a vital year-end fundraiser.

In addition to acting as celebrations of creativity and culture, each event in 2026 is also critical to sustaining LEAF's programs and services. At a time when grants are limited and costs continue to rise, community participation and support directly determine whether LEAF can continue to serve artists, educators, and audiences locally and globally.

"These gatherings are essential," said Erinn Hartley, LEAF's Executive Director. "They ensure that LEAF can continue its work in global arts education, cultural preservation, and community connection. Every ticket, every donation, and every act of support helps keep the magic possible."

LEAF invites longtime supporters and newcomers alike to attend, contribute, and help ensure that global arts and education remain accessible in Western North Carolina and beyond.

“In addition to financial contributions, we remain deeply reliant on community support in all its forms: volunteers and donated time, sponsorships and partnerships, in-kind contributions, supplies, and shared resources. It truly takes a collective effort to sustain this work, and every form of support helps keep LEAF alive and accessible.”

Community members and organizations interested in offering support are encouraged to reach out directly via LEAF’s Instagram or Facebook channels to start a conversation about how they can help.

For event details, tickets, and ways to support, follow **LEAF on Instagram (@leafglobalarts)** and **Facebook (LEAF Global Arts)**.