



April 2018 Almost Fringe Festival - [Call for Participants](#)

Greetings from Events Central! I'm writing from the Mendocino County Tourism Commission (aka Visit Mendocino County, VMC). Our organization promotes the entire county to the outside world with the aim of drawing tourists who will stay overnight in our lodging and patronize our local businesses. One method we use to do this is includes umbrella festivals such as the Crab Wine & Beer Festival and the Mushroom Wine & Beer Festival, both of which have successfully been taking place for nearly 20 years.

In April of 2017 VMC started a new umbrella festival called the **Almost Fringe Festival**. This festival celebrates creativity from artsy to agrarian throughout our county. We welcome visual arts (painting, sculpture, photography, and the like) and performing arts (dance, theater, music), spoken word (storytelling, poetry), culinary arts (from pop-up feasts and mobile food trucks to high-end cuisine) as well as other fun pastimes that people enjoy in the springtime including nature walks, seaside activities, fringy farm stays, or anything slightly (or overtly) quirky that will pique the interest of guests.

We invite businesses, organizations and individuals county-wide to be part of this wonderful festival! Please put on your creative thinking caps and get back to us with your Almost Fringe offering. For those wanting to participate, but unsure what to do, we can help!

-If you have a venue but don't know what to do, we will brainstorm with you about possibilities.

-If you're an artist but don't know of a venue, we'll take your info to pass along to potential places.

For either scenario, [use this link](#) to get us your information. MCTC also offers funds of up to \$2,500 for qualifying events. [Click here](#) to read the criteria for funding and download an application or go to www.mendocinotourism.org/opportunities/. There you'll also find [a link to sign-up!](#)

In order for the all parts of the county to have their time in the spotlight and create a 'critical mass' of events in one area, we've broken the festival down by region, with one weekend dedicated to each. For April 2018 we will have the following dates*:

April 6, 7 & 8 – **101 Corridor** (Hopland, Ukiah, Willits, Laytonville, Leggett, Covelo,)

April 13, 14 & 15 – **North Coast** (Albion, Little River, Mendocino, Fort Bragg, Westport)

April 20, 21 & 22 – **128 Corridor** (Yorkville, Boonville, Philo, Navarro)

April 27, 28 & 29 – **South Coast** (Gualala, Pt Arena, Anchor Bay, Manchester, Irish Beach, Elk)

*While we encourage events to fall under the above dates, it is not necessary to be part of the Almost Fringe Fest.

Take a look at the flipside of this sheet to see highlights of our last Almost Fringe Fest. Don't hesitate to contact me for more information or have your questions answered. For promotional purposes, deadline for entries is February 8. Let's get this party started by [signing up here](#). . . and here's to a very Fringy April!

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Wondering what's been done in the past? Here are just a few great events from our 2017 Almost Fringe Festival ~

DRAW TIL YOU DROP: An art marathon held at Willits' Center for the Arts, with contestants creating in the medium of their choice until the last artist stood! Participation is open by signing up in advance or stopping by as a spectator and bidding on the pieces of your liking.

DYSTOPIAN PROM: Flynn Creek Circus, Circus Mecca and Mendocino Dance Project teamed up at Mendocino's Crown Hall for a steam punk inspired costumed prom mixed with acts of daring! There was a DJ, dancing, survival games, circus acts, vendors and arts.

GOAT FEST: Held at the Boonville Fairgrounds in conjunction with the Unity Club's Wildflower Festival (a draw in and of itself), this agrarian adventure offered a true slice of country living including a goat milking contest, costumed goat parade and Birria (a goat stew) Cookoff. Vendors and live music topped off the fun.

PAINTING WITH A GIRAFFE: The long necked, four-legged inhabitants of this African hoof stock preserve located outside Pt Arena assisted their human visitors in the creation of painted abstract compositions on canvas ... talk about collaboration!

In the Spotlight: POINT ARENA'S MAIN STREET FRINGE FESTIVAL!

In an example of what is possible when an entire community comes together for a festival like this, the Point Arena Merchant's Association gathered the majority of businesses along their Main Street to create one big Block Party! The day included live music, dancing, street vendors, fashion performance art, plus garden tours and fun farm days for the whole family! It's our goal to have each region in the county develop their own community-wide fringe festival offering. Below are some photos of Pt. Arena's event to spur some ideas/inspiration.

