In 2023, the Smithsonian Folklife Festival celebrates diverse American cultures through two programs: *Creative Encounters: Living Religions in the U.S.* and *The Ozarks: Faces and Facets of a Region.* It takes place between Twelfth and Fourteenth Streets on the Mall, June 29 to July 4 and July 6 to 9.

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Ofelia Esparza is a sixth-generation Chicana altar-maker, renowned in East Los Angeles and around the world. *Photo courtesy of Esparza family*

Ukrainian American artist Laryssa Czebiniak will teach the tradition of *pysanky*, intricately designed and dyed eggs. *Photo courtesy of Laryssa Czebiniak*

Afro-Cuban American musician Bobi Céspedes performed at the Folklife Festival in 2016 and returns for an evening concert on Friday, July 7. *Photo by Joe Furgal, Smithsonian Institution*

Artisans from Kazakhstan will demonstrate traditional felt making during the second week, as part of a pop-up by the Smithsonian Artisan Initiative. *Photo courtesy of Union of Artisans Kazakhstan*

Riyaaz Qawwali, a Sufi devotional music group from Houston, will return to the Festival to share the stage and collaborate with gospel band the Jones Family Singers. *Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives*

The Venerable Lama Losang Samten helped introduce Tibetan Buddhist sand mandalas to the West when he moved to the United States in 1988. *Photo courtesy of Losang Samten*
As the founder of Eating the Ozarks, Rachael West prepares foods from foraged ingredients, like these meringues with curly dock curd and bachelor button flowers. 

*Photo by Rachael West*

An old-fashioned pie auction to benefit a century-old schoolhouse in rural Webster County, MO, is an example of Ozarker community-building events.

*Photo by Kaitlyn McConnell/Ozarks Alive*

For decades, the “McClurg Jam” in Missouri has brought amateur musicians together on Monday nights to play old-time Ozarks music.

*Photo by Kaitlyn McConnell/Ozarks Alive*

Jake Blount returns to his hometown to perform in the Folkways at 75 anniversary concert on July 6.

*Photo by Tadin Brego*

The Ozark Mountain Daredevils, formed in Springfield, MO, in 1972, perform an evening concert on July 4.

*Photo by Jim Mayfield*

In a collaboration between the Ozarks program and Smithsonian Folkways, bluegrass band the Po’ Ramblin’ Boys perform on July 8.

*Photo by Amy Richmond*