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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **LANTERN FESTIVAL ILLUMINATES IN DOWNTOWN L.A.**

The Chinese American Museum (CAM) raised the curtain on the 16<sup>th</sup> annual **Los Angeles Lantern Festival** today (**March 4**), culminating the 2017 Lunar New Year celebration and reviving a 5,000-year old tradition.

California State Assemblyman Ed Chau (D-49<sup>th</sup> District), Los Angeles City Councilmember David Ryu, and the newly crowned Miss Chinatown L.A. were among the dignitaries on hand to help kick off the event.

Open to the public free of charge, the event was held at El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument in Downtown L.A. and offered a wide range of hands-on arts and crafts, continuous live entertainment, lion dancers, martial artists, acrobats, magicians, dancers, and singers, and a finale featuring the lighted silver dragon, a Chinese symbol of auspicious power.

Refreshments were provided for purchase from some of L.A.'s most popular food trucks.

Festival attendees also had the opportunity to experience the museum's newest exhibition, *Roots: Asian American Movements (1968-1980s)*.

Museum address is 425 N. Los Angeles St. For additional details, visit [www.camla.org/LALanternFestival](http://www.camla.org/LALanternFestival).

L.A. Lantern Festival is generously sponsored by:

Friends of the Chinese American Museum, El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary, and Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council.

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