



EMBARGOED UNTIL 6 P.M. May 14, 2020

2020 LA County Fair Canceled Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

POMONA, CA (May 14, 2020) – For just the second time in its nearly 100-year history, the LA County Fair will go on a hiatus, with no spin of the Ferris Wheel, no farm filled with animals and no legendary bands in the Grandstand this September.

The 2020 LA County Fair, slated for Sept. 4-27, has been canceled due to the limitations placed on large public gatherings by state and county public health officials because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the safety and well-being of guests, Fair officials are following the guidelines of public health officials who are advising against large public gatherings for the remainder of the year.

The decision to cancel the Fair was made after much discussion between Fair organizers and Los Angeles County officials. It was not an easy decision to make, Fairplex President and CEO Miguel A. Santana said.

“My heart is heavy, for our guests who come out to make memories, our vendors who rely on the Fair circuit for their income and our employees who work so hard all year-long to create this special event,” Santana said. “The LA County Fair is an iconic event that celebrates the best of Southern California. It is beloved by many. But we had to take into consideration the health and safety of everyone.”

Los Angeles County Fair Association Board of Directors’ Chair Heidi Hanson concurred.

“We really had no choice, as hard as it was. The one thing we can promise is that the LA County Fair will be back, better than ever – especially as we plan for our Centennial.”

The Fair will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2022. The Fair closed for World War II from 1942 to 1947. It closed for the day on Sept. 11, 2001, but reopened the following day.

Los Angeles County First District Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, in whose district the Fair resides, said it will be disappointing, but necessary to miss the end-of-summer celebration.

“Like many of you, I grew up eagerly anticipating each year’s opening of the LA County Fair, and I cherish my family memories of this special yearly event,” said Solis. “Unfortunately, we have had to make the difficult decision to cancel the LA County Fair due to our current public health crisis. We must make these short term sacrifices to preserve the health of the people we love. We do this to protect our communities. I am certain that once we get through this challenging time, we will come back stronger and even more appreciative of the things we love and hold dear.”

Los Angeles County Fifth District Supervisor Kathryn Barger agreed. A portion of Fairplex is located in her district.

“Like every fan of the LA County Fair, I am saddened to hear of its cancellation this year. I love the Fair and have many fond memories from my experiences with family and friends,” Barger said. “But we are in the middle of a major public health crisis and our priority is the safety and well-being of all of our residents. Through our efforts to slow the spread, I know we will soon be able to enjoy activities like the LA County Fair again.”

That sentiment was echoed by the head of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Dr. Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd. “Our recovery journey is underway, but it will be a slow one. Working together to slow the spread of COVID-19 is our new normal for the foreseeable future. But I have faith that if we continue to make these difficult but necessary decisions now, we will be able to enjoy all that the LA County Fair has to offer next year.”

The LA County Fair sees approximately 1.1 million guests during its 19-day run and has an estimated economic impact of \$324 million annually in Los Angeles County, with \$58 million in the City of Pomona and securing more than 500 full-time equivalent jobs. Since the campus went dark due to COVID-19 Fairplex has continued its community benefit mission by working with partners to offer coronavirus testing, hold drive-thru food pantries and offer free childcare for the children of healthcare workers, first responders and essential workers at its Child Development Center.

Refunds for the Fair super fans who purchased season pass boxes will be available with three options: credit toward the 2021 Fair plus one extra season pass; turning their purchase into a donation to the Fairplex COVID-19 emergency fund for the community; or a full refund. Information on refunds can be found at www.lacountyfair.com/refunds.

Fairplex, home of the LA County Fair and 300 year-round events, is canceling the remainder of its self-produced events for the rest of 2020, including June’s Cheers Wine, Beer and Food Festival; Fourth of July spectacular KABOOM!; Oktoberfest; and the Day of the Dead celebration En Memoria. Information on externally produced events can be found by contacting the respective promoters.

For more information on Fairplex, visit www.fairplex.com.

Media contact:

Renee Hernandez

hernandez@fairplex.com

(909) 525-8404