



Friday, October 14, 2011

Second celebration for Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge planned

by [Sarah Blaskovich](#)

It's called Bridge-o-Rama and will take place almost solely in West Dallas.

DALLAS — When the [Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge over the Trinity River](#) opens the first weekend in March 2012, West Dallas residents and volunteers will celebrate with a three-day festival called [Bridge-o-Rama](#). The bridge connects downtown Dallas to West Dallas, an important link both logistically and ideologically for the identity of West Dallasites.

"The West," as they say, "is yet to come," said Randall White, chairman of Bridge-o-Rama.

At a meeting Friday afternoon near the base of Santiago Calatrava's famed bridge, dozens of West Dallas supporters came to hear the plan for their festival. There was a spirit of forward progress in the room, punctuated by White's speech. "The river should no longer be the dividing ground in our city," he said.

Before explaining Bridge-o-Rama's eight events, it's important to note that [another Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge celebration -- the "official" one -- is already planned for that weekend](#) by The Trinity Trust. Bridge-o-Rama organizers call their festival "a side show." It appears to be more grass roots, and they seem to like it that way.

"This one has grown up in West Dallas," said Jeff Herrington, part of the all-volunteer team. "We wanted to have our own festival."

Bridge-o-Rama is sponsored by the West Dallas Chamber of Commerce and consists of eight events:

El Cemento: Friday through Sunday, March 2-4: This historical exhibit honors the Mexican and Mexican American workers who made their living in the cement industry in West Dallas. It wi



Photo by Sarah Blaskovich

View of the Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge from West Dallas

be housed inside the Southern Star, a concrete facility at the base of the bridge.

Tejas Village: Friday through Sunday, March 2-4: Native Americans from the Caddo tribe were some of West Dallas' first inhabitants. A replica of an Indian village will be on display.

Spread: Friday through Sunday, March 2-4: A food-tasting festival will spotlight three to six local restaurants. Two of the restaurants will be the new concept from the owners of Bolsa and Smoke [in what used to be Jack's Backyard](#); it will open by March 1. Also included in Spread will be several tenants of the [new Sylvan Thirty complex](#): potentially including a butcher, a boutique wine shop, and others, according to White.

Parade of Giants: Saturday afternoon, March 3: Large puppets of notable people in West Dallas history will parade across the bridge. Laura Cadena, co-chair of Bridge-o-Rama, said Bonni & Clyde and Barefoot Sanders may be some of the dignitaries made into puppets.

World Music Stage: Saturday night, March 3: The [Kessler Theater](#) is helping choose musicians with West Dallas or Oak Cliff ties to perform. Bands and locations haven't been finalized.

Come Home: Sunday morning, March 4: West Dallas churches are urged to host "homecoming services" in their congregations, and a combined ceremony will take place near the bridge.

March West: Entire month of March: Discounts will be available to businesses in West Dallas and Oak Cliff.

Urban Emergence: Date TBA: A 90-minute seminar will give information about West Dallas and Oak Cliff and showcase architects and neighborhoods.