

Cultural Activity Pavilion presented by Global Atlantic Financial Group

The Cultural Activity Pavilion presented by Global Atlantic Financial Group offers a virtual trip around the world with workshops, interactive presentations and hands-on activities. Each event is designed to expose visitors to authentic cultural experiences here in Greater Des Moines (DSM).

FRIDAY

11:30 AM – 2:30 PM: Blank Park Zoo

3:30 – 4:30 PM: Pragnya Yogesh, Indian Dance

Start your weekend moving to “Dandiya” dance, also known as the “Stick Dance.” Participants will learn the rhythm of the sticks and the steps to this native dance, try on traditional clothing, and learn about the role of dance in Indian gatherings and celebrations.

5 – 7 PM: Mamta Israni, Games of India

Do you remember your favorite childhood game? Have you ever considered other cultures that may have played similar games? Mamta Israni will share how many games and sports stem from history or mythology related to a particular culture. Participants will play and discover that some games are similar to ones you know and others that are a completely new experience.

SATURDAY

11:30 AM – 2:30 PM: Gateway Dance Theater

3 – 4 PM: Sue Hudson, Thai Kids Culture

Explore Thai culture! Learn about a student’s life in Thailand and how the schools there differ from American schools. Participants will hear about the traditional aspects of the Thai curriculum and the mandatory classes on Thai dance and Muay Thai kick boxing that go along with the math and sciences. They will get to learn all about what it’s like to grow up in Thailand and what the typical day for a Thai student is like, from traveling to school in a tuk-tuk to attending class in an open air classroom to wearing the standardized school uniform and haircut.

4:30 – 5:30 PM: Francis Chan, Life in South Sudan

What’s it like to grow up in an African family? Family is a very strong unit in Africa. It encompasses many more people than just parents and children. CultureALL Ambassador Francis Chan shares the structure of an African family as well as many examples of Southern Sudanese food serving items, clothing and materials. It truly takes a village to raise a child. Francis will show you how to pair clothing items and dress like a king or queen.

6 – 7:30 PM: Phoebe Liang, Chinese Calligraphy

Chinese calligraphy is closely linked to the development of Chinese Characters. Ambassador Phoebe Liang D’Alessandro will show pictures of different writing styles, writing materials and examples of Chinese characters. A demonstration of Chinese calligraphy will be given, and visitors will have a chance to practice writing their own Chinese characters with writing brushes.

SUNDAY

11:30 AM – 1 PM: Miki Takayama, Japanese Children's Games

This interactive workshop provides students with an introduction to Japan's geography, language, greetings, fashion, cuisine, housing and tradition. CultureALL Ambassador Miki Takayama will demonstrate how Japanese traditional clothing (Kimono) is worn and provide an overview of Japanese culture with picture cards. Students will have an opportunity to try out traditional wooden toys and games.

1:30 – 3:30 PM: Yoko Tanaka, Origami & Kanji

"We begin with the end in mind," Ms. Tanaka emphasizes as she teaches about origami. Follow Ms. Tanaka's graceful guidance and fold each crease with patience, precision and trust. Origami has a long history in Japanese culture as a children's pastime. Patterns range from simple to highly sophisticated. Children learn from their elders how to make different objects, enjoying the surprise of a piece of paper turning into three-dimensional objects.

Kanji are the adopted logographic Chinese characters used in the modern Japanese writing system. Yoko Tanaka, a Japanese interpreter and an employee of The Principal Financial Group, will explain how kanji developed, illustrating the process by using words that represent mountain, flower, friendship, love, success and more. Ms. Tanaka will also guide students to write these words, using rice paper, ink, and brushes.