

中華日



Chinese **CULTURE DAYS**

May 3-4, 2025 | 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

你好!
Nǐ Hǎo!
Hello!

ADMISSION:

\$16 general admission
\$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 2025 Chinese Culture Days! We are thrilled to present an exciting lineup of Chinese traditions, featuring a jaw-dropping performance by the Changchun Acrobatic Troupe, presented by Grand Shanghai Circus; the Jiahu Gudi, an ancient bone flute dating back to 6,000 BC; traditional Chinese music performed by local and Nanjing musicians; and the artistry of Chinese calligraphy.

As May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, this celebration is especially meaningful, honoring the rich cultural contributions of our community. Hundreds of dedicated volunteers and artists from the St. Louis area have come together to bring you spectacular performances and experiences.

We hope you will join us in celebrating Chinese Culture Days and creating lasting memories together. May the Year of the Snake bring prosperity and success to you and your loved ones.

Thank you for being part of this special event!

Sincerely,
Yimin Zhu

Chair of 2025 Chinese Culture Days

Opening Ceremony

Cohen Amphitheater ⓘ

The celebration kicks off with a spectacular Chinese dragon dance at the new South Garden. Revered as a sacred creature, the dragon symbolizes power, courage, righteousness, and dignity. As a symbol of ethnic identity, the Chinese often refer to themselves as the “Descendants of the Dragon.”

The formal Opening Ceremony is set to begin around 10:30 a.m., featuring the grand arrival of the dragon and distinguished guests, who will offer brief remarks.



Changchun Acrobatic Troupe presented by Grand Shanghai Circus

Cohen Amphitheater ⓘ

The nine-member acrobatic troupe from Changchun, China will perform a 45-minute show of eight acts once per day. Their programs are:

空竹 | Kongzhu – Chinese Yo-Yo

双人造型 | Shuangren Zaoxing
Duo Performance

球技 | Qiuji – Ball Skills

手技魔方 | Shouji Mofang – Hand Skills with a
Rubik's Cube

顶缸 | Dinggang – Jar Spinning

地圈 | Diqian – Ground Hoop

变脸 | Bianlian – Face Changing (a traditional
Sichuan opera performance art)

滑稽小丑 | Huaji Xiaochou – Comical Clown

Schedule for Saturday, May 3 | 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	See map
All Day	Chinese Marketplace	Farr Auditorium and Linnean Plaza	(D) (E)
	Children's Arts and Crafts	Spink Pavilion	(H)
	Chinese Food Court	East Parking Lot	(A)
	Docents in the Chinese Garden	Chinese Garden	(K)
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Chinese Crafts and DIY Classes	Meeting Rooms	(C)
10 a.m.	Opening Ceremony	Cohen Amphitheater	(I)
11 a.m.	Sounds from Ancient China: Seminar and Music Demonstration	Bayer Event Center	(B)
	Chinese Street Dance and Square Dance	Central Axis	(G)
	Tai Chi Extravaganza	Cohen Amphitheater	(I)
	Chinese Cooking Show	Kemper Center Classroom	(J)
	Game of Go and Folk Music	Chinese Garden	(K)
Noon	Fashion China	Bayer Event Center	(B)
	Dance with Dragon	Central Axis	(G)
12:30 p.m.	Changchun Acrobatic Troupe	Cohen Amphitheater	(I)
1 p.m.	Arts of Chinese Tea	Kemper Center Classroom	(J)
	Folk Music and Tai Chi	Chinese Garden	(K)
2 p.m.	Calligraphy and Painting	Bayer Event Center	(B)
	Grand Parade	Central Axis	(G)

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	See map
3 p.m.	Dance with Lions	Central Axis	(G)
	Outdoor Dance Program	Cohen Amphitheater	(I)
	Arts of Chinese Tea	Kemper Center Classroom	(J)
	Game of Go and Tai Chi	Chinese Garden	(K)
4 p.m.	Traditional Chinese Music Ensemble	Bayer Event Center	(B)
	Flying Dragon and Waist Drum	Central Axis	(G)

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



Schedule for Sunday, May 4 | 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	See map
All Day	Chinese Marketplace	Farr Auditorium and Linnean Plaza	(D) (E)
	Children's Arts and Crafts	Spink Pavilion	(H)
	Chinese Food Court	East Parking Lot	(A)
	Docents in the Chinese Garden	Chinese Garden	(K)
10 a.m.–5 p.m.	Chinese Crafts and DIY Classes	Meeting Rooms	(C)
10 a.m.	Fashion China	Bayer Event Center	(B)
	Chinese Square Dance and Street Dance	Central Axis	(G)
	Arts of Chinese Tea	Kemper Center Classroom	(J)
	Folk Music and Tai Chi	Chinese Garden	(K)



TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	See map
11 a.m.	Flying Dragon and Waist Drum	Central Axis	(G)
	Tai Chi Extravaganza	Cohen Amphitheater	(I)
Noon	Traditional Chinese Music Ensemble	Bayer Event Center	(B)
	Dance with Dragon	Central Axis	(G)
	Chinese Cooking Show	Kemper Center Classroom	(J)
	Game of Go and Folk Music	Chinese Garden	(K)
12:30 p.m.	Changchun Acrobatic Troupe	Cohen Amphitheater	(I)
2 p.m.	Sounds from Ancient China: Seminar and Music Demonstration	Bayer Event Center	(B)
	Dance with Lions	Central Axis	(G)
	Outdoor Dance Program	Cohen Amphitheater	(I)
	Arts of Chinese Tea	Kemper Center Classroom	(J)
	Game of Go and Tai Chi	Chinese Garden	(K)
3 p.m.	Grand Parade	Central Axis	(G)
3:30 p.m.	Grand Performance	Cohen Amphitheater	(I)
4 p.m.	Calligraphy and Painting	Bayer Event Center	(B)

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

KEY

- Parade Route
- (A) Food Court - East Parking Lot
- (B) Bayer Event Center
- (C) Meeting Rooms
- (D) Farr Auditorium
- (E) Linnean Plaza
- (F) Taylor Visitor Center South Garden
- (G) Central Axis
- (H) Spink Pavilion
- (I) Cohen Amphitheater
- (J) Kemper Center Classroom
- (K) Grigg Nanjing Friendship Chinese Garden
- Food Vending
- Restrooms
- Family Restrooms
- Water Fountain
- Hydration Station
- Shopping



Grand Parade

Central Axis (G)

Visitors will have the chance to meet the cast members of performance programs and get a preview of what they can expect from each performance. The vibrant parade features dance teams in traditional costumes, dragon and lion dancers, drummers, and representatives from the St. Louis Chinese and Asian American community.



Dance with Dragon and Dance with Lions

Central Axis (G)

These programs are designed for children ages 6–12 to explore the arts and techniques of dragon and lion dancing. Synchronizing with our dancers is a learned skill, and we welcome young participants to engage in this hands-on experience.

Children's Arts and Crafts

Spink Pavilion (H)

This program is designed for children and the young-at-heart. Enjoy having your face painted with a Chinese zodiac design, create your own Chinese lantern, try your hand at chopstick games, solve ancient Chinese puzzles, and learn the art of Chinese calligraphy using traditional brushes. Be sure to check the program schedule—there's no shortage of fun!



Game of Go and Tai Chi

Chinese Garden Pavilion (K)

Tai Chi and the game of Go are beloved pastimes enjoyed by both scholars and commoners, each requiring skill and a calm mind. In China and other Asian countries, tourists often encounter people practicing Tai Chi or playing Go in parks. This event will feature demonstrations of various Tai Chi styles, with opportunities for audience participation. The Chinese Garden is considered the most authentic “Scholars’ Garden” of its size in the U.S., and this performance showcases the intended uses of a scholar’s garden.

Tai Chi Extravaganza

Cohen Amphitheater (I)

This diverse showcase of Tai Chi, representing 13 organizations, features a variety of styles and forms including barehand techniques, saber, sword, and fan. Performers range from teenagers to octogenarians, highlighting the art’s richness and depth across generations. Audience members are invited to join in a refreshing workout while enjoying the beautiful weather.

Folk Music and Tai Chi

Chinese Garden Pavilion (K)

Chinese folk music, played on instruments crafted from natural materials, reflects the beauty of nature and resonates with the principles of Tai Chi, both seeking harmony with the natural world. From the battlefield intensity of *Ambush from Ten Sides* to the serene elegance of *Moonlight Over the Spring River*, this rich musical heritage evokes deep emotions.

Practicing Tai Chi alongside Chinese folk music creates a synergy of tranquility and beauty, as the flowing rhythms enhance meditative movements, embodying the unity of nature, music, and the human spirit. Various Tai Chi forms will be performed, and audience participation is encouraged.

Traditional Chinese Music Ensemble

Bayer Event Center (B)

Four renowned traditional Chinese musicians from Nanjing will perform alongside esteemed traditional Chinese musicians from St. Louis, showcasing a variety of instruments, including stringed treasures like the *erhu*, *guzheng*, and *pipa*, as well as wind instruments such as the Chinese bamboo flute.

Audience members will also have a rare opportunity to hear the ancient sounds of the *Jiahu Bone Yue-Ney*, China's oldest surviving musical instrument, dating back 9,000 years. This special performance will be led by Yu Dongbo, who co-led the instrument's acoustic analysis when it was first unearthed.

Chinese Street Dance/ Square Dance

Central Axis (G)

Groups of dancers move in synchronized patterns, seamlessly blending tradition with modernity. Their rhythmic footwork and coordinated gestures reflect the city's vibrant energy and cultural spirit.

Meanwhile, the pulse of urban beats fuels dynamic street dance performances. Dancers execute intricate moves with precision, effortlessly merging contemporary styles with cultural influences. Together, Chinese square dance and street dance create a mesmerizing spectacle, celebrating the richness and evolution of Chinese dance culture in both traditional and modern expressions.

Dragon Boat

Central Axis (G)

Originating in ancient China, the dragon boat is used in races where paddlers row in rhythmic unison to the beat of a drum, symbolizing teamwork, perseverance, and cultural heritage. This particular dragon boat symbolizes the long-standing friendship between St. Louis and sister-city Nanjing.



Sounds from Ancient China: Seminar and Music Demonstration

Bayer Event Center (B)

Yu Dongbo, lead wind instrument player of the Nanjing Chinese Orchestra, will lead this lecture and music demonstration, accompanied by three other musicians from Nanjing. The presentation will focus on Yu's work with the Jiahu Bone Yue-Ney, China's oldest surviving musical instrument, dating back 9,000 years.

Archaeologists discovered more than 40 bone flutes, crafted from red-crowned crane wing bones, during three excavations (1986–2013) at Jiahu Village in Henan Province. Yu is recognized as China's first Yue-playing Intangible Cultural Heritage Inheritor. This presentation takes the audience on a journey through time, as the ancient sounds of the Yue-Ney awaken echoes of the past, bringing history to life through music.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to experience other traditional instruments and engage in an interactive discussion.

Calligraphy and Painting Demonstration

Bayer Event Center (B)

Artist Liu Sun will demonstrate a variety of Chinese paintings and calligraphy works, including landscapes, flowers, birds, fish, and insects. Liu Sun will also give a talk on the evolution of Chinese characters, the history of calligraphy styles spanning thousands of years, and introduce the tools and basic techniques used in traditional Chinese calligraphy and painting.



Fashion China

Bayer Event Center (B)

From the elegant hanfu of 2,000 years ago to modern variations of indigenous Chinese attire, fashion traditions reflect the rich history and evolving influences of Chinese culture. Shaped by dynastic traditions and foreign exchanges, Chinese clothing embodies both heritage and innovation.

Chinese fashion not only preserves the aesthetic sensibilities of its cultural traditions but also stands as a defining facet of Chinese civilization.

Flying Dragon and Waist Drum

Central Axis (G)

Enjoy an energetic and interactive program with the “Flying Dragon and Waist Drum” program. As the majestic beats of waist drums resonate, 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. Audience participation is encouraged.





Arts of Chinese Tea

Kemper Center Classroom (J)

This interactive program demonstrates the proper techniques for preparing tea, including the ideal water temperature, the types of tea wares to use, and the benefits of tea compared to other popular beverages. Visitors will also have the opportunity to sample a variety of tea products and ask questions.

Chinese Cooking Show

Kemper Center Classroom (J)

The Culinary Arts of China will showcase a variety of live demonstrations throughout the two-day festival, each followed by a delicious food tasting.

Chinese Crafts DIY Classes

Meeting Rooms, Jack C. Taylor (C)
Visitor Center

Come create your own handcrafted Chinese art pieces. Our instructors will teach fundamental techniques for making traditional and contemporary Chinese crafts, which carry a rich cultural heritage from the Warring States period (476–221 BC) to the Qing dynasty (1644–1912). Featured crafts include fragrant pouches, Peking Opera face masks, and more.

Seven classes will be offered daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with 12 students per class. Registration will be available twice a day, at 9:30 AM and 12:30 PM, near the meeting room entrances. Participants of all ages—kids ages 10 and up, young adults, parents, and grandparents—are welcome to join.



Cultural Marketplace

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Farr Auditorium, Taylor Visitor Center Lobby, and Linnean Plaza

Food and Beverage

Chinese Food Court

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

East Parking Lot and Cohen Amphitheater

*Sassafras Restaurant
and The Bellwether 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 partnered with the Chinese Culture Education and Services Foundation to present this annual celebration of Chinese culture. Each year, hundreds of community volunteers come together to create a vibrant weekend filled with colorful pageantry, art, music, dance, history, legends and, of course, delicious food!

The Board of Chinese Culture Education and Services (CCES) extends our heartfelt gratitude to the following organizations and individuals for their dedication and months of meticulous planning in making Chinese Culture Days a success:

St. Louis Modern Chinese School (SLMCS)
St. Louis Chinese Language School (SLCLS)
St. Louis-Nanjing Sister City Committee
St. Louis American News
St. Louis Chinese Journal

Share your experiences on social media by tagging your posts!
#chineseculturedays

2025 Chinese Culture Days Planning Committee

Chairperson	Yimin Zhu
Program Budget and Logistics	Matthew Yu, Yimin Zhu
Exhibition/Vendors	Sanhong Zhang
Foodie Square	Yingwen Huang, Weiya Fan
Acrobat	Matthew Yu
Traditional Chinese Musical Ensemble	Li Ye, Nanjing Music Ensemble, and Min Liu
Sounds from Ancient China:	Nanjing Music Ensemble (Dongbo Yu, Xianya Zhang, Min Jiang, and Qian Zhan), Min Liu
Calligraphy and Painting	Sun Liu and Minghui Zhang
Tai Chi	Violet Li, Subo Liao, and Victoria Wang
Outdoor Dance	Louisa Chen and Weiwei Fu
Dragon Dance	Weimin Duan and Fudong Wang
Lion Dance	Hezhong Ma
Waist Drum	Jean Gu and Xiaolan Xu
Street Dance	Liangjie Wu
Square Dance	Shuangqiu Liu
Chinese Garden	Min Liu
Art of Chinese Tea	Danying Zhang
Culinary Arts	Yingwen Huang and Weiya Fan
Opening Ceremony	Xiaodong Zhu and Hezhong Ma
Grand Parade and Grand Performance	Xiaodong Zhu and Hezhong Ma
Chinese Craft Demo and DIY	Alian Wang
Fashion China	Lily Ren
Children's Arts and Crafts	Rachel Wong
Garden Decoration	Yingwen Huang
Photography	Zhi Lu
Media Relationship	Min Liu
Secretary	Min Liu
Treasurer	Louisa Chen



MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

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Photos by Tom Incrocci, Margaret Schmid, Mary Lou Olson,
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