

# 3 Flags Festival

March 10-14, 2004 - St. Louis, Missouri

THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE BICENTENNIAL



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## FACT SHEET

America's history of westward expansion has captivated generations of people. In 2004, thousands will undertake a pilgrimage to St. Louis – literally “The Gateway to the West.” Commemorating the bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition, St. Louis will once again become the center of attention, beginning with the Louisiana Purchase Three Flags Festival March 10-14, 2004.

Activities will range from significant exhibits of art, artifacts and historical documents, scholarly symposia, family-style festivals and religious ceremonies. The festival will culminate with the Three Flags Ceremony on the banks of the Mississippi on the grounds of The Gateway Arch. The principal chief of the Osage Nation and heads of state from France, Spain and the United States are invited to commemorate the final transfer of the Louisiana Territory to the United States.

### March 9

Before the festival officially begins, the American Culture Studies Program at Washington University in St. Louis and the Missouri State Archives will host a news conference where they will display and discuss for the first time some of the earliest civil courts records from the St. Louis region, including those printed in French and Spanish from around the time of the Louisiana Purchase. The university and state are in the process of cataloguing and putting these records online. For more information about the project, visit <http://stlcourtrecords.wustl.edu>. The press conference will take place at 3 p.m. at the Old Courthouse.

### March 10-14

“Lewis and Clark: The National Bicentennial Exhibition” at the Missouri History Museum will bring together for the first time since 1806 hundreds of rare and priceless artifacts and documents from the expedition. Advance ticket purchase is recommended. For more information, visit [www.mohistory.org](http://www.mohistory.org). For tickets, call 314-534-1111 or visit [www.metrotix.com](http://www.metrotix.com).

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Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future, a traveling national interpretive exhibit, sponsored by the National Park Service, is designed to bring American voices together to share the history and contemporary effects of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, including the impact on American Indian nations. Adjoining Corps II is the Tent of Many Voices – an auditorium for a variety of programs from cultural arts demonstrations to music and living history presentations. The free exhibit will be encamped in the lower Munny parking lot in Forest Park. Time: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. School and youth groups call 314-361-7229 to schedule a tour.

The Mercantile Library, the oldest library west of the Mississippi River, on the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus presents two exhibits: An exhibit of 1800s maps, “Revealing the Louisiana Purchase: Lewis and Clark Shaping of America;” and a fur trade exhibit, “St. Louis: the Fur Trade and the Beginnings of the American West.” Time: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Reception with personalized guided tours 1 – 4 p.m., Saturday, March 13. For more information, visit [www.umsl.edu/mercantile](http://www.umsl.edu/mercantile) or call 314-516-7243.

The Museum of Westward Expansion at the Gateway Arch will feature two exhibits by the National Park Service. “Concerning the Louisiana Purchase: Original Documents from the National Archives,” features eight original letters including ones written by Meriwether Lewis and James Wilkinson, and a petition drafted by a “Committee of the Inhabitants of St. Louis to the Citizens of Upper Louisiana.” The exhibit “Lewis and Clark: Imagining the Expedition from St. Louis” uses original period artifacts and documents to detail the preparations of Lewis and Clark for their expedition. Time: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. For more information, call 314-655-1600.

“Plants of the Lewis and Clark Expedition” at the Missouri Botanical Garden includes 20 mounted specimens representing some of the species collected and discovered by the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The exhibition also includes photos and quotes from journals, plant labels and information about each plant, including its Shoshone name. The exhibit is now open and runs through March 14. For more information, visit [www.mobot.org](http://www.mobot.org).

ArtCorps Earth Sculpture is a site specific sculptural installation by Karen McCoy and Matthew Dehaemers, two artists working with the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial ArtsPlan funded by the National Endowment for the Arts in collaboration with the Missouri, Kentucky, Illinois and Indiana arts councils. The program is administered by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies and the New England Foundation for the Arts. The sculpture will be near a creek just west of the Munny in Forest Park. It will be open daily 10 a.m. – noon. Dedication ceremonies are March 13 at 10 a.m.

March 10-12

The National Park Service and Missouri Historical Society are co-sponsoring a symposium for scholars from Europe and America. Speakers include internationally recognized historians, such as Dayton Duncan and John Kukla. They will explore the lasting legacies of both the Louisiana Purchase and Discovery Expedition. For reservations and more information, call Bob Moore, NPS Historian, at 314-655-1600.

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March 11

The Institute for Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis is hosting a symposium "Osage Women: Roles, Health and Environment," exploring the roles of Native American women past, present and future, including historical, cultural and social issues related to health and the environment. Women of the Osage Nation will speak. The symposium is scheduled from noon – 3 p.m. at the university (University Center Summit). It is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided. For reservations, call 314-516-5581.

March 12

"Art of the Osage" at the Saint Louis Art Museum is a first-time opportunity to learn about the Osage Nation, their history and contemporary life through their art. The exhibit explores the Osage Nation's rich and vibrant history from its days of fur trading and the Lewis and Clark Expedition to its current way of life. The exhibit opens as a tribute to the Louisiana Purchase on March 12. Advance ticket purchase is recommended. For more information, visit [www.slam.org](http://www.slam.org). For tickets, call 314-655-5299.

Tours will be available of the historic "Creole Corridor" on both sides of the Mississippi River from Cahokia to Chester, Ill., and from Ste. Genevieve, Mo., to St. Louis, with French Colonial scholars as guides. Participants will see some of the nation's only remaining French colonial architecture. The event is sponsored by Les Amis, the region's Creole Colonial heritage preservation group, and CLASSIC99/KFUO-FM. Tickets available by advance reservation for \$45. For tickets, call 314-726-2577 ext. 117 or 800-626-2577 ext. 117.

Drums Along the River & Symposia Opening Reception and Performances will feature performances of "Writing York" by the Saint Louis Black Repertory Company and other African and Native American artists. It will take place at Harris-Stowe State College at the Emerson Center from 6 – 10 p.m.

March 13

A central part of Lewis and Clark's mission was to open diplomatic relations with Indian Nations in the Louisiana Territory. The American Indian Diplomacy Symposium explores Indian diplomatic traditions and looks at subsequent relations between Indian Nations and the United States. The symposium will take place at the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park from 8 a.m. - noon. A complimentary breakfast will be provided. For reservations, call 314-361-7229.

Storytellers will present "A Woman's Work: Women of the Expedition" at the Gateway Arch. Programs for children will be included. Time: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Drums Along the River & Symposia at Harris-Stowe State College highlights cross-cultural participation and multiple nations as they relate to the lands of the Upper Louisiana Purchase and the members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Drummers, dancers and other visual and performing artists from Native and African-American communities will participate. Family activities include an African-American Ngoma Circle, buffalo hide painting, Haitian dance workshop, Native American flute building workshop, cross-cultural booths, storytellers, as well as a health and wellness fair. Time: 1 a.m. – 7 p.m.

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The Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Ball, sponsored by the Bicentennial Ball Committee and Les Amis, will be hosted by "President Thomas Jefferson" at the Chase Park Plaza. The event will benefit a \$250,000 restoration of the Amoureux House, which was built in 1792 and is owned by the Missouri Parks Department. Dress is formal attire or period costumes. Original works from Tiffany & Co. and an original sculpture by Harry Weber will be auctioned. Master chefs from Le Cordon Bleu will join the culinary team at the Chase Park Plaza to prepare a meal with Spanish, American and French influences. Advance reservations are required. Ticket prices start at \$150 for Young Friends (40 and under). Time: 7:30 p.m. For information and tickets, call 573-883-7102.

#### March 14

At 10 a.m., the St. Louis Cathedral Basilica will host a mass that will feature Spanish, French and American music. Christ Church Cathedral (Episcopal) also will host a mass with French, Spanish and American music at 11:15 a.m. For more information, call the Cathedral Basilica at 314-533-7662 or Christ Church Cathedral at 314-231-3454.

The Three Flags Ceremony will commemorate the ceremony held originally in the Upper Louisiana capitol of St. Louis March 9-10, 1804. It will bring together the heads of state (or their representatives) from Spain, France and the United States, as well as the President of the National Congress of American Indians. Cultural and historical programs will precede the ceremony from noon to 2:30 p.m. At 2:45 p.m., the U.S. Mint will publicly release the first coin in the Westward Journey Nickel Series. From 3-4 p.m., the commemorative ceremonies will take place. The Scott Air Force Band with soloists from the St. Louis Symphony, St. Louis Opera Theatre and the Municipal Opera, as well as the St. Charles Fife and Drum Corps will perform the three national anthems. Noted historian Dayton Duncan will emcee the ceremony. An actor portraying Meriwether Lewis, a signatory witness of the treaty in St. Louis, will cross the Mississippi River from Illinois to join the Three Flags Ceremony. This free event will be held on the Mississippi riverfront beneath the Gateway Arch.

Food vending and booths providing even exchange of U.S. currency for the new nickel will be located on Lenore K. Sullivan Boulevard to the left of the stage. Free nickels will be provided to children 12 and under.

#### Travel Information

The Chase Park Plaza in St. Louis is the headquarters hotel for the festival. For information, call 877-587-2427.

Judy Piel Travel will handle group travel requests. For more information, call 314-726-2577 ext. 117 or 800-626-2577, ext. 117.

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