



Americans Explore Emirati Culture at Smithsonian Folklife Festival

July 8, 2022



The Smithsonian Folklife Festival brought a taste of Emirati culture to the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Developed in partnership with the UAE Ministry of Culture and Youth and the UAE Embassy in Washington, D.C., [United Arab Emirates: Living Landscape | Living Memory](#) was the first nationally recognized event in the US to highlight the Emirates' diverse history and unique culture.

Festivalgoers from across the US participated in diverse workshops led by Emirati artisans and performers, from creating comic strips to blending fragrances, listening to traditional Emirati pearl music, and watching expert weavers create bags, rugs and baskets out of palm leaves. Musical performances and cooking demonstrations also underscored the UAE's diverse society, which is home to over 200 nationalities.

Watch Highlights Video Now



"When [festivalgoers] read about the UAE, they will remember meeting these people, and seeing that they have a warm and relatable experience, and that they will be curious to go to the UAE...[T]hey'll read about the UAE with a sense of this place, of its creativity and its history, of their sense of belonging."

- Michele Bambling, Co-Curator of the Folklife Festival and Visiting Associate Professor at NYU Abu Dhabi



UAE Trade Minister Visits US

H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade, recently [concluded](#) a successful visit to Florida, which focused on expanding the robust UAE-US trade and commercial relationship.

During his visit, Minister Al Zeyoudi met with Broward County Mayor Michael Udine, Ft. Lauderdale Mayor Dean Trantalis, Miramar Mayor Wayne Messam and Chairman of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners Jose "Pepe" Diaz.

Trade between the UAE and Florida totaled nearly \$1.2 billion in 2021. The leaders discussed ways to deepen collaboration, with a focus on investment, tourism, city planning and healthcare.

Minister Al Zeyoudi also attended the US Department of Commerce's SelectUSA Investment Summit. While there, he discussed expanding UAE-US trade and commercial activity during meetings with US Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer.

Learn more about his visit to the US [here](#).

UAE-Florida Trade by the Numbers



In 2021, Florida exported
\$1 billion of goods
to the UAE, making it
ONE OF THE TOP 10 US STATES
exporting to the Emirates.

The Sunshine State's top exports to the UAE include machinery products, nuclear equipment and metals & stone. Exports from Florida to the UAE supported an estimated 6,000 jobs in Florida.

From the Feed



[@USAinUAE](#)

While in Washington, D.C. last week, Chargé d'Affaires Sean Murphy and Dr. Hengameh Murphy visited the #UAE exhibit at the @SmithsonianFolk Festival, where the diversity and vibrancy of Emirati culture was on full display. Thanks @UAEEmbassyUS for the tour! #UnitedPartners USAE



[@StateDept_NEA](#)

Assistant Secretary Leaf had an amazing visit today at the #UAE exhibit at the @SmithsonianFolk festival where the diverse and vibrant Emirati culture was on full display.



[@UAEEmbassyUS](#)

Did you catch the UAE's own Hattem Mattar on @wusa9 this morning? Hattem joined the show to give a preview of what he's cooking for @BBQinDC. #UAEUSA



[@ThaniAlZeyoudi](#)

Cultural exchange should not be quantified by numbers but measured by its power to break down barriers and promote greater understanding



[@state seas](#)

My first stop in the UAE was to Dubai's Crossroads of Civilizations Museum, where its visionary founder Ahmed Al Mansouri showed me the Holocaust Remembrance exhibit. This vitally important exhibit reflects ongoing changes in attitudes and beliefs in the UAE, Gulf and beyond.



Last Month at the UAE Embassy in Washington

- The UAE Executive Office of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorism Finance met with officials from the US Department of the Treasury to discuss close cooperation with the US related to countering money laundering, terrorist financing, and WMD proliferation financing. Learn [more](#).
- DCM Shaima Gargash hosted the Women's Foreign Policy Group at the Embassy for a networking luncheon and Q&A session with Atlantic Council senior fellow Carmiel Arbit. Learn [more](#).

- Ambassador Al Otaiba met with the US Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism (SEAS), Ambassador Deborah E. Lipstadt, for a discussion on the Abraham Accords and religious tolerance. Learn [more](#).
- Chairman of the Department of Health - Abu Dhabi, Abdulla Al Hamed, led a delegation of Emirati health professionals to enhance bilateral collaboration in the healthcare space. During the visit, Mr. Al Hamed inaugurated the Children's National Research and Innovation Campus in Washington, D.C., a new pediatric hub dedicated to developing better medical treatments for children. Learn [more](#).



This Month in History

Two years ago this month, the UAE successfully launched its Mars probe, named Hope, making history as the Arab world's first interplanetary mission.

After traveling 306 million miles during its 7-month journey to the Red Planet, the Hope Probe now orbits Mars and is transmitting data on the planet's atmosphere back to Earth.

The probe was developed in close collaboration with US educational partners University of Colorado Boulder, Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University and University of California, Berkeley.



50 Years of US-UAE Friendship

Learn how the US and UAE are united for the next 50.



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