A Spectacle in Motion: The Grand Panorama of a Whaling Voyage ‘Round the World / July 14–October 8

The New Bedford Whaling Museum is big enough to hold a whale skeleton but not big enough for the 1,275-foot-long painting at the center of this groundbreaking exhibition. The quarter-mile panorama, painted by Caleb Purrington and Benjamin Russell in 1848, is freshly restored and will be on display at Kilburn Mill. The historic mill is a 10-minute drive or shuttle-bus ride from the museum, where starting July 29 visitors can experience the 8½-foot-tall painting as intended — scrolling past on a stage-mounted screen. The original is too fragile for that, so a digital copy recreates the experience as visitors watch from on and around the whaling vessel Lagoda. Accompanying interactive displays in both locations help put the panorama in context. Panorama display free; museum $17, seniors $15, students $10, children $7, under 3 free. 508-997-0046; whalingmuseum.org

EVENTS

Joel Kim Booster / June 21-23
Raised in Illinois by a conservative white family, Korean adoptee Joel Kim Booster says he “knew I was gay before I knew I was Asian.” Hot off his 2017 successes—a Comedy Central special and his debut album, Model Minority—Booster brings his standup act to Laugh Boston. $20–$25. 617-725-2844; laughboston.com

Boston Harborfest / June 28–July 4
To celebrate the 242nd anniversary of the United States, the city throws a party complete with Saturday night fireworks over the harbor. The festivities include dozens of tours, talks, cruises, and other family-friendly activities. Some events ticketed. 617-439-7702; bostonharborfest.com

Free Fun Fridays / June 29–August 31
From Pittsfield to Provincetown, 100 venues across Massachusetts—10 per week—throw open their doors as part of the High and Street Foundation’s annual program. Museums, theaters, gardens, and other cultural venues welcome visitors, and many plan special events to coincide with the free fun. Check website for details. Free. highandstreet.org

Boston Pizza Festival / July 7–8
Sample a Sicilian, New York-style, gluten-free, or even vegan concoction from one of the 30 pizzerias represented at City Hall Plaza during this all-you-can-eat event. Live music and cooking demos are on the schedule, too. $45, $35 in advance, $20 under 10. bostonpizzafestival.com

Artebeat 2018 / July 14
The theme of this year’s festival is “Flip,” so expect to see pieces that make your head tilt. Some works are upside-down, sideways, and backward, others more figurative. Davis Square hosts 75 art vendors, live music and dance, and more. Free. 617-625-6600; somervillearts.org

Hannah Orenstein / July 17
Hannah Orenstein, who grew up in Needham, worked as a professional matchmaker after graduating from NYU. She reads from her first novel, Playing With Matches—about an NYU grad working as a matchmaker—at Porter Square Books. Free. 617-491-2272; portersquarebooks.com

Provincetown Carnival / August 11-18
This townwide event boosts P-town’s summer population from 60,000 to 90,000. In keeping with this year’s theme—“Mardi Gras by the Sea!”—New Orleans flair jazzes up the LGBTQ+ art fairs, parties, costume ball, drag brunch, and more. Don’t miss the Thursday parade down Commercial Street. Some events ticketed. ptown.org

Gloucester Schooner Festival / August 31-September 3
New and old sailboats visit Gloucester Harbor for the 34th annual Schooner Festival. Head to a block party on Friday, watch the Boat Parade of Lights on Saturday, and see a sailing competition for the Esperanto Cup on Sunday. Most events free. 978-281-0470; gloucest erschoonerfestival.net

Boston Arts Festival / September 8-9
Marvel at local art at Christopher Columbus Waterfront Park. Meet creators from photographers to sculptors, and watch live musical performances to kick off open studios

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