

Palestinian Bazaar Festival, a first in Canada

Labelled as a 'first time ever' Palestinian Bazaar, organizers are excited about staging the one day event.

"Basically it's a festival celebrating the cultural richness of the Palestinian people and the aim of this festival is to celebrate the contributions Palestinians have made to society through a variety of means such as art, film, their products, literature and their music." said event organizer Majeda Fyith.

The one day festival is presented by a local non-profit organization, Humanserve International.

Fyith is one of two directors of Humanserve that are spearheading the planning of the festival.

The full day festival will take place on Saturday March 14 at the TransAlta Arts Barn on 10330 - 84 Ave.

The Palestinian Bazaar will have an exciting lineup of films, art exhibits, vendors, concerts and family fun. The evening concert brings much-anticipated hip-hop artists The Narcicyst, Lowkey and Shadia Mansour, to perform for the first time together in Canada. The "First Lady of Arabic Hip Hop" UK-Palestinian Shadia Mansour has independently become one of the leading female MC's worldwide while Lowkey was recently named one of the Top Ten MC's by MTV. Both are featured in the festival's afternoon screening of the documentary film *Hip Hop Is Bigger Than The Occupation* which explores resistance movements through art in Palestine and will join a panel discussion with the filmmaker Harrabic

tion" said Fyith.

"We just want to focus on the people and celebrate their contributions in order to educate the Canadian public" she added.

"We are thrilled to have such world-renowned filmmakers and artists visiting Edmonton," says Vanessa Ali, President of Humanserve, "along with the great Edmonton talent showcased, they bring the flair and excitement to our inaugural Bazaar — guaranteed to make it a first time success!"

A fashion show along with traditional Arabic music and dance will keep families engaged while delicious food from local vendors, Pita Bake and Cedar Sweets, will keep them full during the afternoon. There's also merchants selling unique Palestinian products

like Zatoun olive oil and exhibitors offering a variety of art and literature activities for children. Edmonton's Ahmed Knowmadic, 2011 Canadian Festival of Spoken Word Champion, will be performing poetry alongside local talents, while event host Minister Faust and local rappers AOK (Omar Moullem), Cousin and People's Poets kick off the evening concert.

There will be activities throughout the day, especially for families, such as traditional arabic music, dance, food and film.

Evening concerts will include hip-hop artists an local rappers and poets.

Included in the festival will be an art display by local and visiting Palestinian artists, some of which had previously dis-

played their art at the Edmonton Art Gallery.

Humanserve partnered with the Canada Palestine Cultural Association of Edmonton to put on the one day festival. HUMANSERVE INTERNATIONAL, Society for Relief and Development, is a non-profit agency registered with the Government of Alberta and governed by a community based board of directors. HS works with a number of local and international NGOs providing educational, community health, development and social services in Lebanon and Palestine. We aim to inform the Canadian public about humanitarian aspects in the Middle East and do so through public engagement activities such as The Palestinian Bazaar.

These activities link international development with community awareness and education in Canada. By making these links, HS works to facilitate a learning process that will enable Canadians to better understand the nature and importance of global issues while encouraging the appreciation of the culture and talent of the people affected by these issues.

For more info visit humanserve.org/bazaar or [@HSIBazaar](http://www.facebook.com/hsibazaar).

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