



FOUR DAYS. ONE CITY. ENDLESS FINNISH SPIRIT.

SEPTEMBER 17-20, 2026 | MINNEAPOLIS

Hilton Minneapolis Downtown + American Swedish Institute



HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

Music. Ideas. History.
Food. Art. Wellness.
Community.

Everyone is welcome.

WELCOME TO FINNEAPOLIS

Your FinnFest weekend, at a glance.

Use this page to choose your days and special experiences. Program titles and presenters begin on page 4.

THURSDAY	SEPT. 17	FRIDAY	SEPT. 18
7:00 AM	CURATED TOURS Separate ticket; transportation and lunch included. Depart from the Hilton lobby and return before Convocation.	9 AM-5 PM	PROGRAMS + FREE TORI The Tori Exhibit Hall is free to enter for anyone. Exhibitors sell Nordic goods and FinnFest merchandise. The Tori Stage features live music all day.
3:00 PM	REGISTRATION OPENS Festival registration opens on the Hilton's second floor; hotel check-in begins at the same time.	MIDDAY	A VERY FINNISH LUNCHEON Separate ticket at Norway House. A catered Nordic business luncheon with Finnish and local leaders.
5:00 PM	OPENING CONVOCATION Hidden in Plain Sight comes to life through music, poetry, welcome remarks and Finnish-American stories.	EVENING	HEADLINER AT THE CABOOZE Free with a FinnFest pass. International headliner announcement coming soon.
6:30 PM	RECEPTION + LIVE MUSIC Paid Thursday Reception Ticket required. Gather, reconnect and celebrate opening night.		
Tours may be enjoyed on their own; no other FinnFest ticket is required.		Festival programming and the Tori are on the Hilton's second floor.	
SATURDAY	SEPT. 19	SUNDAY	SEPT. 20
9 AM-4 PM	PROGRAMS + FREE TORI Big ideas, stories, wellness, workshops and a full day of live music and performance.	11 AM-4 PM	SUNDAY AT ASI Music, art, weaving, kantele, games and creative experiences throughout the American Swedish Institute.
5:00 PM	SHUTTLES TO MINNEHAHA PARK Transportation begins for the Finlandia Foundation Finnish-American Independence Celebration.	ALL DAY	EXPLORE ASI Visit the featured exhibition, tour Turnblad Mansion, browse the Museum Store and stop at FIKA Café.
EVENING	DECLARATION OF SISU Music, dancing, food and a live celebration of Finnish-American roots. Dinner options will be available for purchase.	FAMILIES	CREATE, PLAY + DISCOVER Finn Fun Day, youth art, board games and welcoming hands-on activities for many ages.
Daytime programming ends at the Hilton before 4:00 PM.		A Sunday ticket includes FinnFest programming and ASI museum admission.	

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

Finnish influence is woven through American history, music, design, labor, food and daily life. FinnFest brings those overlooked connections into view—and opens the door to an even larger Minneapolis festival in September 2027.

PLAN YOUR WEEKEND

Tickets, hotel and helpful links.

Choose a single day, join us for the full festival or become one of the Founding 250. Prices below are before Eventbrite service fees. Select events, tours and special experiences may require separate tickets.

PASS	PRICE	WHAT IT OPENS
4-Day Festival Pass	\$130 through Aug. 31 \$145 beginning Sept. 1	Core programming Thursday through Sunday at the Hilton and ASI.
Founding 250	\$250	Replaces FinnFest memberships. Support our donor-powered festival while enjoying full access, limited-edition goods, VIP benefits and Saturday dinner.
Thursday	\$35	Tours, Opening Convocation and reception.
Friday	\$45	Ticketed programming, film and festival experiences. Tori admission is free.
Saturday	\$45	Ticketed programming and signature experiences. Tori admission is free.
Sunday at ASI	\$30	Family-friendly programming, exhibits and museum experiences.
Sunday Family Package	\$50	Two adults plus children age 12 and under.
Student Day / 4-Day	\$20 / \$65 with ID	Affordable access for students.
Children	Free, age 12 and under	Must attend with a paid adult.
Tours	\$80-\$100	Limited-capacity curated experiences; separate ticket.



GET YOUR FINNFEST PASS

Use the QR code or visit [FinnFest.us](https://finnfest.us) to choose your ticket.

BOOK THE HILTON BY AUGUST 16

Downtown Minneapolis hotel rooms are already mostly sold out for festival weekend because of multiple major events. To guarantee a room at a reasonable rate, reserve through the official FinnFest hotel link before August 16.

Stay where the festival happens - with an on-site sauna, indoor pool, Starbucks, dining and the Topgolf Swing Suite.



Official hotel link: [Book the FinnFest room block](#)

OPENING DAY

Curated Thursday Tours

SEPARATE TICKET

Begin FinnFest beyond the ballroom with limited-capacity experiences exploring Finnish-American heritage, regional communities and Finland-Minnesota business connections. Tour details and separate tickets will be announced.

Opening Convocation: Hidden in Plain Sight

Emceed by Justin Juntunen

FinnFest 2026 officially opens with welcomes, Finland's and America's national anthems, dignitary greetings, music, poetry and reflections on important Finnish-American anniversaries.

Evening Reception

FESTIVAL GATHERING

Stay for refreshments, conversation and the first chance to reconnect with friends from across the country.

Opening Night Live Music

Eepi Ursin, Ida Metsberg, Kyle Gray Young and International Headliner - Coming Soon!

Celebrate the start of FinnFest with a high-energy mix of Finnish and Finnish-American voices - plus an international headliner to be announced.

WHAT THURSDAY SETS IN MOTION

A Weekend of Discovery

FESTIVAL THEME

Across four days, FinnFest reveals the people, ideas and cultural connections that have often been hidden in plain sight - from colonial America to contemporary Finland.

Everyone Is Welcome

FINNFEST USA

FinnFest brings together Finnish Americans, Finnish citizens and anyone curious about Finland, the Nordic region and the communities they have shaped.



MAKE IT A FINNFEST WEEKEND

Thursday opens the door. Friday and Saturday fill the Hilton with concurrent programs, workshops, the Tori and live music. Sunday moves to ASI for a relaxed, family-friendly finale.

FRIDAY BUSINESS NETWORKING

A Very Finnish Luncheon

SEPARATE TICKET | NORWAY HOUSE

Hosted by the Finnish American Chamber of Commerce, this catered Nordic luncheon gives a curated group of Finnish and local businesses a chance to briefly present their companies and products, then move into smaller, personal conversations.

Peter Anderson of the Finnish American Chamber of Commerce and Agency 61 will welcome guests. Featured voices include Robert G. Strand of UC Berkeley and Elias Revonta, founder and CEO of Orcason Medical, along with visiting Finnish businesses, sponsors, local companies and dignitaries.

FRIDAY NIGHT AT THE CABOOZE

International Headliner Event at The Cabooze - a unique evening you won't want to miss.

HISTORY, HERITAGE AND THE FINNISH-AMERICAN STORY

Finnish Immigration Waves in American History**Sirpa Aho**

Follow 250 years of Finnish migration and see how each wave reshaped the meaning of Finnish America.

The Modern Finnish Remigrant**Craig Curtis and Nan Riikola Burton · virtual presentation**

What does it take to move to the country your ancestors left? Hear candid stories of building a new life in modern Finland.

America, 1776; Finland, 1917**Sharon Franklin-Rahkonen**

Two nations stepped out from empires against daunting odds. Compare the paths that carried each toward lasting independence.

John Morton Genealogy**Auvo Kostiainen**

Genealogy and genomic research trace a signer of the Declaration of Independence back to the Forest Finns of Central Finland.

Forest Finns: The First Finnish Immigrants to America**Frank Eld**

Meet the Forest Finns who arrived in the Delaware Colony beginning in 1638—and the communities they created.

John Morton and the Declaration of Independence**Jay Smith · Finlandia Foundation National Lecturer of the Year 2026**

Discover the Finnish ancestry behind one consequential vote in America's founding story.

John Morton: A Panel Discussion**Frank Eld, Auvo Kostiainen and Jay Smith**

Three experts connect genealogy, migration and the Declaration—then open the conversation to you.

The Delaware 1938 Celebrations and John Morton as Seen from Finland**Auvo Kostiainen**

Why did Finland and Sweden commemorate the Delaware colony 300 years later? Revisit a celebration charged with history and identity.

Aapo Similä's Concert Tour to America, 1938-39**Carl Rahkonen**

A rare look at what one touring Finnish artist saw in America—and how Finnish communities saw themselves on the eve of World War II.

Finnish and American Labor History**John Hanson**

A family story from the explosive 1934 Minneapolis Truckers' Strike opens a transatlantic look at how workers fought for better lives.

American Immigration History**Jim Johnson**

Bring family stories out of the keepsake box and into the larger American immigration story.

Stories from Finnish America**Finnish Historical Society of America**

Community memories, overlooked histories and the voices that keep Finnish America alive.

FINLAND AND AMERICA TODAY

Apply for a Fulbright to Finland · Young Professionals**Edward Sivak**

Turn curiosity into a real application plan with guidance from a Fulbright Finland alumnus.

Apply for a Fulbright to Finland · Advanced Career Professionals**Edward Sivak with Fulbright alumni**

Hear what Fulbright looked like before, during and after the award—and how established professionals can make a strong case.

Helping Finland Know America**Presenter to be announced**

How can ordinary people move beyond stereotypes and help Finland encounter a fuller, more human picture of America?

Grassroots Diplomacy Panel**SAM, Fulbright, FinnFest and Finlandia Foundation National**

See how exchanges, cultural organizations and citizen relationships create diplomacy from the ground up.

Finnish Architecture in America**Peter MacKeith**

From Saarinen to Aalto—and from familiar buildings to the Gateway Arch—see the Finnish ideas hiding in America's built landscape.

Finnish and U.S. Diplomatic Relations: A Post-WWII Example**Presenter to be announced**

A focused story of people and policy reveals one chapter in the modern Finland-U.S. relationship.

FinnFest Film Panel Discussion**Julia Korpinen**

Go behind Finnish and Finnish-American stories on screen and explore what film can reveal that history books sometimes miss.



CULTURE, WELLNESS AND CREATIVE TRADITIONS

The Kalevala as World Literature

Thomas DuBois and panelists

Why did Finland's national epic travel so far? Explore the Kalevala's surprising place on the world literary stage.

Balancing Your Body, Brain and Nervous System with Asahi

Dr. Linda Chamberlain

Move, breathe and reset with a Finnish mind-body practice designed for calm, mobility and balance—no equipment required.

5- and 10-String Kantele Workshop

Kay Seppala

Bring your instrument and deepen your playing through music from the Finnish Heritage Hymnbook.

5-String Kantele Workshop

Margaret Vainio

Five strings are enough to make music. Learn simple chords and join a welcoming rehearsal for new players.

Kantele Recital and Hymn Singalong

Kay Seppala and Margaret Vainio

Hear new arrangements, sweet small-kantele sounds and beloved hymns your grandparents may have known—then sing along.

How to Sing the Kalevala and Rune-Along

Karen Ba

Feel the rhythm of runomitta, learn the tradition of runolaulu and add your own voice to the rune-along.

An American Voice for Finnish Food Culture

Beatrice Ojakangas

How did remembered immigrant foods become The Finnish Cookbook? Celebrate the book—and the woman—who helped generations taste home again.

The Story of Why We Are Here

Anna-Mari Laulumaa

If your family came from Ostrobothnia, bring your memories and questions to a conversation spanning generations and an ocean.

A Dance Across Centuries: The Minuet in Ostrobothnia

Renee Vaughan

Hear live tunes, trace a courtly dance into village life and try a few steps from a tradition still thriving in Finland.

LIVE TRADITIONS AND THE TORI STAGE

Boys of Winter

Bill Jamerson

A ski jumper with a guitar brings the Flying Finns, Great Depression tournaments, mischief and sisu roaring back to life.

Salolampi Singalong

Lily Obeda and Susan Harstad

Raise your voice in a relaxed singalong inspired by the language and music of Salolampi.

Kisarit Traditional Dance Performance

Kisarit

Waltzes, humppa, quadrilles and regional dances turn Finnish tradition into joyful motion.

The Tori Nordic Fair Is Free to Enter

FREE PUBLIC ADMISSION

Come for live Nordic music, exhibitors, Nordic wares and FinnFest merchandise—no festival pass required.

Morning Asahi

Margaret Vainio

Wake up the Finnish way with gentle movement you can follow standing or seated.

Ida and Kyle

Ida Metsberg and Kyle Gray Young

Finnish and English covers, originals, stories—and perhaps enough Marimekko to count as a fashion show.

Kristie Cunningham

Kristie Cunningham

Singer. Songwriter. Snappy dresser. Smart aleck. Expect originals, unexpected covers and plenty of personality.

Ruut • Finlandia Foundation Performer of the Year 2026

Ruut

Preview Motherland, an intimate musical journey through Finnish mythology, heritage and personal storytelling.

International Headliner • Coming Soon!

ARTIST ANNOUNCEMENT COMING SOON

A major international artist is joining the FinnFest lineup. Watch for the reveal.

My Finnish Soul, Vol. 2 • Album Release Concert

Eepi Ursin

Beloved Finnish classics meet new songs of migration, homesickness, forests, lakes and sisu.

Jonathan Rundman

Jonathan Rundman

Finnish-American folk music, family, storytelling and wit from a FinnFest favorite.



BIG IDEAS, LANGUAGE AND GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Finnish and U.S. Diplomatic Relations

Robert Anzenberger and David Scott Witwer

Follow the relationship from Finland's independence through war, the Cold War and today.

Nordic Capitalism: Lessons for America

Robert G. Strand · keynote

Move beyond the 'socialist' stereotype and examine how Nordic democratic capitalism links business performance with social well-being.

Responding to Nordic Capitalism

Moderated by Tom Hanson, Global Minnesota

A lively response panel tests the keynote's ideas against real questions about government, society and American life.

Finnish Business Leaders in Conversation

Organized with the Finnish American Chamber of Commerce

Go beyond the pitch deck as Finnish leaders discuss how they work with employees, customers, communities and global markets.

Building Community-Centered Connections Between Finland and the USA

Elaine Kumpula and Edward Sivak

From Minneapolis-Kuopio to Cleveland-Vantaa, see how sister cities and exchange agreements turn goodwill into action.

Finland and Migration

Jussi Juhiainen

Finland was once a nation people left. Who is arriving now—and how is the country changing in response?

Traveling to Finland Panel

Panelists to be announced

Bring your questions—or your own recent adventures—to a practical conversation about seasons, regions and Nordic travel.

Finnish in North America: In Virtaranta's Footsteps

Presenter to be announced

Finnish is not only a foreign language in America—it is an American language shaped by contact, adaptation and change.

The Finno-Ugric World Tour

Gage Keranen

Take a lively journey through the languages, peoples and surprising connections of the wider Finno-Ugric world.

Using History to Tell Stories in a Digital World

Mark Munger

See how records, books, films and music can build historical fiction that feels true—and find readers in a changing world.

STORIES AND CULTURAL MEMORY

Writing Your Family Stories

Sheila Packa

Stop saying 'someday.' Guided prompts will help beginning and experienced writers put family places, people and memories on paper.

Poetry Reading

Greg Watson and Diane Jarvenpa

Two Minnesota voices share poetry grounded in place, heritage, memory and contemporary life.

Writers for Democratic Action

Writers for Democratic Action

Writers consider storytelling, public life and what the written word can do in a democracy.

A Good Story Wants to Be Told

Donna Salli and Doreen Salli

Two sisters share funny, tender and complicated Finnish family stories—then help you find the story that wants to be told in your own family.

The Necessary and Persistent Ole & Lena

Loren Niemi

Come for the jokes; stay for the sly cultural insight. Bring your favorite Ole and Lena story to share.

Nordic Poetry Slam

Participating poets

An open mic for poets—and an invitation for listeners to become part of the energy in the room.

Lost Songs of the Suomi Synod

Jonathan Rundman

Hear Finnish immigrant songs unheard in North America for a century, recovered through a fifteen-year musical expedition.

St. Croix Avenue, Duluth

Duluth Finnish American Historical Society

Then-and-now images, maps and neighborhood stories revive a once-vibrant Finnish immigrant hub now known as Canal Park Drive.

CULTURE, WELLNESS AND HANDS-ON TRADITIONS

Howling With Huskies

Dr. Linda Chamberlain

Why does howling like a husky help release stress? Try evidence-based tools children and adults can use to feel calmer and more resilient.

Asahi Nordic

Margaret Vainio

Reset between programs with gentle Finnish movements that support balance, mobility and calm.

Sauna: A Sacred Space for Natural Wellness

Lisa Steinmann and panelists

Go beyond the hot room: explore community, storytelling, skin care, body work, cold plunges and the vihta/vasta.

A Medieval Stringed Instrument from Turku

Alice Margerum

See and hear a reconstruction of a rare medieval instrument discovered near Turku Cathedral after nearly a century out of the spotlight.

Kantele Music: Rooted in Tradition

Sheila Coughlin

Hear 5-string, 11-string and large kanteles while tracing a 2,000-year-old tradition into one musician's Finnish-American journey.

Kahvitauko Finnish Conversation Practice

Lily Obeda

Grab coffee and use your Finnish in a welcoming conversation—from first words to fluent speech.

Five Finnish Women Making Their Mark in America

Eepi Ursin, Ida Metsberg, Petra Jasmiina, Johanna Telander and Ruut · keynote panel

Five Finland-born artists speak candidly about creativity, identity and building artistic lives in America.

TORI STAGE · LIVE MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE

The Tori Nordic Fair Is Free to Enter

FREE PUBLIC ADMISSION

Live music, exhibitors, Nordic shopping and FinnFest merchandise are open to everyone—no festival pass required.

Petra Jasmiina

Petra Jasmiina featuring Scott Tran

Original chamber pop and folk open a modern world of Finnish fairytale and folklore.

Johanna Telander

Johanna Telander

A Finland-born artist brings a distinctive voice and theatrical storytelling to the Tori stage.

Ida Metsberg

Ida Metsberg

Finnish and English originals and covers from a warm, magnetic singer-songwriter.

Kyle Gray Young

Kyle Gray Young

Finnish-American songwriting rooted in story, identity and connection.

Lindula Brothers

Lindula Brothers

Finnish-American folk and bluegrass with family spirit and serious musicianship.

Northern Stars Sámi Girls

Northern Stars Sámi Girls

Finnish-American dance music reawakened with a classical spark.

Kivajat Traditional Dance Performance

Kivajat

Young dancers bring the color and energy of Karelian tradition—then invite the audience to join.

Singalong with Popular Finnish Tunes

Suomi Finland 100 Choir

Sing Finnish evergreens and new pop favorites with a joyful community chorus.

Charlotte Loukola

Charlotte Loukola

A distinctive live voice joins Saturday's Finnish and Finnish-American music lineup.

Finnish-American Folk Music

Lauluaika

Waltzes, polkas, humppa, jenkka and more keep Finnish-American dance music moving.



DECLARATION OF SISU

A Finnish-American Independence Celebration

PRESENTED BY FINLANDIA FOUNDATION

Celebrate the hidden signers of American freedom and the Finnish-American roots woven into the nation's founding.

The John Morton Story - Live on Stage

LIVE THEATRICAL PERFORMANCE

John Morton signed the Declaration of Independence - and carried Finnish ancestry into a defining moment in American history.

Nordic Music and Dancing

LIVE MUSIC + COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

Enjoy Nordic music and dancing together, with plenty of space to join in or simply take it all in.

Finnish Flavors

FOOD, CANDY, SWEETS + TREATS

Look for Finnish fare and Nordic treats to enjoy as the evening unfolds.

Air Guitar Competition

SISU NOT REQUIRED - BUT ENCOURAGED

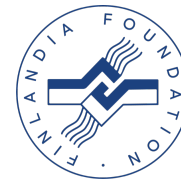
Bring your best power-ballad energy and join a playful FinnFest celebration.

FINNISH ROOTS, AMERICAN SOIL

American history comes alive with heart, humor and Nordic spirit - all in one memorable Saturday evening.

DID YOU KNOW?

John Morton - signer of the Declaration of Independence - was Finnish-American. He did not just sign his name. He felt the sisu.



Finlandia
Foundation
National

PRESENTED BY FINLANDIA FOUNDATION

WITH THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

Minneapolis
Arts & Cultural Affairs

Agency61

ASI
AMERICAN
SWEDISH
INSTITUTE

FACC
FINNISH AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MORE DETAILS COMING

Final event details will be shared once the Saturday evening plan is confirmed.

FEATURED AT THE AMERICAN SWEDISH INSTITUTE



Eyes as Big as Plates - Riitta Ikonen and Karoline Hjorth

Eyes as Big as Plates

FEATURED ASI EXHIBITION - INCLUDED WITH YOUR SUNDAY PASS

Finnish-Norwegian artist duo Riitta Ikonen and Karoline Hjorth create surreal portraits of people immersed in organic materials from their surroundings. What began as a playful exploration of Nordic folklore now spans more than 160 portraits across 17 countries and five continents. More than 30 portraits are displayed throughout the Turnblad Mansion, inviting visitors to reconsider our relationship with nature.

Your Sunday Pass Includes More at ASI

INCLUDED SUNDAY EXPERIENCE

Take a self-guided walk through the 33-room Turnblad Mansion, browse the Museum Store and make time for coffee, pastries or lunch at FIKA Café.

ART, HERITAGE AND LEARNING

John Morton: Finnish-American Signer of the Declaration of Independence

Jay Smith - Finlandia Foundation National Lecturer of the Year 2026

An illustrated look at John Morton's Finnish ancestry and his role in America's founding.

Rugs, Raanu and Rya: The Legacy of Finnish Weaving

Presenter to be announced

Learn about Finnish weaving traditions, materials and the stories carried through rugs and textiles.

Rag Rug Follow-Up

Presenter to be announced

Bring your questions - and family rugs if you wish - for a closer conversation about construction, history and care.

Young Professionals Networking Event

FinnFest Young Leaders Board

Meet emerging leaders, build connections and find new ways to engage with Finland and Finnish America.

HANDS-ON AND FAMILY EXPERIENCES

Mark Your Sauna Towel

Lisa Steinmann

Create a personalized sauna towel while learning about the cultural role of Finnish sauna textiles.

5-String Kantele Workshop

Kay Seppala

Try Finland's national instrument in an accessible, hands-on session for curious beginners and returning players.

FinnFest: The Gathering

Hosted by FinnFest USA

A social gathering for ages 13 and up featuring tabletop games, trading card games and more.

Board Games

Lily Obeda

Relax, play and connect over a selection of games with a Finnish and Nordic spirit.

Finn Fun Day

Hosted by Katja Zarns and the Finnish American Association of the Twin Cities

Outdoor games and playful activities welcome families to move, laugh and celebrate together.

Finnish Fun Arts Experiences

Presenters to be announced

Creative, age-appropriate art experiences designed especially for children ages 6-12.

MUSIC AND COMMUNITY

ASI Cloudberries

ASI Cloudberries

Enjoy pop-up singing in different locations throughout ASI during the afternoon.

Ponyfolk

Ponyfolk

Modern Nordic folk music in an intimate Sunday setting.

Open Nordic Jam

Community musicians

Bring an instrument or simply listen - all instruments and skill levels are welcome.

PLAN YOUR ASI VISIT

American Swedish Institute

SUNDAY VENUE

2600 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55407. Free parking is available in ASI's lot at 27th Street and Park Avenue. Visit the exhibition page for more details.

Explore *Eyes as Big as Plates* at ASI

A NORDIC LANDMARK



Explore the Turnblad Mansion

INCLUDED WITH YOUR SUNDAY PASS

Often called the Castle, the 1908 Turnblad Mansion is a Minneapolis landmark with 33 distinctive rooms, hand-carved stonework, historic tile stoves and memorable architectural details. Your Sunday FinnFest experience includes self-guided access.



PLAN YOUR ASI DAY

Scan for exhibition details and visitor information.



START TO FINNISH.

SEPTEMBER 17-20, 2026

Come for a day or make a weekend of it.
Bring a friend. Bring your family.
You do not have to be Finnish to belong here.

TICKETS: [FINNFEST.US](https://finnfest.us)

Program lineup and presenters are subject to change.

