

18 December 2015

Queenslanders encouraged to join the Big Day of Belonging

Queenslanders are being encouraged to share in the state's rich cultural diversity at the Big Day of Belonging on 16 January 2016.

Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy Leeanne Enoch said the family event at State Library of Queensland aims to raise people's sense of belonging.

"We all have a desire to belong and connect with others, and this day of cultural entertainment, food and hands-on activities will help bring the community together," Ms Enoch said.

"The event is a terrific way to start the year, by celebrating not only who we are but how we all contribute to Queensland's rich cultural and social life.

"I encourage everyone to join the workshops and be inspired by the musicians, storytellers and creators of wonderful cuisines who will help us appreciate our diversity."

The Big Day of Belonging will feature food from around the world including kangaroo nachos, Fijian-Indian curries and other multicultural dishes from pop-up food stalls.

Influential African-Australian community leader and entrepreneur Sharon Orapeleng will host a program of music and dance from 3pm, and performances by the Verandah Chix and members of the Korean Cultural Centre should not be missed.

Through the *Queensland Faces* exhibition, people can create their own photographic portrait and add it to the digital gallery. They can also make a lantern and take part in a twilight lantern parade.

Acting State Librarian and CEO Jane Cowell said the Big Day of Belonging was about expressing the individual story of who you are, but also about being part of something bigger.

"We're inviting individuals, families and friends to register for the Something Bigger Choir for the day and make it something fun to do together — all backgrounds, ages and levels of experience are welcome," Ms Cowell said.

Ms Cowell said the event was also a good opportunity to celebrate State Library of Queensland's theme for 2016, which is 'belonging'.

"Next year is a year-long celebration of discovery, creating and sharing stories about our connections with places and our culture," she said.

"We want people to talk about what it means to belong and this can be through talks, community days, workshops and online activities."

You can find out more about the Big Day of Belonging by visiting slq.qld.gov.au

Media enquiries

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Big Day of Belonging

Saturday 16 January 2016, 3pm–7.30pm
State Library of Queensland, South Bank

Music on Maiwar

4.30pm–7pm | Maiwar Green

Discover the sounds and dances of Queensland in this celebration of identity, culture and ancestry. Be enchanted by the Verandah Chix with their rare set of cultural heritages and beautiful songs. Join in the Korean Pilbong Nongak, a musical celebration of community spirit, listed as UNESCO “cultural heritage for humanity” and talk with our host, Sharon Orapeleng, recognised as one of the 100 most influential African-Australians.

Something Bigger Choir

3pm–4.15pm | Auditorium 1, level 2

Join the choir and be part of something bigger. You are invited to download and learn two ‘songs of belonging’ then come along to this rehearsal. You can be part of the Something Bigger choir that performs the finale at the magical lantern parade at 7pm. Visit slq.qld.gov.au closer to the date to download the songs.

Singing with the Chix

5pm | Maiwar Green

Learn a song and share in its cultural origins at this workshop with performers from the Verandah Chix. Then sing together on stage with the Verandah Chix at their 6pm performance. All ages and levels of experience welcome.

Lantern making

4pm–6.45pm | Maiwar Green

Drop in anytime to make and decorate a lantern that tells your story and take part in the magical twilight lantern parade at 7pm.

Lantern Parade

7pm–7.30pm | Maiwar Green

Join the magical lantern parade as it weaves around the State Library, finishing in an inspiring musical performance in the knowledge walk. Whether you have made your own lantern, or just want to delight in the spectacle, don’t miss this finale.

Queensland Faces

Exhibition: 10am–6.45pm | Philip Bacon Heritage Gallery, level 4

Check out SLQ’s exciting new *Queensland Faces* exhibition, a survey of varied, unique portraits from SLQ collections taken across time and cultures that seeks to uncover the stories and lives of Queenslanders. Both a contemporary and retrospective showcase, this exhibition reveals untold stories about Queenslanders’ cultural diversity and captures some of the iconic images that reflect the Queensland spirit. Add your photo to the collection too and make your voice part of the story.

Peace and Quiet

Exhibition: 10am–6.45pm | SLQ Gallery, level 2

Explore personal, social and political ideas of peace in *Peace and Quiet*. This community generated exhibition collects the thoughts and gestures of contemporary Queenslanders at peacetime, against the backdrop of growing global political conflict.

Talk to me!

Informal activity: 3pm–7pm | Maiwar Green and throughout SLQ

Do you like a good chat? Break the ice and have a chat with your fellow community members. Grab a speech bubble sticker, tell the crowd what you want them to talk to you about, and prepare to talk!

Paper Puppet Town

Activity: 10am–6pm | Knowledge Walk, level 1

Snip, stick, paste, colour... in just a few easy steps create your own puppet character. Then stay and play in our paper puppet town — don’t forget to take a photo in the puppet portrait studio and upload it to our SLQ family album.

The Peaceful You

Activity: 10am–6.15pm | Knowledge Walk, level 1

Craft a range of wearable items – masks, hats, flowers – that represent a peaceful you. Guide artists and stylists who will help you dress your face and hair to represent your hopes for peace. Your photograph will then be taken against a peaceful backdrop, to be added to the exhibition.

Iconic Queensland pop-ups

Activity: 10am – 6.30pm | Infozone, level 1

Place yourself inside a 3-D version of an iconic Queensland landscape poster. Play and pose in the picture and reinterpret the story as you like. Snap your photo and share.

Colour me mindful

Activity: 3pm–6.30pm | Infozone, level 1

Intended for adults as much as children, mindful colouring-in is a calming and creative activity that's all the rage. People of all ages are called to help colour-in a single large image we have taken from our collections. It's big...so settle in for a group colour-in on the scale of zen.

Food and drink

Purchase a bite to eat or a cool drink at the one of our pop-up eateries and immerse yourself in Queensland's cultural cuisines.