



**SALINA
ARTS**
& HUMANITIES



ALL-AGES WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE IN ART MAKING AT THE 50TH SMOKY HILL RIVER FESTIVAL

(Salina, KS 03-26) The 50th year of the Smoky Hill River Festival offers hands-on artmaking for all ages, encouraging new experiences and community connection by participating in the “Community Tangle” and Viva La Tinta printmaking demonstrations. No experience is needed, and participation is free with the purchase of a wristband.

Situated along the riverbank near the Kenwood bridge, Prairie Works Design will lead Festivalgoers in a “Community Tangle,” an ethereal art experience. The large-scale communal art installation and participatory performance invite festivalgoers to create side-by-side over the course of the Festival, taking place in Oakdale Park from June 11–14, 2026. This project will be open to public engagement on Friday and Saturday from 10 am – 7 pm and Sunday from 10 am - 4 pm.

During the Festival, “Community Tangle” will evolve in real time, its final form shaped by the collective effort, play, and joy shared by the team of artists and everyone who chooses to participate. The completed piece will stand as a visual representation of community connection and creativity built over the 50-year history of the Smoky Hill River Festival.



“Community Tangle” invites participants to co-create a communal structure using natural materials and hands-on collaboration. Construction materials will include branches, vines, twine, grass, cattails, and other natural materials, with the materials themselves used to bind and secure the forms.

Festivalgoers of all ages are encouraged to take part during the Festival, whether contributing for a few minutes or returning throughout the weekend to help the work transform.



NEWS RELEASE

RELEASE DATE:
Immediate

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DATE SUBMITTED:
May 21, 2026

For those who may want to be more committed to the project over the weekend, and receive direct communications from the artists' team, a signup is available on the Festival website, under the volunteer tab, <https://salinaareunitedway.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=101396> as "Community Tangle." Signup is NOT required to participate.



For those interested in another hands-on project with a take-home element, they can visit Viva La Tinta, a Kansas City-based printmaking group demonstrating inside the handball court near Stage II. This group of printmakers is joining the Festival activities for the first time this year. They will be showing a variety of printmaking processes each day, with times listed in the Festival program and posted at the handball court.

Friday & Saturday: 10 am-11:30 am, 12-2 pm & 4-6 pm
Sunday: 10-11 am & 12-3 pm

Both "Community Tangle" and Viva La Tinta activities are deeply rooted in connection, play, and skill sharing. NO EXPERIENCE is needed for either, just a willingness to try something new.

Festival hours are Thursday, June 11, from 4 pm to 10 pm, Friday and Saturday, from 10 am to 10 pm, and Sunday, June 14, from 10 am to 4 pm. On Thursday, June 11, the Festival opens with food vendors, an art patron party, and the Festival Jam produced by S.M. Hanson Music. Music which starts at 5:45 pm and includes 17 bands playing 12-minute sets for four hours. From Friday through Sunday, the Festival is in full swing with three stages of live entertainment, roving artists, the art show and installations, Artyopolis, and food vendors throughout the weekend.

More information about the Festival will be shared leading up to the event. The Smoky Hill River Festival is a project of the City of Salina. For more information and details or to see volunteer opportunities, visit www.riverfestival.com or call 785-309-5770.

For needed accommodations, please call Amanda Morris at Salina Arts & Humanities at 785-309-5770 Monday – Thursday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Every effort will be made to accommodate known disabilities. For material or speech access, please call at least five working days prior to the event.

Salina Arts & Humanities, a department of the City of Salina, has served a unique role as an arts advocate and resource partner since 1966. The Smoky Hill River Festival, Horizons Grants Program, Smoky Hill Museum, Arts Infusion Program in schools, Community Art & Design, and Creative Connections are among the programs of Salina Arts & Humanities, located at 211 W. Iron Avenue in Salina.

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