



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Little Ethiopia Cultural Street Festival Celebrates 25 Years of Tradition and Community

Milestone celebration brings Ethiopian music, dance, cuisine and heritage to the heart of Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 10, 2026. The sights, sounds, flavors and traditions of Ethiopia will fill Fairfax Avenue on Sunday, Sept. 13, as the 25th annual Little Ethiopia Cultural Street Festival celebrates a quarter-century of culture, community and Ethiopian heritage in Los Angeles.

Presented by the Little Ethiopia Business Association, the festival will take place from 2 to 8 p.m., bringing together families, residents and visitors for live music, traditional dance, Ethiopian cuisine, fashion, art and community.

Public officials and community leaders traditionally join the celebration at approximately 3 p.m. Festivalgoers are encouraged to arrive early for the cultural program and community remarks.

Little Ethiopia is a stretch of Fairfax Avenue in Los Angeles' Mid-Wilshire area known for its concentration of Ethiopian restaurants, shops and businesses. For many Angelenos, it offers a rare opportunity to experience Ethiopian food, coffee, music, art and traditions within a neighborhood shaped by the people and businesses that call it home.

For one Sunday each year, that neighborhood experience moves into the street, creating a cultural celebration where longtime residents, Ethiopian families and people discovering Little Ethiopia for the first time come together.

"The 25th annual Little Ethiopia Cultural Street Festival is officially here," said Nikki Legesse, president of the Little Ethiopia Business Association. "More than just a street fair, it is a quarter-century of preserving our traditions, sharing our culture with a wider community and building a stronger, more connected future in the heart of Little Ethiopia."

A Piece of Africa in the Heart of Los Angeles

For one Sunday, Little Ethiopia becomes an immersive cultural experience, giving Angelenos and visitors an opportunity to experience the traditions of Ethiopia, an East African nation with a rich and distinctive cultural heritage, without leaving Los Angeles.

Live Ethiopian bands and a DJ will fill the street with music. Restaurants throughout Little Ethiopia will remain open, offering the cuisine that has helped make the neighborhood a Los Angeles destination. Local shops will showcase Ethiopian fashion and goods, while festival vendors will offer art, authentic merchandise and access to health, spiritual and social services.

Some of the festival's most memorable moments happen beyond the stage. Traditional Ethiopian dance becomes an intergenerational experience as young people and elders dance together in the street, transforming spectators into participants and Fairfax Avenue into a living celebration of heritage.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass captured that connection during a previous festival.

"It's a great day in Little Ethiopia, and it's always wonderful to be back. I love the fact that we have a piece of Ethiopia right here in Los Angeles, and that's the beautiful thing about our country," Bass said.

From a Few Restaurants to a Cultural Destination

The festival's 25th anniversary reflects the growth of Little Ethiopia itself. What began with a small number of Ethiopian restaurants and businesses has developed into a cultural destination where food, entrepreneurship, heritage and community come together.

State Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas has recognized that growth.

"One or two restaurants have grown into this amazing event. We extend our congratulations to the Little Ethiopia Business Association as it hosts its annual festival in celebration of the richness of Ethiopian culture and what it brings to Los Angeles," Smallwood-Cuevas said during a previous festival.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell has also spoken about the importance of the community and her longstanding work with Legesse and Little Ethiopia.

"It is so amazing to see family, friends and neighbors out enjoying a culturally rich heritage and just having a wonderful time in our very own city," Mitchell said. "We have been working closely together since I was first elected in 2010 to make sure that your community is not forgotten and that your needs are at the top of the list by all of those who represent you."

A New Year, a Continuing Tradition

The festival also comes at a meaningful time on the Ethiopian calendar. Sept. 11 marks the beginning of the Ethiopian New Year, known as Enkutatash, when Ethiopia welcomes the year 2019. The Cultural Street Festival follows two days later on Sunday, Sept. 13, carrying the spirit of renewal, family and celebration into the streets of Little Ethiopia.

The timing is especially fitting for a festival marking its own milestone. As Ethiopia begins a new year, Little Ethiopia celebrates 25 years of preserving traditions, supporting neighborhood businesses and sharing Ethiopian heritage with the wider Los Angeles community.

Getting to Little Ethiopia

Visitors are encouraged to consider public transportation and allow additional travel time because of festival-related street activity. Metro's D Line provides rail service to the Wilshire/Fairfax area, offering another way for visitors to reach the Little Ethiopia neighborhood. Festivalgoers should check current Metro schedules and connections before traveling.

After 25 years, the Little Ethiopia Cultural Street Festival remains more than an annual street fair. It is a gathering of families, businesses, neighbors and generations, and a celebration of a community that has created a distinctive cultural home in Los Angeles.

LITTLE ETHIOPIA AT A GLANCE

Community roots	Los Angeles' Ethiopian community has roots dating to the 1970s, with its cultural and commercial presence expanding in the decades that followed.
Fairfax takes shape	Ethiopian restaurants and businesses established a recognizable presence along Fairfax Avenue in the late 1980s and 1990s.
Official designation	In 2002, the Los Angeles City Council officially designated the Fairfax Avenue corridor between Olympic and Pico boulevards as Little Ethiopia.
25 years of celebration	The Little Ethiopia Cultural Street Festival marks its 25th anniversary in 2026.
Ethiopian New Year	Sept. 11 marks Enkutatash. Ethiopia welcomes the year 2019 in 2026.
Festival day	Sunday, Sept. 13, 2026, from 2 to 8 p.m.

EVENT INFORMATION

25th Annual Little Ethiopia Cultural Street Festival

Sunday, Sept. 13, 2026

2 to 8 p.m.

Little Ethiopia, Fairfax Avenue

Los Angeles, California

destinationlittleethiopia.org | Instagram: [@destinationlittleethiopia](https://www.instagram.com/destinationlittleethiopia)

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