



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Celebrate 100 years of Latvian independence

Landmark Center celebrates all things Latvian in November

ST. PAUL, Minn. (Oct. 25, 2018)—Latvia, a northern European country of 2 million people, celebrates 100 years since gaining independence. In the Baltic States and all around the world, Latvia presents [LV100](#) – a celebration of culture, history, lifestyle and innovation.

“This is a remarkable achievement considering that half of those years were under Soviet occupation,” said Ansis Viksniņš, Latvian Organization Association of Minnesota Vice President. “Having endured many hardships, the Latvian people are proud to showcase their achievements over the next month, culminating with the nation’s 100th birthday on November 18.”

Minnesota has over 2,600 citizens of Latvian heritage. Most were war refugees fleeing Soviet occupation after World War II. More have freely immigrated here since Latvia regained independence in 1990. In 1951 refugees founded the Latvian Evangelical Church in South Minneapolis. It is still the heart of the community and the Saturday school, pre-K through 8th grade, teaches language and culture classes. Throughout November, [Minnesota’s Latvian community](#) will share its culture, arts, literature, and history with a series of events at Landmark Center and other locations around the Twin Cities.

Latvian celebration events at Landmark Center:

- Nov. 7, 12 p.m. - Artist Rita Grendze will give a short talk “Mining the Between” that delves into the how and why her work explores and nurtures her Latvian American culture, Courtroom 317
- Nov. 8-25 – “New Art from an Old World,” exhibit of Latvian Art. Opening reception, Thursday, Nov. 8, 5 p.m., North Gallery

- Nov. 14, 12 p.m. – “US, Latvia, and the Baltic States during the Donald Trump Presidency,” discussion with Karl Altau, Director of Joint Baltic American National Committee in Washington, DC, Courtroom 326
- Nov. 18, 12 p.m. - Centennial Church Service (held in Latvian)
- Nov. 18, 1-4 p.m. - “Celebrate Latvia Day!” featuring exhibits, dance performances, musical performances, children’s activities
- Nov. 20, 12 p.m. - Artist Cory McLeod will discuss the “Pērkons Virtual Reality Rockumentary” (shown both on Nov. 8 and 18), Courtroom 326

These events are produced through partnership between Landmark Center, The Latvian Organization Association of Minnesota, and The American Latvian Association. Events are made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. Each event is free and open to the public. “Celebrate Latvia Day” is part of Landmark Center’s “Sundays at Landmark” program series. The series is presented by Landmark Center with support from Ecolab, Travelers, Xcel Energy Foundation, and Ramsey County.

About Landmark Center

Landmark Center is a dynamic, historic cultural center and central gathering place in downtown Saint Paul. It is owned and sponsored by Ramsey County and managed by Minnesota Landmarks, the nonprofit programming and management agency for the building. Landmark Center is located at 75 West 5th Street, on Rice Park and is accessible to those with impaired mobility. Valet parking is available for the Gala, and parking is also available on street and in nearby Lawson, Science Museum and RiverCentre Ramps. For more information call 651.292.3063 or visit www.landmarkcenter.org.

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