The 2020 Smithsonian Folklife Festival will explore how diverse domains of cultural knowledge—from religion to design to science—shape the ways we understand, experience, and respond to ever-changing natural, social, and built environments. Programs will include regional representations from Brazil and the United Arab Emirates, alongside the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon and Smithsonian Conservation Commons.

Admission is always free. The Festival is co-sponsored by the National Park Service.

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Visitors dance to Grandmaster Flash at the 2019 Folklife Festival.
Photo by Jennifer Berry, Smithsonian Institution

Armenian lavash cooks at the 2018 Folklife Festival
Photo by Narek Harutyunyan, Smithsonian Institution

Young visitors dance during a workshop with Black Girls Handgames at the 2019 Folklife Festival.
Photo by Sonya Pencheva, Smithsonian Institution

Afro-Peruvian singer and Latin Grammy winner Susana Baca performs in an evening concert at the 2015 Folklife Festival.
Photo by Ronald Villasante, Smithsonian Institution

The Festival Marketplace is more than just a shop but a place for artisan demonstrations and workshops.
Photo by Caroline Angelo, Smithsonian Institution

Kim Hawkins shares elements of her clown costume during a description and touch tour for visitors who are blind or lowvision at the 2017 Folklife Festival.
Photo by Brian Barger, Smithsonian Institution