

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE CHINESE AMERICAN MUSEUM CELEBRATES TEN YEARS OF LANTERN FESTIVAL!



EVENT INFORMATION

Saturday, March 5, 2011 / Noon – 7pm
@ El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument
(across from Union Station)
FREE ADMISSION

(LOS ANGELES, February 8, 2011) –The Chinese American Museum (CAM), in partnership with El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, will host **The 10th Annual Lantern Festival 2011 (LF'11)** celebration on **Saturday, March 5, 2011, noon – 7pm at El Pueblo Plaza**, the historic site of the city's original Chinatown and now home to CAM. This year's event marks a milestone achievement as CAM's Lantern Festival celebrates its 10th Anniversary, commemorating a decade of free arts, culture and educational activities for the public. A simple idea that began in 2002, Lantern Festival has since flourished into a beloved community tradition that attracts thousands of visitors from all over Southern California and beyond, and is renowned for being the only free festival in Los Angeles that offers the *LARGEST* variety of interactive arts, crafts and educational activities celebrating the Lunar New Year holiday.

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This year's event will spotlight a colorful re-creation of a traditional Chinese village street fair animated with a newly *expanded* selection of arts and crafts workshops, an exciting line-up of cultural stage performances, popular food trucks, and a spirited new LF'11 t-shirt design renewing CAM's commitment to providing families and the general public with activities that educate as well as entertain. Popular artist-led workshops such as kite-making, Chinese calligraphy, Chinese paper-cutting, origami, face-painting and the festival's signature lantern-making booths will return, joined by new activities such as collage-making (based on Amy Tan's novel, *The Joy Luck Club*), "Found Objects" print workshop (based on CAM's *Remembering Angel Island* exhibit), Chinese Zodiac Cards-water coloring workshop (provided by the Getty Museum), and Year of the Rabbit-inspired greeting-card making.

A free-standing exhibition will also be on display to help deepen the public's understanding and enjoyment of the culinary customs associated with this cultural holiday. Titled, *Lucky Feast*, the exhibit will consist of a re-created traditional Chinese New Year dinner table featuring fruits, vegetables, food dishes, and decorations that are considered lucky to eat or decorate in one's home or business during Chinese New Year.

Popular children's author, Oliver Chin, will also be on hand to autograph and do readings from his latest book, *Year of the Rabbit*. A dramatic line-up of Chinese lion dances, martial arts, musical, magical, and acrobatic performances will round out the day's activities, and a captivating shadow puppetry show and a spirited glow-in-the-dark silver dragon stage performance will close out the evening's fanfare.

CAM's *Lantern Festival* event series represents a major departure from most other commercially-based street event celebrations for Chinese New Year as the primary focus is on education and discovery rather than just entertainment. Since its inception, the festival's mission has always been to provide the visiting public with hands-on opportunities to learn and appreciate the history, traditions and customs of this Chinese holiday through a variety of enriching activities and performances, as well as to promote inter-generational learning and family-togetherness.

A hugely popular holiday in the Chinese culture, Lantern Festival occurs annually on the fifteenth day of the first lunar month to mark the closing of Chinese New Year festivities. As families wish for peace and prosperity for the coming year, colorful lanterns are adorned in homes and throughout the streets to celebrate this jubilant occasion.

Lantern Festival 2011 is made possible through the generous support of the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, the Friends of the Chinese American Museum, Time Warner Cable, Southern California Ford Dealers, Southern California Edison, Community Redevelopment Agency- Los Angeles (CRA-LA), and Verizon Foundation.

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ABOUT THE CHINESE AMERICAN MUSEUM

The Chinese American Museum (CAM) is jointly developed and operated by the Friends of the Chinese American Museum (FCAM) and El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, a department of the City of Los Angeles. Located within the El Pueblo Plaza in downtown Los Angeles, CAM is housed in the last surviving structure of the City's original Chinatown. CAM's mission is to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of America's diverse heritage by researching, preserving, and sharing the history, rich cultural legacy, and continuing contributions of Chinese Americans. The Chinese American Museum is located at 425 North Los Angeles Street in El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, across from Union Station. Hours are 10 a.m.–3 p.m., Tuesday – Sunday. Admissions are suggested donations of \$3 for adults and \$2 for seniors and students. Members are admitted free. For more information about the Museum, please visit our website at www.camla.org or find us on:

- **Facebook:** search for "Chinese American Museum"
- **Flickr:** http://www.flickr.com/photos/camla_org
- **Twitter:** ChinAmerMuseum