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News

CCCA Block Party offers a diversion from summer heat

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DENTON Despite the heat, people flocked to The Foundry in Denton July 17 for the Caroline Council of Arts free block party.

The event featured a wide variety of activities for attendees of any age to enjoy, along with music by Dave and Stix and food from Butch Frase's Grill on Wheels. The food selection included beef and pork barbecue sandwiches, hot dogs, Italian ice and popcorn, while beer and wine was also served.

Attendees took the time to create a variety of arts and crafts, like T-shirt and tile painting. Children got their faces painted at one stand and those who needed to cool off a little hung out in a rain tent.

Colonel Richardson Middle School teacher Tom Cheezum provided a large selection of hand drums for any to play, and both children and adults were seen pounding out beats on them.

"We had a good variety this year," said Marina Dowdall, the arts council's executive director, of the block party's offerings.

Dowdall said that while the evening was a hot one, she was happy no rain fell. The block party's attendance this year, she said, appeared to be about the same as last year's.

One of the most popular attractions at the block party was creating mosaic tiles for a planned arts council project. Participants were given a square tile on which they affixed various smaller tiles of all shapes and colors.

The tiles completed at the block party, Dowdall said, will be used in a large outdoor installation at The Foundry. She said the project is part of a grant program the arts council is participating in and people may get another chance to create mosaics at Summerfest this August.

Dowdall said the focus of the block party was to get people out and participating in art-related activities.

"It really helped promote arts in the community and that's what it's all about," she said.

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