

Việt Cultural Fest, the Largest Vietnamese Festival in Texas, Returns for Its Fifth Year September 12 in Houston

Attendees will experience more than a dozen contests and hands-on workshops as the Vietnamese Culture and Science Association marks 35 years of service.

HOUSTON, TX, UNITED STATES, August 24, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The [Vietnamese Culture and Science Association](#) (VCSA) will present the sixth [Việt Cultural Fest](#), the largest Vietnamese festival in Texas, on Saturday, September 12, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Reliant Center in Houston.

More than a dozen contests, tournaments, hands-on workshops, and creative showcases are open to the public, spanning ages five through adult and welcoming participants of every cultural background. Attendees can race through a bowl of phở, identify mystery boba flavors blindfolded, cook cá kho tộ against the clock, graft a fruit tree, play a titled chess master, build a robot in six hours, or sell their art alongside fellow makers.

The 2026 theme, "Phù Đồng Thiên Vương — When Courage Calls, Giants Rise," draws on the legend of Saint Gióng, one of Vietnam's Four Immortals. His story tells of a young child who, with the support of his community, grew into a giant warrior and defended his homeland, which is a reminder that ordinary individuals can accomplish extraordinary things when a community stands behind them. That idea shapes this year's programming, which is designed to give as many people as possible a role to play rather than a seat to fill.

"Saint Gióng didn't rise alone. His village fed him, armed him, and believed in him," said Thanh Le, Chair, VCSA. "That's exactly how this festival works. Every contest, every booth, every volunteer shift is somebody choosing to show up for their community. We've opened more doors this year than ever before, and we want people to walk through them."



Việt Cultural Fest is a one-day celebration of Vietnamese heritage presented annually by the Vietnamese Culture and Science Association in Houston, Texas.

The theme also mirrors a milestone for the organization. As VCSA marks 35 years of service, Việt Cultural Fest reflects its enduring commitment to developing future leaders, preserving Vietnamese culture, and strengthening civic engagement, honoring the generations who built the community while making room for the ones who will carry it forward.

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: Việt Cultural Fest 2026 — "Phù Đồng Thiên Vương: When Courage Calls, Giants Rise"

WHEN: Saturday, September 12, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Reliant Center (1 NRG Park, Houston, TX 77054)

TICKETS: \$15 general admission (ages 4+); \$12 seniors 65+; \$12 each for groups of 10 or more

WEBSITE: vietculturalfest.org

MUST-SEE: Phở Eating Contest, Blind Boba Tasting, Blind Coffee Tasting, Cooking Competition, six-hour robotics build, and a simultaneous chess exhibition against a titled player

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Registration is open now for the following programs. Full eligibility rules, fees, and application links are at vietculturalfest.org/contests.

- Phở Eating Contest — The returning fan favorite.

Contestants race the clock for the title of Việt Cultural Fest



Contestants race the clock for the title of Việt Cultural Fest Phở Eating Champion

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Thanh Le, Chair, VCSA

Phở Eating Champion. Ages 18+; \$20 entry.

- Blind Boba Tasting Contest — Jasmine or oolong? Brown sugar or taro? Identify mystery drinks sight-unseen to earn the title of Boba Connoisseur. Ages 15+; \$20 entry.

- Blind Coffee Tasting Contest — Every sample starts with a classic Vietnamese iced coffee base topped with a mystery flavored foam. Identify each one using taste alone. Ages 15+; \$20 entry.

- Cooking Competition — Teams of three to five race to prepare two Vietnamese classics, cá kho tộ and canh chua. Ages 18+; \$50 per team.

- Cờ Tướng / Chinese Chess Tournament — Open to all ages and skill levels. Register by email or in person on festival morning by 10:00 a.m.

- Simultaneous Chess Exhibition — Play Woman Candidate Master Tega Mandy Enarevba in an exhibition presented by Girl Chess Power. Prizes include medals, trophies, wooden chess sets,

and a private lesson with a Woman International Master.

- **Đố Vui Để Học / Việt Trivia** — A fast-paced team challenge on Vietnamese language, history, culture, traditions, and geography. Open to Vietnamese language schools, VSAs, Asian student organizations, and anyone who loves the material.

- **FTC in 6 Hours: BioBuzz Challenge** — Registered FIRST Tech Challenge teams design, build, program, present, and compete with a working robot in a single six-hour sprint, kicking off the Johnson League season.

- **Art Contest: "Courage & Selflessness"** — Artists ages 6 and up of Vietnamese heritage, anywhere in the world, are

invited to interpret the Saint Gióng legend through their own creative lens.

- **Children's Traditional Dress Contest** — From the áo dài to traditional ethnic garments, children ages 5–7 and 8–12 take the stage in Vietnamese cultural attire.

- **Artist Alley** — Applications are open on a rolling basis through Sunday, August 23, for artists and makers who want to exhibit and sell at the festival.

- **Ngôi Sao Tài Năng Việt / Talent Contest** and the **Miss Teen Việt Cultural Fest Scholarship Pageant**

- **Fruit Tree Grafting Workshops** — Members of the Houston Fruit Tree & Gardening Group lead hands-on sessions on grafting technique and plant care at 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.



Việt Cultural Fest was founded in 2019 by three young Vietnamese Americans who wanted to reconnect with their cultural roots and amplify the voices of Houston's Vietnamese community

For tickets, contest registration, vendor and sponsorship applications, parking information, and the full schedule, visit vietculturalfest.org or email organizers at info@vietculturalfest.org. Follow the festival on Instagram and Facebook @vculturalfest.

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ABOUT VIỆT CULTURAL FEST

Việt Cultural Fest is a one-day celebration of Vietnamese heritage presented annually by the Vietnamese Culture and Science Association in Houston, Texas. Founded in 2019 by three young Vietnamese Americans, the festival was born from a desire to reconnect with cultural roots and uplift the voices of Houston's Vietnamese community. Its mission is to preserve and promote the beauty of Vietnamese culture while building an annual tradition that welcomes people of all ages and backgrounds across Houston and the surrounding region. Each year the festival explores a different chapter of Vietnam's cultural heritage through traditional performances, competitions, authentic cuisine, cultural exhibits, folk games, and hands-on activities, alongside health

screenings, civic education resources, community organization exhibits, and showcases from Vietnamese-owned businesses. Now the largest Vietnamese festival in Texas, Việt Cultural Fest takes place at Reliant Center. Learn more at vietculturalfest.org.

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