



## COMMUNITY UPDATE:

# 7<sup>TH</sup> HOUSTON PALESTINIAN FESTIVAL

To our dear and esteemed members and to the greater Houston Palestinian community:

Since it first began in 2010, the Palestinian American Cultural Center (PACC) has had the honor of organizing and sponsoring the Houston Palestinian Festival. This year's Houston Palestinian Festival will be the 7<sup>th</sup> festival, and PACC's volunteers are working hard behind the scenes to put it all together.

Since the beginning, it has been the goal of the PACC Board of Directors and the PACC Festival Committee to provide a festive, enriching experience that is full of fun, food, music, and entertainment that highlights and celebrates Palestinian culture.

This year's festival is no different. We have a great line up of singers, dabka troupes, on stage competitions, a traditional Palestinian wedding, and fashion show planned. And we will still have your favorites: the kid's fun zone, a Palestinian Bazaar, delicious food and desserts, and a cultural center promoting our historic heritage.

It has come to our attention that many of you are eager to see some of your favorite local Palestinian artists perform at this year's festival. Each year, we strive to get the best local, state, national, and international talent to showcase a unified global Palestinian community. In addition, each performer is included in the program based on a variety of factors including their availability, our budget, the equipment that is required, their personal requests, and many other considerations including providing you with a wide variety of entertainment. Unfortunately, we are not able to accommodate all the talented Palestinians that deserve to be on the stage. But, we hear you, and each year we will reach out to your favorite performers in hopes that they can work with us.

Out of respect to the artists, we never publicly discuss the outcome of these discussions. As an organization for the people, community feedback is very important. We appreciate any constructive criticism and invite you all to send us your thoughts via our website [www.pacchouston.org](http://www.pacchouston.org). We also conduct exit surveys each year during the festival to learn more about what you want out of the festival.

Each year, the Houston Palestinian Festival has welcomed thousands of guests from the greater Houston community, Texas, and beyond. It takes a village to put together and organize a festival such as the Houston Palestinian Festival. All of the work that goes into organizing and coordinating the Houston Palestinian Festival is performed 100% by hard-working, dedicated volunteers, including the PACC Board, PACC Festival Committee Chairs, and the PACC Festival Committee.

As stated in its mission statement, PACC is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization that is dedicated to uniting and empowering the Palestinian American Community and to promoting cultural and humanitarian programs that highlight the rich heritage of Palestine. Our website is full of helpful information regarding PACC and its ongoing activities, and we invite each of you to take a look to find out more about [PACC](#), [the PACC mission statement](#), [PACC's Code of Conduct](#), [its activities](#), as well as [PACC's financial information](#). We are always looking for passionate and helpful individuals who want to contribute to PACC's mission. If you are interested, please reach out to us on our [contact page](#).

As shown in the financial information included on the website, as is required of a 501(c)(3), all funds and expenses are accounted for each year and provided for public record. Further, we feel it is important that you know that all of the proceeds and funds raised by PACC at both the Gala and the Houston Palestinian Festival, are in turn used to pay for the expenses of the Houston Palestinian Festival. These expenses, to name a few, include security, permits, licenses, venue, sound equipment, stage, booths, kids' activities, and much more. Any funds that remain after paying for the expenses associated with both the Gala and the Houston Palestinian Festival are used for the numerous programs and activities PACC has developed that focus on all aspects of community involvement.

One of the most cherished programs of PACC is its [scholarship program](#), dedicated to providing scholarship assistance to qualified and talented students from the community for their colleges and universities. In addition, PACC is a proud sponsor of the Houston Palestinian Film Festival. PACC worked diligently to supply over 750 boxes (44,000 lbs.) of food to Helping Hands that were then delivered to refugee families in need. In addition to all the above, PACC is heavily involved in sponsoring and hosting multiple activities throughout the year with various cultural and charitable organizations in Houston and elsewhere. We hope you will take a minute to visit the PACC website to learn more about its dedication to community involvement and service and all the additional programs.

PACC has always held itself to the highest standards of ethical and professional conduct and will continue to do so.

We hope that it is clear the passion and effort that goes into the Houston Palestinian Festival by PACC and each of its dedicated members and volunteers. We appreciate all of your feedback and we are excited to see such passion for Palestine!

Sincerely,

PACC Board of Directors

PACC Festival Committee

PACC Gala Committee

PACC Scholarship Committee