

CHINESE AMERICAN MUSEUM

425 North Los Angeles Street Los Angeles, CA 90012 Tel 213 485-8484 Fax 213 485-0428 www.camla.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 2, 2013

CONTACT: Ellen Endo
(818) 512-8791

Lantern Festival Glows in Downtown L.A.

Colorful lanterns and a lighted dragon illuminated the Plaza at El Pueblo in Downtown Los Angeles on Saturday, March 1, signaling the arrival of one of Southern California's largest, free family celebrations, the Lantern Festival.

Presented by the Chinese American Museum and El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, the Lantern Festival bids farewell to Lunar New Year celebrations, a cultural tradition that reaches all the way back to the Han Dynasty.

Bigger and better than ever, the festival drew thousands of children, parents, and others looking for a way to spend a relaxing Saturday afternoon on a mild, pre-spring day.

Visitors found artistic expression as they took part in hands-on arts and crafts activities, including kite-making, abacus-making, calligraphy, lantern-making, Chinese paper-cutting, red envelope-making, dragon puppet-making, face-painting, greeting card-making, origami workshop, and page-coloring. Entertainment was offered nonstop throughout the day by impresario Dr. Pedro Chan.

Children's author Oliver Chin also read passages from his popular book, *Year of the Snake*.

Many visited the family-oriented workshops inspired by the Museum's newest permanent exhibition, "Origins: Birth and Rise of the Chinese American Communities."

Immortal Lion Dancers kicked off the entertainment, which featured martial arts by Shaolin monks, kung fu, folk dancing, line dancing, acrobatics, magic, juggling, and even ballroom dancing. As twilight approached, the audience was treated to rarely seen shadow puppets presented by Professor Yu-Hua Li.

The finale saw the Silver Dragon wend its way to the stage as it glowed in the dark. The Silver Dragon appeared courtesy of the Jaw John Chang Dance Troupe.

Also returning are the popular Lucky Feast and Wishing Well exhibitions as well as the Dragon Costume and God of Fortune photo areas.

Children had fun while learning about traditional and contemporary Chinese arts. Food trucks provided a tempting array of Asian-infused cuisine such as Kogi barbecue tacos, Ludo chicken, and Fluff Ice desserts.

The Lantern Festival is a CAM signature event sponsored by the City's Department of Cultural Affairs, Automobile Club of Southern California, Walmart, Metro, Historic/Cultural Neighborhood Council, Pacific Alliance Medical Center, New York Life, and the Friends of the Chinese American Museum (FCAM), and El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument.

Go Metro and receive a 10% discount* on Museum Store merchandise and memberships. For more details, [click here](#). Metro provides Bus and Rail transportation to the Museum till 2 AM on Fridays and Saturdays. For your best route or more info, visit the Metro Trip Planner or call (323) Go Metro or (323.466.3876).

*CAM members who also show their TAP card, Metro Employee ID, or LA County Employee ID will receive a 15% discount when purchasing Museum Store merchandise or memberships. Valid only on Lantern Festival Day and for in-store purchases only Saturday, March 2.

The museum helps 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.

CAM opened its doors in 2003 after more than 30 years of planning, resource development, political advocacy, and community support. The museum occupies the historic 1890 Garnier Building, the oldest and last remaining structure of Los Angeles' original Chinatown, and the adjacent 425 N. Los Angeles Street building.

The museum is open Tuesday-Sunday, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily, closed Mondays, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day, and Fourth of July (cross street Arcadia, enter from west side off Sanchez Street).

For additional information, visit the website at camla.org. Suggested admission: adults, \$3; seniors 60 and over, \$2; students with ID, \$2; and CAM members, free. All exhibits are wheelchair accessible.

#