



Hasani in Gig Harbor <heyhasani@gmail.com>

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## July 20th

1 message

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Hasani <heyhasani@gmail.com>

Fri, Mar 1, 2024 at 4:06 PM

To: PAL2024SAF@gmail.com, editorPAL23@gmail.com

Bcc: Hasani in Gig Harbor <heyhasani@gmail.com>

Hello Ms Smith, Ms Avni,

Please allow me to introduce myself by saying that I'm a local ethnic dance instructor and performer, and I've been hosting ethnic dance shows and festivals in Gig Harbor and Tacoma for the past 31 years.

Having Peninsula Art League move to Sehmel Park is an exciting development for Gig Harbor and I'm sending you congratulations! I have no idea if you are aware of the dynamics behind the scenes that allowed the Peninsula Art League event on July 20th to go forward at the expense of ours.

An outdoor [summer dance festival](#) on the 3rd weekend in July has been an established tradition in our performing arts community since the 1980's. For the past 6 years I've booked the Sehmel Amphitheater on the 3rd Saturday in July for our annual outdoor dance festival.

I booked the Amphitheater a year in advance and paid in full for July 20, 2024. In December, our paid rental agreement was egregiously canceled by PenMet Parks and given to Peninsula Art League instead.

For a number of reasons, it's not possible to change our date. I believe your event also has a long history of a fixed date, so you will understand the domino effect of attempting a date change.

PenMet Parks offered the use of Hales Pass Park plus their stage (they're calling it a "raised platform" now) on July 20th in an effort to make amends for refusing to honor their rental agreement with me. I accepted the offer, and PenMet made the appropriate changes to our permit/reservation, stage included.

Now PenMet tells me they are breaching their agreement again and have given PAL our stage out from underneath us.

Bottom line: no stage, no ethnic dance festival. Since a stage was included with our paid reservation, renting a commercial outdoor stage is far beyond our budget.

Perhaps you already knew this. If so, then nothing I can tell you will make a difference. But if not, does the possibility exist that your event could go forward without the stage that was already allocated to us, and our festival could be saved?

Thank you for listening,  
Hasani Abbott  
<https://RaqTheHarborHafla.com>