

From: [REDACTED]
Date: [REDACTED] Culinary Showcase
Tuesday, February 18, 2025 11:58:16 AM

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 30, 2025 3:00 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: San Antonio Featured at Global Culinary Showcase

Final 2024 pitch for FARA filing below.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2024 2:10 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: San Antonio Featured at Global Culinary Showcase

Hello,

Culinary traditions from the U.S. were recently featured at a five-day exhibition in Saudi Arabia that highlighted the rich gastronomic cultures of 25 UNESCO Creative Cities in Gastronomy from across the world.

The **Dates Carnival in Buraydah**, the world's largest celebration of dates, brought together 20 cities from the **UNESCO Creative Cities Network** in an exciting showcase of global culinary exchange.

The U.S. was represented by San Antonio, one of the UNESCO Creative Cities, alongside cities like Mérida (Mexico), Petchurbi (Thailand), and Thessaloniki (Greece). From street food to gourmet dishes, **San Antonio's unique Tex-Mex blend introduced visitors to the heart of its culinary scene.**

I have included the official press release with more information below. **We would love to discuss how this international event showcased San Antonio's cuisine and its role in fostering global culinary collaboration.** Please reach out if you're interested in exploring this story or scheduling an interview with key participants from the event.

Best,

[REDACTED]

|C: (202) 438-1278| [REDACTED]

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Dates Carnival in Buraydah Concludes as 20 Cities Celebrate Culinary Diversity through Creative Cities Exhibition

- From Thailand to Mexico, over 25 cities of the UNESCO's Creative Cities in Gastronomy within the Creative Cities Network hosted pavilions
- Held in the city of Buraydah, the event celebrates culinary and cultural exchange
Buraydah, Saudi Arabia, 15 September 2024 – The Saudi Culinary Arts Commission, one of 11 sectors under the Ministry of Culture, held a Creative Cities Exhibition as part of the Dates Carnival in Buraydah in collaboration with Al Qassim Province and the Qassim Chamber of Commerce. Concluded on September 15, the five-day exhibition celebrated the cultural and culinary diversity of 25 cities. From Thailand to Mexico, USA, Italy, Japan and China, all participating cities are members of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network fosters collaboration with and among cities that have identified creativity as a strategic factor for sustainable urban development.

As part of cultural events held during the Dates Carnival – the largest dates carnival in the world –the exhibition also hosted Saudi cities that are members of the Creative Cities Network including Buraydah, recognized for gastronomy; Al-Ahsa for crafts and traditional arts; and Taif for literature.

Guests delighted in discovering the breadth of culinary and cultural diversity of participating cities, with live cooking demonstrations reflecting different traditions and transporting them across the globe with every bite. Amateur chefs and culinary enthusiasts interacted with professional chefs, learning about new ingredients, innovative flavor combinations and traditional cooking methods that are unique to each creative city.

The Culinary Commission also presented the Aloqilat Museum which included a collection of historical paintings and archaeological artifacts highlighting the culinary significance of the tribes of the Qassim region – a merchant community historically renowned for trading throughout the region.

The host city Buraydah presented pavilions dedicated to dates and alongside pavilion dedicated to Saudi coffee – both symbols of hospitality in the Kingdom. Creative Cities of Taif and Al-Ahsa also presented captivating pavilions in literature and traditional crafts and arts.

The Creative Cities Exhibition at the Dates Carnival celebrated culinary creativity, offering chefs and visitors alike the chance to discover culinary traditions and savor delicacies from around the world.

Participating Creative Cities:

1. Mérida - Mexico
2. Afyonkarahisar - Turkey
3. Petchurbi - Thailand
4. San Antonio - United States
5. Popayán - Colombia
6. Thessaloniki - Greece
7. Bergamo - Italy
8. Bohicon - Benin
9. Cochabamba - Bolivia
10. Paraty - Brazil
11. Florianópolis - Brazil
12. Belo Horizonte - Brazil
13. Macao – China
14. Nkongsamba – Cameroon
15. Iloilo – Philippines
16. Usuki – Japan
17. Tsuruka – Japan
18. AlTaif – Saudi Arabia
19. AlAhsa – Saudi Arabia
20. Buraydah – Saudi Arabia

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For media inquiries, please contact: intl.media@moc.gov.sa

About the Ministry of Culture

Saudi Arabia has a vast history of arts and culture. The Ministry of Culture is developing Saudi Arabia's cultural economy and enriching the daily lives of citizens, residents, and visitors. Overseeing 11 sector-specific commissions, the Ministry works towards the support of and preservation of a vibrant culture that is true to its past and looks to the future by cherishing heritage and unleashing new and inspiring forms of expression for all. Find the Ministry of Culture on social media: X @MOCSaudi (Arabic); @MOCSaudi_En (English) | Instagram @mocsaudi

About the Culinary Arts Commission:

Founded in 2020, the Culinary Arts Commission is leading the further development of the Kingdom's culinary arts sector. By driving investment and building robust regulatory frameworks, the Commission is supporting the next generation of Saudi chefs and hospitality professionals as they aspire to reach their full potential.

Together with the Ministry of Culture, the Commission is working to unlock a thriving cultural sector to preserve and elevate the culinary traditions that make the Kingdom unique.

To learn more about the Culinary Arts Commission, please visit <https://culinary.moc.gov.sa/en> and the commission's pages on Instagram @mocculinary and X @MOCCulinary

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