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Dear Exhibitor/Vendor:

The Slater Mill Labor and Ethnic Heritage Festival 2009 asks you to consider participation in our Sunday, August 30th event. Slater Mill is a National Historic Landmark site noted for its prominence in the history of industry, invention, and labor in America...by way of Rhode Island. Therefore, we are proud to announce this year's Labor and Ethnic Heritage Festival theme: "MADE IN RHODE ISLAND."

As a potential vendor or exhibitor, your participation is as central to the success of the Festival as is the work of our performing artists or the demonstrations of our interpreters and artisans. And whether you are a lifelong Rhode Islander or a vendor who will join us from another region for the day, we hope you will have a great "MADE IN RHODE ISLAND" experience woven from the following Labor and Ethnic Heritage Festival featured things to see and do.

Award-winning local and regional performing artists on two stages offering high energy traditional and ethnic folk music and dance by the banks of the Blackstone River and its amazing "falls" that earned the fame: America's Hardest Working River!"

Slater Mill: the internationally revered 1793 wooden mill and textile machinery museum designated as birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution. The Sylvanus Brown House and Garden: a showcase of colonial domestic life and craft and work. The Wilkinson Mill: a magnificent rubble stone mill featuring a replica, based on archaeological evidence, of its massive iconic water wheel. Slater's Community Guild Studios: meet members and artists from local and regional guilds (quilters, basket makers, spinners, felters, knitters, weavers, and surface designers) that have chosen Slater Mill and the Jencks Education Center as the place to convene and to create! Activities for children such as games, petting zoo, and special events; an array of Rhode Island labor unions and arts/cultural organizations that tell the story of working life in Rhode Island from Slater's day to today; local treats such as frozen lemonade and foods that offer a taste of Rhode Island.

Applications received from potential vendors and demonstrators by the due date will be reviewed and selections will be made from among them to achieve a balanced presentation for the Festival. Please be advised that filing an application does not guarantee that a vendor will be selected for participation this year. We very much appreciate your art or craft, or the work of your organization and your interest in this year's Slater Mill Labor and Ethnic Heritage Festival. Please complete and return the enclosed application and any required supporting material.

Please contact me by email at festivals@slatermill.org if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Mary Lee Partington
Coordinator, Labor & Ethnic Heritage Festival