

## **Smithsonian Institution's Folklife Festival June 25-29, July 2-6, 2008 Announces Services for Visitors with Disabilities**

Washington, DC – This summer, the Smithsonian Institution will celebrate cultural diversity with three distinct programs at its 42nd annual Folklife Festival. The Festival will be held Wednesday, June 25 through Sunday, June 29 and Wednesday, July 2 through Sunday, July 6 outdoors on the National Mall between Seventh and 14th streets. Admission is free. Festival hours are from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. each day, with such special evening events as concerts and dance parties beginning at 6 p.m. The Festival is co-sponsored by the National Park Service.

A variety of disability services will be provided for visitors with disabilities to this summer's Festival. Large print and compact disk versions of the daily schedule will be available. With a purchase of a program book guests can request an accessible version of the book which are available at the Information desk and the Volunteer tent. A limited number of wheelchairs will be available for guests to borrow to help maneuver around the different exhibits tents throughout the Festival. Audio loops are installed at the music stages. American Sign Language interpreters are available on site and can be requested at the Volunteer tent: the Festival schedule indicates which performances and presentations are interpreted. The Smithsonian will offer a verbal-description and tactile tour of the Festival for visitors who are blind or have low vision on Thursday, June 26, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.; contact [access@si.edu](mailto:access@si.edu) for reservations. Other modes of interpretation may provided if a request is made with two weeks advanced notice by calling (202) 633-4353 (TTY) or (202) 633-2921 (voice) or by contacting [access@si.edu](mailto:access@si.edu).