



CITY NEWS



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Steampunk Expo at Cowtown Visitors to get taste of Victorian science fiction

When the Emerald City Steampunk Expo arrives at Old Cowtown Museum on Saturday, Nov. 13, visitors will experience a re-imagined Victorian world straight out of a Jules Verne or H.G. Wells novel. Activities for the entire family are scheduled from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults; \$5 for children ages 5-10; and free for children 4 and under. Cowtown is located at 1865 W. Museum Blvd.

Steampunk is a growing, worldwide movement that is best described as Victorian science fiction. During the expo, hundreds of Steampunk fans from the four-state area will bring the genre to life through costuming (traditional Victorian clothing accessorized with mechanical parts and metals) and displays/activities that are reminiscent of turn-of-the-century Barnum & Bailey carnivals. There will be fire breathing, juggling, contortion displays, Victorian dueling with swords, costuming workshops and more.

“This is something entirely different that we’ve never done at Cowtown before,” said Cowtown Director David Flask. “Through more unique and diverse events, we’re not only reaching out to new groups, but also giving the general public more reasons to visit Cowtown.”

The best way to understand Steampunk is to view it as a technically advanced, alternate history where steam power is widely used and anything can exist – airplanes to flying ships, computers to time machines – as long as they’re mechanically made with gears and cogs. Nothing digital can be found in this science-oriented world.

With conventions generally held in hotels around the world, Cowtown has the distinction of being the first-ever non-hotel setting for a Steampunk gathering. And now that Steampunk has arrived, it doesn’t intend on leaving anytime soon. Plans are already being made to hold a three-day 2011 Emerald City Steampunk Expo in Wichita.

For more information about the Emerald City Steampunk Expo, call (316) 219-1871 or go to oldcowtown.org.

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