

Davis Heritage Festival Background and Transition

The upcoming Davis Heritage Festival is a new, fresh and exciting event that will bring Davis County residents together to celebrate the past, present and future heritage of the County. The decision to reimagine what was known previously as the Davis County Fair was not a sudden decision, but a combination of decisions over many years that include an evolution of community interests, facility modifications and the return to a traditional agricultural and community event.

Beginning in the mid-2000's, the demand for uses at the Legacy Events Center (LEC), also known as the fairgrounds, began a gradual shift from equestrian to youth sports, which utilize both indoor and outdoor spaces. This shift in use was a combination of the need to generate revenue to cover the costs of the facility, the diminishing demand for equestrian use and the continued explosion of demand for youth sports.

Over the past decade, it has been a growing challenge to accommodate the demand for youth sports and community events at LEC. The challenge culminated in 2019 when the existing HVAC system was unable to achieve the necessary cooling to accommodate uses during the summer months. In 2020, to balance the staff's ability to manage the facility and accommodate the needs of the many new users, the County Commission approved a project to concrete the floor. The Commission also hired an architect to develop a Master Plan for the entire LEC campus, with the primary focus on youth sports. The new concrete floor was timely as it accommodated drive-thru elections and drive-thru vaccinations due to the impacts of COVID-19.

With the facility changes, a new LEC Master Plan, and evolving pressure for alternative uses of the campus, the Commission examined the future of the Davis County Fair. Declining attendance and limited entertainment options were also considered. This created an opportunity to reimagine the Fair as a whole and create something unique to our County.

Traditionally, county fairs brought the community together to share their goods and talents with other members of the community. Over time, fairs have transitioned to be more commercialized with goods and services not affiliated with the local community. Nationwide, county fairs are in the midst of reimagining what these events should be. The vision of the Davis Heritage Festival is to provide an event that celebrates and focuses on the Davis County community and its long history of agricultural heritage. With the continued urban growth in the region, the importance of celebrating and honoring the past and present, as well as looking to the future, is impactful for the County and its residents. The County Commission and its partners believed it was important to identify a location and an event that would bring a focus back to the heritage and educate and remind the community of where we come from, as well as who we are today.

With the shift in demand for youth sports at the LEC, the implementation of the Master Plan and the revitalization of the Fair, the decision was made in 2021 to relocate to USU's Botanical Center and rebrand the Davis County Fair to the Davis Heritage Festival. This decision was made in collaboration with the Davis County Commission, Utah State University Extension and Botanical Center in Kaysville, and Utah State University's 4-H program directors.

*The following activities are being planned for the Davis Heritage Festival:

- 4-H Indoor Exhibits
- Living Arts including Fine Arts, Canning, Baked Goods, Quilting, Etc.

- Local Amateur Talent including Music and Dance
- Local Vendors with Handmade Goods
- Baby Animal Days
- Local Food Vendors
- All vendors, entry participants, and exhibitors must be from Davis County, as the Festival is focused on celebrating and championing the community and its talents, achievements and unique spirit.
- The traditional 4-H Jr. Livestock Show and Sale will continue to be hosted annually in August each year
- Annual Horseshow dates to be determined by 4-H program directors.

*Subject to change

Follow the [Davis Heritage Festival](#) on Facebook for more details coming soon!

If you have an idea that is uniquely Davis County, please reach out to the County Commission office for it to be shared with the Davis Heritage Festival planning committee.