



NEW YORK CITY COMMISSION  
TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS

809 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA  
NEW YORK 10017

MRS. JOHN L. LOEB  
COMMISSIONER

56  
FOURTH FLOOR  
YUKON 6-4321

ADVANCE ONLY

For Release:  
Tuesday, July 30, 1968  
11 p.m.

Rain Date:  
Wednesday, July 31, 1968  
11 p.m.

NEW YORK CITY COMMISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS PRESENTS MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE AND FAIR

Under the auspices of The New York City Commission to the United Nations, four midtown museums will hold an Open House and Street Fair in honor of the United Nations community on Tuesday, July 30, Mrs. John L. Loeb, Commissioner, announced today.

The Museum of American Folk Art, The Museum of Contemporary Crafts, and The Museum of Modern Art, all on West 53 Street, and The Museum of Primitive Art on West 54 Street will open their galleries to invited guests from 7 to 11 p.m. Street vendors will sell a variety of domestic and foreign delicacies, soft drinks, and beer, and six groups will provide musical entertainment. 53 Street between Fifth Avenue and The Avenue of the Americas will be closed to traffic during the evening and will be decorated with helium balloon sculptures. In case of rain, the Open House will be held the following evening, July 31.

The entire United Nations community - the staffs of the missions, consulates, and secretariats and their families - as well as foreign students, artists living in New York, public officials, and friends of the participating museums have been invited.

Design students from The Parsons School of Design will transform 53 Street into an outdoor sculpture garden decorated with helium-filled balloons. The helium was donated by Union Carbide Corporation, Linde Division.

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Italian sausages, sweetbreads, clams, calzoni and zeppole, ices and soft drinks, and Italian pastry from Ferrara Restaurant, as well as the traditional hot dogs, popcorn and candy from vendor Gerard Corsini; French pancakes from George Cloutier of Crêpes à la Carte; steak and shrimp tidbits and tempura from Benihana of Tokyo; ice cream from Good Humor; and Reingold Beer from the Island Refreshment Corp. will be sold at the Fair.

In the Garden of The Museum of Modern Art and at two locations on 53 Street, five music groups and a singer will entertain in shifts: Aesop's Fables is a blue-eyed soul group from New York with a lead singer, an organ, drums, and guitar; The Smubbs, a group of young musicians of the second generation of the rock revolution, describe themselves as "Beatle babies"; the seven-member group The Wind in the Willows plays over 17 instruments between them and specializes in singing and playing their own music; the Feenjon Singers is a vocal and instrumental Near-Eastern folk group featuring songs from Israel, the Arab countries, and the Mediterranean; the Electric String Ensemble plays classical music on electrically amplified instruments; and Marjorie Loren sings continental and folk songs in ten languages, accompanying herself on the guitar.

At The Museum of American Folk Art (49 W. 53 St.) guests can visit Decoys and Wood Fantasies, a collection of a uniquely American folk art - carved and painted birds - and the newly rediscovered wood fantasies of John Scholl. Objects Are...?, an illustration of the increasing interplay among the media by craftsmen, is the 25th anniversary exhibition at The Museum of Contemporary Crafts (29 W. 53 St.) presented by The American Craftsmen's Council. Also on view there are ceramics by Maija Grotell.

The exhibitions at The Museum of Modern Art (11 W. 53 St.) include The Art of the Real: U.S.A. 1948-1968, an exploration of recent developments in American abstract art; Cartier-Bresson: Recent Photographs, about 150 works by one of the greatest 20th-century masters; James Stirling: Three University Buildings; Recent Acquisitions: Painting and Sculpture, and Garbo Film Stills. All the galleries and the Garden will be open. The Museum of Modern Art's participation is sponsored by its Junior Council.

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Crossing over to 54 Street, guests will view Art of the Congo at The Museum of Primitive Art (15 W. 54 St.), a collection of 100 royal sculptures, fetish figures, ritual masks, and metal objects on loan from the Musée Royale de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Belgium.

The New York City Commission to the United Nations, the Mayor's official liason with the United Nations Community, assists this community in its adjustment to the life and culture of the City. Handling individual problems represents the major part of the Commission's daily work and ranges from correcting consumer frauds, to interpreting local educational requirements, to advising on local custom and practice.

In addition, the Commission periodically sponsors large-scale educational and cultural events like this Open House and Street Fair.

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Additional information available from: Sarah Goddard, Executive Director, New York City Commission to the United Nations, 809 United Nations Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10017, 986-4321; or Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. 245-3200.



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Dear Editor:

Here is your invitation to the Museum Open House and Street Fair. We hope you can come.

Since we expect a very full house and may have some difficulty in controlling admission, we would prefer if there were no advance notice and would appreciate your observance of our release date.

We do hope you can join us, however, and will be glad to assist your reporter or representative in any way we can.