

**From:** [City Manager's Office](#)  
**To:** [Merritt Perri](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Arcata Fairy Festival 2025  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025 8:55:12 AM  
**Attachments:** [2025 Save the Date.png](#)  
[image001.png](#)

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Hi Merritt,

This request to waive permit fees for the Arcata Fairy Festival came into the CMO inbox and was also sent to Council.

Thank you,  
Rhiannon



**Rhiannon Lewis-Stephenson** | Executive Assistant/Deputy City Clerk

City Manager's Office, City of Arcata

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[REDACTED]  
Pronouns: she/her

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**From:** Arcata Fairy Festival <[arcatafairyfestival@gmail.com](mailto:arcatafairyfestival@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 10:22 PM  
**To:** City Manager's Office <[citymgr@cityofarcata.org](mailto:citymgr@cityofarcata.org)>  
**Cc:** Kimberley White <[kwhite@cityofarcata.org](mailto:kwhite@cityofarcata.org)>; Stacy Atkins-Salazar <[satkinssalazar@cityofarcata.org](mailto:satkinssalazar@cityofarcata.org)>; Meredith Matthews <[mmatthews@cityofarcata.org](mailto:mmatthews@cityofarcata.org)>; Sarah Schaefer <[sschaefer@cityofarcata.org](mailto:sschaefer@cityofarcata.org)>; Alex Stillman <[astillman@cityofarcata.org](mailto:astillman@cityofarcata.org)>  
**Subject:** Arcata Fairy Festival 2025

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

**Warning: Unusual sender** <[arcatafairyfestival@gmail.com](mailto:arcatafairyfestival@gmail.com)>

You don't usually receive emails from this address. Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Dear Mr. Perry,

I have met you briefly at the Rotary Club of Arcata Sunrise, but haven't really had the pleasure of really having a conversation yet. I hope you're having a great time managing Arcata! I grew up here, went to Arcata High and HSU, have raised my family here, and love Arcata 100%. :-)

I am part of a little group that has put on a variety of events in Arcata including the Arcata Fairy Festival. It was small in 2018 and 2019, didn't happen for 3 years, then made a comeback on 2023 and 2024 with pretty big 5,000+ crowds. It's a very intergenerational, creative, activity-based festival that is really whimsical and inclusive of all the fun dress-up people who love fantasy, music, dance, and art. The first 2 years we partnered with CASA and the next 2 years were with Redwood Raks Collective (a non-profit dance space in Arcata).

Last year was REALLY hard as the co-producer stepped away weeks before the event, and I said we wouldn't do it again with such a small team. We're so excited that almost at the very last minute Playhouse Arts, Arcata's local arts agency, has stepped up to be the host of the festival and the community is so excited. I have been encountering sad people at every event and market I visit, in parking lots, and even in airports worried it wouldn't happen. Finally we get to say yes! We are on the calendar for Sunday, July 27, from 11am-6pm.

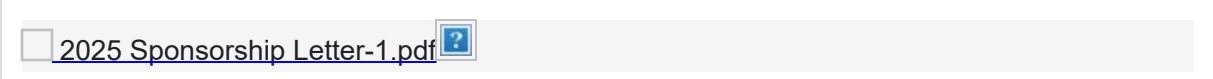
The event is very popular and people appreciate it for all the ways we make free, fun, engaging things for the community members of all ages and the emphasis on creativity, exploration, and much less on drinking. We have lots of craft vendors who feel it's their best event of the year. Food booth priority goes to non-profits and school groups, and this year festival proceeds will benefit the Our Space program of Playhouse Arts and funding to help First 5 Playgroups to continue in Arcata.

Attached is our sponsor letter and you can visit our website, [www.arcatafairfestival.com](http://www.arcatafairfestival.com) to learn even more and see pictures.

I'm writing today to request help from our wonderful City of Arcata to please waive the permit fee for our 2025 event as we try to redesign it to be a little more do-able for our committed volunteer team and help raise funds for our friends at OurSpace and 0-5 year playgroups in Arcata. Our 2024 festival really did not come away with money for the next year, and help from the city would really go a long way to help us bring back this beloved whimsical free festival for the community to enjoy. I don't know if you or the council members have heard from anyone in town, but I hear it a LOT that people want it to happen.

Thank you so much for your consideration - I'd be happy to share more about the festival if you'd like to meet or chat, and it would be lovely to get a chance to talk sometime. During and coming out of the pandemic years I really fell more in love with Arcata, and creating family friendly spaces and events while supporting and cheering on our nonprofits, schools, downtown businesses, and all the tiny businesses of performers and vendors. We are also excited about our Zero Waste goals working with Bright & Green and using reusable dishes and being serious about composting. Also attached is our 2024 festival Infographic report from Bright & Green and we're excited to do even better on this front for 2025. We would be so honored to have the City of Arcata be one of our major festival sponsors this year.

Have a great day,  
Shoshanna



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**2025 Arcata Fairy Festival: Metamorphosis**  
**Sunday, July 27, 11am-6pm @ Arcata Plaza**  
[www.ArcataFairyFestival.com](http://www.ArcataFairyFestival.com)

*Arcata's most magical and whimsical day for all ages and inclinations!*  
*Our festival is presented by Playhouse Arts, Arcata's Local Arts Agency,*  
[www.playhousearts.org](http://www.playhousearts.org)