



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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### **DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION CANCELS MIDNIGHT SUN FESTIVAL DUE TO COVID-19**

The Downtown Association of Fairbanks announces the cancellation of the 2020 Midnight Sun Festival. Due to the number of participants in the thousands, it is uncertain that this event could function under distancing and sanitation guidelines provided by health organizations and mandated by government. This decision to cancel is made in the best interest of community health. "We held out hope that June 21 would be far enough out to hold the 38th Midnight Sun Festival to help revive a sense of normalcy" said David van den Berg, Executive Director of the Downtown Association. "But with the uncertainty and costs of re-opening to mitigate Covid-19, we now accept that June 21 is too soon to go forward with such a major community event."

The Midnight Sun Festival is Alaska's largest single day event. It is a community celebration of life in the land of the Midnight Sun, and a fundraiser for the Downtown Association's work and partnerships to improve downtown. "There will be reason to celebrate in the future", van den Berg said. "And when there is, it's likely to be downtown."

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