

Boston Celebrates the Year of the Snake with the Second Annual Lunar New Year Gala

BOSTON, MA, UNITED STATES, February 11, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Boston City Hall was illuminated in red as thousands gathered for the second annual Boston Lunar New Year Gala, marking a grand celebration of the Year of the Snake. Hosted by the City of Boston and organized by the Boston Lunar New Year Gala Committee, the event brought together community members, city leaders, and performers for a night of cultural appreciation and festive joy.

This year's Lunar New Year Gala saw an overwhelming turnout, with a packed venue and long lines of attendees eager to gain entry. The event's success underscored the growing significance of Lunar New Year celebrations in Boston, prompting organizers to express gratitude for the community's enthusiasm while acknowledging the need for a larger venue in the future.

The gala received strong endorsements from state and local officials, highlighting its role in promoting cultural diversity. In a historic move, Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey and Lieutenant Governor Kimberley Driscoll formally recognized the gala's contributions to Boston's cultural and community landscape. One of the evening's major announcements was Governor Healey's proclamation of January 29, 2025, as state Lunar New Year Day, marking a significant milestone in the recognition of Asian heritage in Massachusetts. Massachusetts Auditor Diana DiZoglio also issued a proclamation reinforcing the holiday's importance.



At the city level, Boston City Council members honored the event's organizers and participants. Councilor Ed Flynn commended the Lunar New Year Festival Committee for its dedication to preserving cultural traditions, while Councilor Henry Santana recognized Gary Yu, Chairman of the Boston Lunar New Year Gala Committee, for his leadership in making the event a success. City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, alongside Councilors Sharon Durkan, Julia Mejia, Gabriela Coletta, Ben Webber, Erin Murphy, and others, emphasized the festival's importance in fostering community unity and cross-cultural exchange.

Gary Yu, Chairman of the Boston Lunar New Year Gala Committee and Vice Chairman of the Massachusetts Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission, has been a driving force behind the establishment and expansion of this event. His long-standing dedication to advocating for the Asian-American community and fostering cross-cultural understanding has had a profound impact on Boston's civic and cultural landscape. In his opening remarks, Yu expressed deep gratitude to the organizing team, volunteers, sponsors, and community partners, highlighting their collective efforts in elevating the visibility of Lunar New Year in Boston. He also underscored the significance of the gala in strengthening the city's cultural fabric and fostering a more inclusive community.

The evening kicked off with an unexpected but heartwarming performance—Massachusetts Auditor Diana DiZoglio took the stage to sing an English version of the traditional Lunar New Year song "Gong Xi Gong Xi", accompanied by a children's choir. The performance set an uplifting tone for the night, blending cultural appreciation with joyful celebration.

The gala's program featured an array of traditional and contemporary performances, showcasing Boston's diverse artistic talent. Highlights included "Return of Wukong," a thrilling martial arts performance that captivated the audience; "Ascending Spring Mountain," a mesmerizing



showcase of classical Chinese dance; a high-energy street dance performance by Berklee Btop Crew; Ye Zhenxi's powerful rendition of "You Raise Me Up"; a charming children's chorus performance of "Butterfly by the Spring"; and instrumental performances of "Seven Chinese Melodies" and "Four Seasons: Spring," transporting the audience into the rich world of Chinese classical music. The night concluded with a moving a cappella performance of "Blooming Flowers," symbolizing hope, renewal, and unity.

The evening's performances showcased a vibrant mix of traditional and contemporary artistry, reflecting the richness of Chinese culture. The gala featured a stunning suona solo performance of "Gesang Huakai" (The Gesang Flower Blooms) by Guo Yazhi, a world-renowned suona master, whose powerful and expressive sound captivated the audience. The Berklee-based vocal group Panda Hall presented an emotional rendition of "Nian Lun" (Year Wheel), evoking nostalgia and the passage of time. The audience was also mesmerized by the guzheng and pipa duet of "Jingzhe" (Awakening of Insects) and "Yungong Xunyun" (The Palace Tune) performed by Yang Jin and Xia Jing, blending classical elegance with a dynamic contemporary touch. Liu Bing delivered a soulful performance of "Chuan Qi" (Legend), while Liu Qianzi enchanted the audience with her cello solo of "Xiao Tuan Yuan" (Little Reunion), adding a heartfelt and warm touch to the festive evening.

The gala also included an array of other diverse performances. Highlights included "Return of Wukong," a thrilling martial arts spectacle; "Ascending Spring Mountain," a mesmerizing classical Chinese dance piece; and a high-energy street dance performance by Berklee Btop Crew. Instrumental masterpieces such as "Seven Chinese Melodies" and "Four Seasons: Spring" transported the audience into the intricate world of Chinese classical music. The night concluded with a moving a cappella performance of "Blooming Flowers," symbolizing hope, renewal, and unity.

The gala's impact extended beyond the event itself, sparking conversations across social media and major news outlets. Political leaders shared their experiences online, expressing support for the Chinese-American community and emphasizing the Lunar New Year's role in Boston's multicultural identity. Many attendees praised the event's seamless blend of modern and traditional elements, its strong sense of community, and its cultural significance.

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The success of the Boston Lunar New Year Gala would not have been possible without the generous support of our many community partners and sponsors. We are deeply grateful to Asian American and Pacific Islanders Commission, Mass Cultural Council, United Chinese Americans (UCA), United Chinese American Community Foundation, United Chinese Business Partners, Asian Pacific American Public Affairs, Civic Education Alliance, New England Chinese American Alliance, Chinese American Association of Lexington, North America Hangzhou Association & North America Hangzhou Business Association, Boston Chinese Musicians Association, Huaxia Cultural Association, Boston Urban Forum, Boston Paragon Society Fashion, ATWIN Education, Successful Education, Boston Chinese Photography Association, whose commitment to cultural exchange and community development played a crucial role in the event's success.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to our corporate and business sponsors, including Liberty Mutual Insurance, Ernst & Young (EY), Bank of America Private Bank, Salem Five Charitable Foundation, Kweichow Moutai, Diamond Hong Inc., 111 Sign Inc., Wonder Events, VINCI STEAM Educations, Planck Energies, Karma Asian Fusion, REON, Wisconsin Marathon Ginseng, Federal Cabinets & Shower Doors, NT Development, Navigation Capital Group, Blue Ocean Realty, Greenfield Fund Management LLC, Karma, whose support made this spectacular celebration possible.

Special thanks to our partners in the hospitality and professional services industries, including Drunken Moon Restaurant, Go Chi Restaurant, Boston International Media Consulting (BIMC), Pan & Associates Law Office, Dr. Yuqi Ma Orthodontic, Sharon Wang, Amee's Medical Spa, for their invaluable contributions. Their dedication to fostering cultural appreciation and strengthening community ties helped elevate this event to new heights.

For many, the event has become a highly anticipated annual tradition. As the Boston Lunar New Year Gala continues to grow, organizers are already looking ahead to 2026, promising an even bigger and more inclusive celebration. With red lanterns swaying and the echoes of applause still lingering, Boston welcomed the Year of the Snake with a celebration that will be remembered for years to come.

Boston Lunar New Year Festival Gala
Boston Lunar New Year Festival Committee
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