

DC FUNK PARADE

What: A festival of funk – a celebration of the timeless force that brings it all together and makes it all move. In honor of the greatest neighborhood in the greatest city on Earth.

When: May 3, 2014 (The date of the District's incorporation - Proposed)

Where: the Greater U Street Neighborhood

Students and old folks, rich and poor, all colors and tastes and every corner of the globe; everybody comes together in D.C., and everybody comes together under the funk. The Funk Parade brings a day when every venue, every beat and every note in the neighborhood is a soulful groove. And every man, woman and child can play a part.

Within a stone's throw of 14th and U, you can find Afro-Brazilian funk – Fela-inspired afrobeats – funky reggae dub – go-go – the Howard and Cardozo marching bands. Batala Washington. The drum circle in Malcolm X Park. To name just a few examples.

The celebration includes:

The Funk Parade street festival: by day, the neighborhood teems with music and performance, artists and vendors, food and art, talks, workshops and spontaneous acts of soul.

The mighty Funk Parade: In the late afternoon sun, see a gyrating horde of dancers moving down U Street. Hear the marching band behind them, and the drummers. And beat-boxers and hula hoopers and junkyard drummers, and pot-bangers and clappers and kids on their parents' shoulders. Horn players wander in and out of the crowd, families come out of their homes to join the procession. A thunderous syncopated army of groove, winding its way through the neighborhood, calling the city to the funk.

The Funk Parade music extravaganza: In the evening, the venues on and around U Street are packed with every soulful, funky music from all corners of the human experience. The sounds of the city's best acts call from every doorway. One night, one spirit, one celebration of funk: the subatomic particle of love.

The Funk Parade -- free your mind and your city will follow.

Call it a party. Call it a festival. Call it a celebration of what makes U Street great, what makes this city great, what makes being alive such a groove. 'Cause everybody's got a little light under the sun.

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