

中華日



Chinese
CULTURE DAYS

May 18–19, 2024 | 9 a.m.–5 p.m.



聖路易中華文教服務協會
Chinese Culture Education and Service



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

中華日

你好!
Nǐ Hǎo!
Hello!

ADMISSION:

\$16 adults
\$8 children (3–12)
\$8 members
Festival-level and above free
Member children free

**Become a member or
renew today for
FREE admission to
Chinese Culture Days.
Already purchased tickets?
Apply them toward the
price of membership!
Visit the Membership
Tent for details.**

Chair's Welcome

Dear friends,

Welcome to the 2024 Chinese Culture Days "Celebration of Chinese Traditions"—celebrating the richness of Chinese traditions and culture at the beautiful Missouri Botanical Garden. This year marks the 45th anniversary of the sister city relationship between St. Louis and the city of Nanjing, China. We are thrilled to present Chinese traditions from jaw-dropping acrobats, magical face-changing show, and performance of Hollywood Erhu musician, to traditional Chinese music, Peking Opera, and calligraphy. May is also Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Hundreds of St. Louis-area volunteers and artists bring you the dragon dance, lion dance, Tai Chi demonstration, tea ceremony, gourmet Chinese food show, drum and traditional Chinese music ensemble, arts and crafts, and dance attire from different ethnic groups from our local community. You can also enjoy a talk on the art and science of Tai Chi, a music showcase with dozens of rarely seen ancient instruments, or a presentation on St. Louis Chinese food history.

We appreciate you joining us for this year's Chinese Culture Days and making new memories with us. I hope the Year of the Dragon brings prosperity and success to you and your loved ones.

Sincerely,
Yimin Zhu

Chair of 2024 Chinese Culture Days

Opening Ceremony

Cohen Amphitheater **J**

The celebration kicks off with a magnificent Chinese dragon dance in the newly completed gardens south of the Taylor Visitor Center. The dragon has always been regarded as a sacred creature, symbolizing power, courage, righteousness, and dignity. As a sign of ethnic identity, the Chinese refer to themselves as “Descendants of the Dragon.” 2024 is the Year of the Dragon. Following the dragon dance, the Lion Dance Team and others will perform briefly before leading visitors to Cohen Amphitheater.

The Opening Ceremony will begin around 10:30 a.m. upon the arrival of the dragon and dignitaries, who will offer brief remarks.



Acrobatic and Cultural Heritage Show

Bayer Event Center **M**

This cultural heritage show will include amazing Chinese acrobatic acts, magical changing faces, skillful kung fu demonstrations, and beautiful folk dances. We are privileged to welcome Umbrella Queen Lina Liu from New York City to perform a number of crowd-pleasing acrobatic feats, which will include the balancing of eight open parasols, a Guinness World Record.

Face-changing is an ancient Chinese dramatic art that is part of the more general Sichuan opera. Performers wear brightly-colored costumes and move to quick, dramatic music. They also wear vividly colored masks, typically depicting well-known characters from the opera, which they change from one face to another almost instantaneously with the swipe of a fan, a movement of the head, or wave of the hand.

Schedule for Saturday, May 18 | 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	See map
All Day	Children’s Arts and Crafts	Spink Pavilion	(F)
	Chinese Marketplace	Meeting Rooms / Linnean Plaza	(B)
	Chinese Food Court	East Lot	(A)
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Chinese Handcraft Demo and DIY	Swift Family Garden	(G)
10 a.m.	Opening Ceremony	Cohen Amphitheater	(J)
11 a.m.	Embodied Charm: The Artistry of Chinese Opera Acting	Farr Auditorium	(C)
	Flying Dragon and Waist Drum Dance	Central Axis	(E)
	Acrobatic and Cultural Heritage Show	Bayer Event Center	(I)
	Outdoor Dance Program	Cohen Amphitheater	(J)
	Arts of Chinese Tea	Kemper Center Classroom	(L)
	Folk Music and Tai Chi	Chinese Garden Pavilion	(H)
Noon	Tai Chi for Health	Cohen Amphitheater	(J)
	Calligraphy and Painting Demonstration	Farr Auditorium	(C)

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	<i>See map</i>
Noon	Traditional Chinese Music Ensemble	Bayer Event Center	Ⓘ
	History of Chinese Food in St. Louis	Kemper Center Classroom	Ⓛ
	Dance with Dragon and Dance with Lions	Central Axis	Ⓔ
1 p.m.	Square Dance and Street Dance	Cohen Amphitheater	Ⓙ
	Arts and Sciences of Tai Chi	Farr Auditorium	Ⓒ
	Fashion China	Bayer Event Center	Ⓘ
	Game of Go and Folk Music	Chinese Garden Pavilion	Ⓜ
	Chinese Cooking Show	Kemper Center Classroom	Ⓛ
2 p.m.	Grand Parade	Central Axis	Ⓔ
3 p.m.	Silk and Bamboo: History and Demo of Chinese Musical Instruments	Bayer Event Center	Ⓘ
	Calligraphy and Painting Demonstration	Farr Auditorium	Ⓒ
	Sounds of Drum	Cohen Amphitheater	Ⓙ
	Dance with Dragon and Dance with Lions	Central Axis	Ⓔ
	Arts of Chinese Tea	Kemper Center Classroom	Ⓛ
	Game of Go and Tai Chi	Chinese Garden Pavilion	Ⓜ
4 p.m.	Acrobatic and Cultural Heritage Show	Bayer Event Center	Ⓘ
	Outdoor Dance Program	Cohen Amphitheater	Ⓙ
	Embodied Charm: The Artistry of Chinese Opera Acting	Farr Auditorium	Ⓒ

Note: In the event of rain, some programs will be cancelled.

Schedule for Sunday, May 19 | 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	See map
All Day	Children’s Arts and Crafts	Spink Pavilion	(F)
	Chinese Marketplace	Meeting Rooms / Linnean Plaza	(B)
	Chinese Food Court	East Lot	(A)
10 a.m.–5 p.m.	Chinese Handcraft Demo and DIY	Swift Family Garden	(G)
10 a.m.	Square Dance and Street Dance	Central Axis	(E)
	Arts and Sciences of Tai Chi	Farr Auditorium	(C)
	Silk and Bamboo: History and Demo of Chinese Musical Instruments	Bayer Event Center	(I)
	Sounds of Drum	Cohen Amphitheater	(J)
	Arts of Chinese Tea	Kemper Center Classroom	(L)
11 a.m.	Embodied Charm: The Artistry of Chinese Opera Acting	Farr Auditorium	(C)
	Flying Dragon and Waist Drum Dance	Central Axis	(E)
	Acrobatic and Cultural Heritage Show	Bayer Event Center	(I)
	Outdoor Dance Program	Cohen Amphitheater	(J)
	Folk Music and Tai Chi	Chinese Garden Pavilion	(H)
	Chinese Cooking Show	Kemper Center Classroom	(L)
Noon	Calligraphy and Painting Demonstration	Farr Auditorium	(C)
	Traditional Chinese Music Ensemble	Bayer Event Center	(I)

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	<i>See map</i>
Noon	History of Chinese Food in St. Louis	Kemper Center Classroom	(L)
	Tai Chi for Health	Cohen Amphitheater	(J)
	Dance with Dragon and Dance with Lions	Central Axis	(E)
1 p.m.	Square Dance and Street Dance	Cohen Amphitheater	(J)
	Arts and Sciences of Tai Chi	Farr Auditorium	(C)
	Fashion China	Bayer Event Center	(I)
	Game of Go and Folk Music	Chinese Garden Pavilion	(H)
	Chinese Cooking Show	Kemper Center Classroom	(L)
	Embodied Charm: The Artistry of Chinese Opera Acting	Farr Auditorium	(C)
2 p.m.	Grand Parade	Central Axis	(E)
3 p.m.	Silk and Bamboo: History and Demo of Chinese Musical Instruments	Bayer Event Center	(I)
	Calligraphy and Painting Demonstration	Farr Auditorium	(C)
	Sounds of Drum	Cohen Amphitheater	(J)
	Dance with Dragon and Dance with Lions	Central Axis	(E)
	Arts of Chinese Tea	Kemper Center Classroom	(L)
	Game of Go and Tai Chi	Chinese Garden Pavilion	(H)
4 p.m.	Acrobatic and Cultural Heritage Show	Bayer Event Center	(I)
	Outdoor Dance Program	Cohen Amphitheater	(J)

Note: In the event of rain, some programs will be cancelled.

KEY

--- Parade Route

- (A)** Food Court - East Lot
- (B)** Meeting Rooms/Linnean Plaza
- (C)** Farr Auditorium
- (D)** Taylor Visitor Center
South Garden
- (E)** Central Axis
- (F)** Spink Pavilion
- (G)** Swift Family Garden
- (H)** Chinese Garden Pavilion
- (I)** Bayer Event Center
- (J)** Cohen Amphitheater
- (K)** Japanese Garden
- (L)** Kemper Center Classroom

 Food  Vending

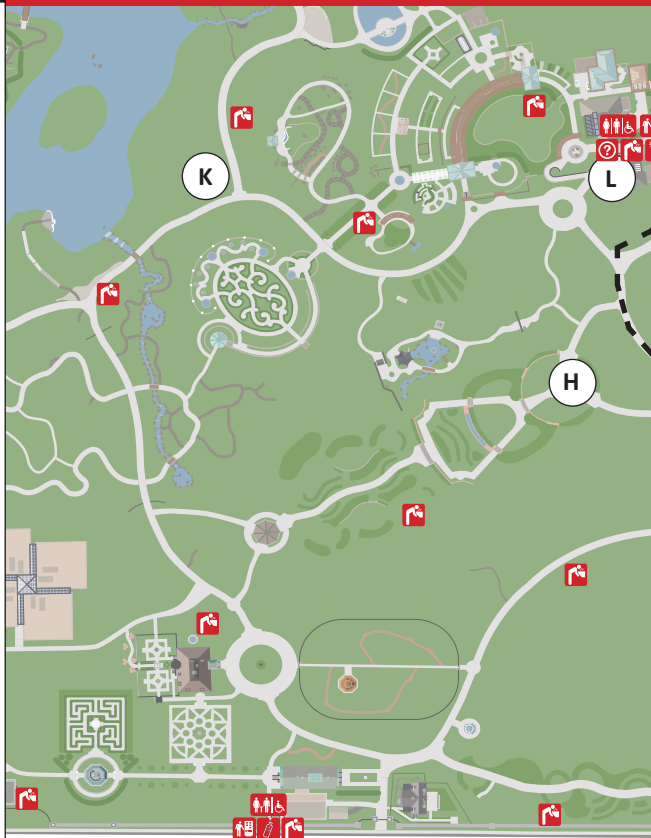
 Restrooms

 Family Restrooms

 Water Fountain

 Hydration Station

 Shopping



CHINESE CULTURE DAYS



Outdoor Dance

Cohen Amphitheater (J)

With the theme of "Joyful Celebration," this lively performance showcases the abundance in harvest in China and features the unique dances and costumes of many ethnic minority groups.

Grand Parade

Central Axis (E)

Line up along the parade route and get a glimpse of what you'll experience in each program. This colorful parade consists of dance teams in traditional costumes, dragon and lion teams, drummers, and representatives from the St. Louis Chinese/Asian American Community.



Dance with Dragon and Dance with Lions

Central Axis (E)

Designed primarily for children ages 6–12, this hands-on experience highlights the synchronized skill required to create the dynamic dragon and lion dances.

Square Dance and Street Dance

Central Axis and Cohen Amphitheater (E) (J)

In the heart of a bustling Chinese square, the lively beats of square dance music animate the atmosphere. Groups of people gracefully move in synchronized patterns, embodying a harmonious blend of tradition and modernity. Meanwhile, on the same stage, urban beats set the stage for dynamic street dance performances. Together, Chinese square dance and street dance create a captivating spectacle, showcasing the diversity and vitality of Chinese dance culture in both traditional and contemporary settings.

Tai Chi for Health and Arts and Sciences of Tai Chi

Cohen Amphitheater and Farr Auditorium (J) (E)

Explore the diverse styles of Tai Chi presented by local school and performances. “Tai Chi for Health” (Cohen Amphitheater) promotes the essence of Chinese culture of the healing arts and martial arts. “Arts and Sciences of Tai Chi” (Farr Auditorium) showcases the history and technique behind this ancient practice. Additional demonstrations take place in the Nanjing Friendship Chinese Garden throughout the weekend. Audience participation is encouraged.

Children's Arts and Crafts

Spink Pavilion (F)

Have your face painted with the Chinese zodiac, make your own Chinese lantern, try chopsticks games, solve some ancient Chinese puzzles, and learn to write Chinese calligraphy using traditional writing brushes.



Traditional Chinese Music Ensemble

Bayer Event Center ⓘ

This traditional Chinese music ensemble combines the best musicians of St. Louis as well as Mr. Wang Hong, acclaimed erhu artist and multi-instrumentalist. Featuring musical instruments such as Pipa, Erhu, Chinese Flute, and Guzheng, this ensemble showcases the charm of traditional Chinese music through a combination of solo and ensemble pieces.

Silk & Bamboo: History & Demo of Chinese Instruments

Bayer Event Center ⓘ

This rare opportunity features musical instrument demonstration and presentation from renowned erhu artist and traditional Chinese music expert Mr. Wang Hong, who offers an intimate look at various exotic traditional instruments, their unique history, musical qualities, and techniques. A gifted soloist who also serves as Special Researcher for China Conservatory of Music's Oriental Music Research Institute, Mr. Wang brings with him items from his prized collection of Chinese instruments and partners with local artists to offer a live demonstration and discussion of various musical instruments.

Calligraphy and Painting Demonstration

Farr Auditorium (C)

Artist and teacher Liu Sun presents dozens of Chinese paintings and calligraphy works related to landscape gardens, flowers, birds, fish, and insects. The demonstration also includes a discussion on the evolution of Chinese characters, the history of calligraphy styles spanning thousands of years, and the tools and basic techniques related to traditional Chinese calligraphy and Chinese painting.

Flying Dragon and Waist Drum

Central Axis (E)

Embark on a mesmerizing journey as the majestic beats of waist drums resonate and a dynamic display unfolds. Dancers adorned in vibrant costumes move with precision, evoking the spirit of a flying dragon through graceful choreography. The rhythmic drumming adds an intense energy, syncing with the dancers' movements to create a captivating synergy.

Folk Music and Tai Chi

Nanjing Friendship Chinese Garden (H)

Built in the style of a Chinese scholar's garden, the Nanjing Friendship Chinese Garden offers an intimate setting for visitors to experience folk music presented on ancient Chinese instruments, the healing potential of various Tai Chi movements, and the Chinese game of Go. Go, also known as Weiqi, is believed to be the oldest board game still played today. These leisurely activities demonstrate how a scholar's garden is meant to be used.

Arts of Chinese Tea

Kemper Center Classroom (L)

This interactive program demonstrates the correct techniques in preparing tea, the correct temperature of the water, the kind of tea wares to use, and the benefits of tea over other popular drinks. Visitors can also sample a variety of tea products and ask questions.

Fashion China

Bayer Event Center (I)

Chinese clothing fashion has been shaped through its dynastic traditions, as well as through foreign influences. Presenting fashion of the traditional Hanfu dating back 2,000 years ago as well as modern variations of indigenous Chinese dresses, Fashion China showcases the traditional fashion sensibilities of Chinese culture traditions that form one of the major cultural facets of Chinese civilization.

Chinese Cooking Show

Kemper Center Classroom (L)

Explore the culinary arts of China with food tastings after each show. Capacity is limited; visitors are encouraged to arrive early.

Chinese Handcraft Demo and DIY

Swift Family Garden (G)

Designed for children age 10 and younger, this hands-on demonstration guides visitors through making traditional and contemporary Chinese handcrafts with a cultural background stretching from the Warring State period (476–221 B.C.E.) to the Qing Dynasty (A.D. 1644–1911), such as the fragrant pouches for Dragon Boat Festival, the window decor for Chinese New Year, and many other festivals.



A History of Chinese Food in St. Louis

Kemper Center Classroom (L)

Join food historian Magdalene Linck for a look back at the rich culinary history of the St. Louis Chinese community through local narratives, historical records, vintage menus from iconic Chinese restaurants, and findings from the Missouri Historical Society's Chinese Collection Initiative. Audience participation is encouraged.

Sounds of Drum

Cohen Amphitheater (J)

The resounding beats of Chinese drums echo through the air, their powerful thuds creating a pulsating rhythm that reverberates against ancient walls. Each strike carries a primal energy, reminiscent of traditional festivities and martial arts performances. Drums play a crucial role in religious ceremonies, court rituals, and even military ceremonies. Intertwined with traditional drums, this performance features waist drums, folk dances, martial arts, songs, dragons, and lions.



Sugar Arts Demonstration

Spink Pavilion Patio (F)

In a captivating sugar art demonstration inspired by the Chinese zodiac signs, skilled artisan deftly manipulate molten sugar into intricate sculptures that embody the essence of each zodiac symbol. The dragon's sinuous form takes shape, capturing the mythical aura with delicate details in spun sugar. The sweet aroma of caramelized sugar permeates the air, adding an extra layer to the sensory experience. The skilled artisan seamlessly bring the symbolic creatures to life, leaving behind a sugary menagerie that pays homage to Chinese zodiac traditions in a delectably artistic fashion. Visitors can purchase their favorite figurine and bring home a sweet memory.



Embodied Charm: The Artistry of Chinese Opera Acting

Farr Auditorium (L)

Chinese opera emphasizes stylized acting, completing a stage performance according to specific conventions. This lecture guides visitors through the four basic characteristics of Chinese opera acting—singing, speaking, performing, “and combating—while a professional opera actor demonstrates each skill.



Cultural Marketplace

9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Meeting Rooms, Linnean Plaza (B)

Dining

Chinese Food Court

10 a.m.–5 p.m.

East Parking Lot (A)

Sassafras Restaurant and Café

Café | 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Restaurant | 10:30 a.m.–3 p.m.



謝謝!

Xiè Xiè!

Thank you!

Since 1996, the Garden has collaborated with the Chinese Culture Education and Services Foundation to produce an event to celebrate Chinese culture. Hundreds of community volunteers work toward producing a weekend filled with colorful Chinese pageantry, art, music, and dance, history and legends, and of course, wonderful food!

The Board of Chinese Culture Education and Services (CCES) expresses our thanks to the following organizations and individuals that have dedicated months of planning toward Chinese Culture Days:

Chinese Service Center in St. Louis
St. Louis American News
St. Louis Chinese Culture Center
St. Louis Chinese Journal
St. Louis Chinese Language School (SLCLS)
St. Louis Modern Chinese School (SLMCS)
Missouri Historical Society

Share your experiences on social media by tagging your posts!

#chineseculturedays



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

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2024 Chinese Culture Days Planning Committee

Chair	Yimin Zhu
Program Director	Xiaodong Zhu and Matthew Yu
Planning, Budgeting, Logistics	Matthew Yu and Yimin Zhu
Dragon Dance	Weimin Duan and Fudong Wang
Lion Dance	Hezhong Ma
Waist Drum Team	Mingsheng Peng
Square Dance Team	Chunsheng Xia and Liangjie Wu
Tai Chi	Violet Li, Subo Liao and Victoria Wang
Traditional Chinese Music Ensemble	Li Ye and Yongwei Cao
Acrobatics	Matthew Yu
Chinese Arts and Crafts	Changning Guo
Exhibition/Vendors	Sanhong Zhang and JiaMin Dierberg
Calligraphy and Painting Demonstration	Sun Liu and Minghui Zhang
History and Demo of Chinese Instruments	Hong Wang
Culinary Arts	Yingwen Huang and Weiya Fang
Grand Parade and Opening Ceremony	Xiaodong Zhu
Fashion China	Lily Ren
Arts of Chinese Tea	Danying Zhang
Chinese Garden	Min Liu
Outdoor Dance	SiuYu Tse Leung, Xin Zhang, and Louisa Chen
Chinese Craft Demo and DIY	Alian Wang
Chinese Opera	Xi Zhao and Louisa Chen
Sound of Drum	Xiaodong Zhu
Arts of Chinese Tea	Danying Zhang
Garden Decorations	Yingwen Huang and Weiya Fang
Secretary	Victoria Wang
Treasurer	Louisa Chen
Public Relations	Min Liu and JiaMin Dierberg

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