

City to host Fringe Fest

buskers make comeback

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Windsor will be going to the fringe -- and bringing buskers back in the process.

City council on Monday approved the Windsor International Fringe Festival, which will also oversee the return of the Windsor International Buskers Festival, for next summer.

"It will breathe life into downtown," said Coun. Percy Hatfield, who also liked the idea of Windsor being added to the national fringe festival list. "This is absolutely wonderful news."

Councillors voted unanimously for the recommendation to allow the festivals.

The city will chip in the \$40,000 it has spent on past buskers festivals for the first year, though it will reduce its contribution to \$25,000 the second year, and zero from 2010 on.

The city did not run the annual buskers festival last summer.

"We're really thrilled with the approval because there was a clear signal that council wants to support the performing and visual arts," said Mona el Baroudi, who made the presentation to council. "There was a real desire to have the party start downtown."

El Baroudi said that the Fringe Festival will provide a greater range of performance for the area.

The fringe and buskers festivals will run from July 18 to July 27 at various locations downtown, including in Charles Clarke Square.